



Information for Parents/Carers.

**February
2017**

Spixworth Infant School

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Dear Families,

Our Space topic this half term has really been inspiring the children. I must also pass on how pleased our visiting astronomer was with the enthusiasm he found the children to have in the planetarium. If you have not yet looked, then some photographs have been added to the Gallery section of our website. Please check back to the Gallery regularly, as this area is now being frequently updated. Just a reminder that half term falls slightly earlier than usual this year. School closes at 3.15pm Friday 10th Feb and reopens Monday 20th Feb. I am sure I will see most of you before then, but if not, have a super break.

Children's Vision and Eye Testing

It is estimated that one million children have an undiagnosed vision problem. Early detection and treatment of vision problems dramatically improves learning ability. All children aged 5-16 should have a **free** vision and eye health check at least every two years with an optician. Routine vision testing is offered to all Reception children at school, usually in the Summer term. If any problems are picked up at this point, children are referred to a hospital based paediatric eye clinic. Please note, schools are **not** informed by health professions of the outcome of this screening. To enable us to support your child, please let us know if any issues are identified. Children's eyes change as they grow, which is why regular check-ups are important. Norfolk libraries and Boots opticians have worked together to produce a children's picture book, 'Zookeeper Zoe' which includes some simple vision checks as part of the story. Zookeeper Zoe is available from the library or we have one copy in school. If you are interested in borrowing this book, please speak to Ms Jordan.

Make-Up and Jewellery

Recently a few children have been coming to school wearing make-up and several items of jewellery. This is not appropriate for school. Please be reminded of our school policies:

- No make-up should be worn
- No jewellery should be worn with the exception of stud earrings

I am currently reviewing our PE policy. I will confirm before Easter any changes made to the wearing of stud earrings during PE.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings will take place next week. Please ensure you have a time booked with your child's teacher. The meetings will focus on your child's progress and next steps and teachers will be able to offer suggestions on how to help your child at home.

Mathseeds

Congratulations to all those children who have been regularly logging in to Mathseeds. Miss Buller has been printing off the certificates earned which are presented in our Friday Achievement Assemblies. If your child has not yet logged in, please encourage them to do so. Mathseeds is child-friendly and age-appropriate and is already proving hugely successful in engaging children in Maths fun at home.

Before and After School Safety

Please could I remind you that children should not be allowed to play on the climbing equipment or on the logs in the Forest School area before or after school. When these areas are used during the day they are checked for safety and then closely supervised by staff. We are aware that they can be slippery, particularly in the mornings and would hate to see a child have an accident. The children are aware of this rule. We would very much appreciate your support in ensuring it is upheld. Many thanks.

Parking

Last week I was invited to attend the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel meeting. I was very pleased to hear that speeding and parking near schools is to remain a focus for our local policing team. A community speed-watch team for Spixworth is also being developed. If you are interested in volunteering to support this worthwhile effort, please contact PCSO Jan Moore or PC Andy Dye. As always, please continue to park considerately near our school to keep all children, families and residents safe. Thank you

Cafes

Our cafes have been very popular with families for several years now. Each year group has six cafes planned each year. Reception children attend Reading cafes, Year 1 children attend Maths cafes and Year 2 children attend Writing cafes. The children love the opportunity to work alongside a member of their family and teachers love the opportunity to give families a glimpse into how key skills are taught at Spixworth and are always available to offer advice on how to further support your children in these areas at home. Recently, the Year 2 cafes have been less well attended. Please do support these events where you possibly can. If you are not able to attend yourself, a member of your extended family would be most welcome.

Growth Mindset

Our Growth Mindset Working Party met last week and have decided to introduce Growth Mindset homework diaries and mascots. Look out for these coming to your home soon...

Gymnastics

Congratulations to the Year 2 children that represented our school in Gymnastics on Thursday. A fantastic experience was had by all. More pictures on the Gallery section of our website!



Curriculum Meetings

Please do attend our up-coming curriculum meetings on Maths and Reading. They are suitable for parents of children in all year groups and aim to help you understand how we teach key skills at school and how you can help at home.

Key Spring Term Dates

New: Week beginning 26th Feb – Children's Mental Health week: *Spread a little kindness*

Curriculum Meeting: Maths for parents: Tuesday 7th Feb 9.05am

New: London visit information meeting: Thursday 9th Feb 2.30pm

Curriculum Meeting: Reading for parents: Tuesday 28th Feb 9.05am

Sharing afternoons: Thursday 23rd March

Coffee morning: Wednesday 8th March

Class Assemblies: Beech: 10th March; Maple: 3rd Feb; Horse Chestnut: 17th March

Cafes: Reception: 16th March; Year 1: 9th March; Year 2: 2nd March

Parents Evenings: Monday 6th Feb 3.30 – 6pm and Wednesday 8th Feb 4 – 7pm

Half Term: School closes at 3.15pm on Friday 10th February. School reopens Monday 20th February.

Easter: School closes at 3.15pm on Friday 31st March. School reopens Tuesday 18th April.