



# Information for Parents/Carers.

**April  
2017**

## **Spixworth Infant School**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter break and are recharged for the exciting term we have ahead.

Science Week has launched our 'Dinosaurs' topic for this half term with many brilliant experiments and investigations taking place across the classes. Nestled discretely within this half term will be the Year 2 SATs and Year 1 phonic screening checks (more information below), before we celebrate a fabulous finish with our visit to the mesmerising Natural History Museum.

### **Re-Decoration**

Our front entrance and corridors throughout the school have all been redecorated during the Easter break. I hope you will agree that this modernisation makes our school a more attractive place to learn and encourages respect for our shared environments.

### **Website App**

To further support our communication with families, we have now launched a new app that will notify you every time updates or new information is added to our website. You should have received a letter with all the information you need to install the app. If not, please see Mrs Halton in the office to request another copy.

### **New All-Weather Surface**

In September, our well-loved climbing frame had to be condemned as it was no longer safe for use. The Friends have been fundraising all year and have added to the funds allocated from our school budget to redesign this area. Work started during Easter and is due to be completed by 24<sup>th</sup> April. The blue zoned area will provide all-year round space for sport both at play times and for use during PE lessons. The green zoned area will provide further space off the playground for small equipment or quieter play. The children (and staff!) are very excited about this development. We believe it will improve the quality of play and sport at our school as well as improving general safety of these times – more space with organised activities should lead to less minor bumps and scrapes!

### **Staffing**

For the first two weeks of the Summer term we warmly welcome Miss Amber Knowles to our team. Miss Knowles is in the final stages of her teacher training and will be supporting small groups of children in Year 1 and 2 to develop key skills in Phonics, Maths and Writing.

On Tuesdays, Charlotte Mollicone will be supporting the learning in Beech Class. Miss Mollicone is gaining classroom experience to support her studies at Norwich City College.

In the coming weeks, the Governors and I will be advertising for two new teachers to join our team from September 2017. One of these teachers will be for Horse Chestnut Class. After seven very successful years at Spixworth, Miss Buller will be progressing her career at another school. We know you will join us in thanking Miss Buller for all her dedication and commitment and will want to wish her all the very best for the next step in her career. Miss Buller will be missed by us all but we look forward to the exciting changes ahead. The second position advertised is for a fifth teacher to join our team. Due to a slight increase in our pupil numbers from September and some very creative budgeting, a fifth teacher will enable us to provide much more flexible and targeted support for our children. This may be in the form of children being taught in smaller groups for some core subjects (Phonics, Maths and English) or for interventions to be led by qualified teachers. We will keep you informed as our plans progress.

### **PE policy**

Before the Easter break, the Governors reviewed and agreed our PE policy. A full copy is available on our website. Please ensure you have read the sections on clothing, footwear and personal effects. A paper copy can be requested from Mrs Halton in the office if required.

### **Y2 SATs**

The Year 2 children will be taking their statutory assessments (SATs tests) throughout May. It is therefore important that as far as possible children in Year 2 are in school for the whole of this time. We understand that illness is unavoidable, but could I please request that any doctors or dental appointments are made outside of school time and that no holiday is taken.

### **We are Writers! Update**

All children have now produced a piece of writing...the next step is editing before each piece is professionally published in our very own school book!

### **Working Party**

We will be holding another Growth Mindset Working Party meeting on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm. At this meeting we will be completing the planning to allow parents to join their children in a 'Learning Circle.' Everyone is welcome!

### **Holidays in Term Time**

I cannot overestimate the importance of education for children's future life chances and encourage you to value every day of your child's education. I do however respect that price differences in holiday packages between term-time and out-of-term time are extreme and this is a deciding factor for some families.

Please be aware that I am unable to authorise holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Please also be aware that if unauthorised holiday is taken, a period of 12 weeks, measured from any point that includes the holiday, will be taken into account when assessing your child's attendance including in relation to issuing a fine.

### **Phonic Screening Checks**

Year 1 children and those children in Year 2 who did not pass the phonics check in Year 1 will be taking their phonic check during the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> June. Again could I please request that all children taking part in these checks are in school for the whole week.

### **Reminders**

- Please park considerately. Doing so makes our school and the surrounding area safer for everyone.
- As the weather warms, please ensure your child has a named water bottle and sunhat in school every day.
- If any of your details or circumstances have changed over the holiday, please let us know so our records are kept up-to-date.

### **Key Summer Term Dates**

Year 2/Year 3 Science afternoon at Woodland View Junior School: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
Class Assemblies: Maple: 28<sup>th</sup> April; Horse Chestnut: 5<sup>th</sup> May; Beech: 12<sup>th</sup> May; Oak: 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Cafes: Reception: 15<sup>th</sup> May; 27<sup>th</sup> June  
Year 1: 8<sup>th</sup> May; 20<sup>th</sup> June  
Year 2: 24<sup>th</sup> April; 13<sup>th</sup> June  
Sharing Afternoons: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May; Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
Coffee Morning: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May  
Natural History Museum visit: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May (School open for those not attending)  
Year 2 transition sessions to Woodland View Junior School: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July  
Sports morning at Woodland View Junior School: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July  
Reports to parents: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July  
Leaver's concert: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July  
Half Term: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Close for Summer: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July.