



Headteachers' Bulletin

**September
2017**

Spixworth Infant School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome!

Welcome to a brand new year at Spixworth Infant School and an especially warm welcome to all of our new families! It is so lovely to see all of the children settling into their new classes and making new friendships. How proud you must all be! Our whole school topic this half term is 'Teeth, Tails and Antennae.' Already the teachers and children are working together to plan the direction this topic will take in each class. Read on for more information about our school including staffing information and key dates for the year ahead.

Classroom Improvements

We continue to improve the learning environment for our children. Over the Summer, Horse Chestnut, Maple and Sycamore classes have all been fully redecorated.



Summer Learning

If your child has completed the Animal Agents library challenge, gained hours through Children's University or completed other learning over the Summer, please send in any certificates or passports so we can celebrate them in school too.



Staffing Update

A very warm welcome to Miss Mattock, Mr Harvey, Miss Engall and Mrs Desborough who join our staff team this year and Mrs Chapman who also joins us for the Autumn term. Over the coming weeks, the children and staff will all get to know each other well. I have attached a document showing all of our staff and their roles which I hope you will find helpful in getting to know us too. Please note Miss Elvin (Intern) has not been able to join us. Miss Molly Kidd, a qualified childcare practitioner, is currently providing cover support in Horse Chestnut class.

Welcome Events

The Friends, Governors and Headteacher would like to invite all parents and carers to a coffee morning on 13th Sept. Drinks and cake will be on sale and the chance to chat or ask questions is free!



All new families of Reception children are invited to find out more about the curriculum at Spixworth Infants on 19th Sept. Please join us to find out what and how we teach and how you can help at home.



Free Lunches

This year, the Government are still providing a free lunch to all infant children. Our Universal Infant Free School Meals include the choice of a meat or vegetarian hot meal, jacket potatoes or a school packed lunch. Special diets can usually be catered for on request. Please be aware that our production kitchen and dining hall are nut free zones. If you do choose to provide a packed lunch from home, nuts or food containing nuts must not be included. Fizzy drinks are also not allowed. Thank you.



Core Values

Our School Core Values of **Safety, Teamwork, Achievement, Respect and Stimulation** are central to all we do. Within school children earn house points for showing the Core Values. As part of our Friday celebration assembly two children from each class can also earn a certificate for their commitment to our Values.

We also use traffic lights for recognising behaviour. Children have the chance to improve their behaviour if they move onto amber or red and are rewarded for behaviours that see them move to silver or gold.

If you would like more information on our Core Values or how we support behaviour, please speak to your child's class teacher or see our updated 2017-18 prospectus.



Tapestry

Tapestry is now being used by all year groups to record the experiences and achievements of your children. If you have not yet received your login information this will be with you very soon. If you have any difficulties, please speak to your child's class teacher. To give a full and balanced view of your child's learning and progress, please feel free to add comments, photos or videos from home too.



Social Media



To continue to improve our communication, Spixworth Infant School now has a Facebook and Twitter account. We welcome your feedback on how we are making best use of these over the coming months.

We take e-safety very seriously and have clear policies on how we will use the internet safely and teach the children to stay safe online.

Please be aware that some policies also relate to parents/carers. Your own use of social media is a model to your children. You should not publish images or video of your child at school on social media and any negative comments or abuse online could be classed as harassment. We are proud of our school and know that a good reputation is hard to build yet easy to break. If you do have an issue or concern, please come and speak to us in person. Our policies are available on our website or you can ask for a paper copy from the office.

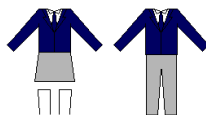
Facebook: search for Spixworth Infant School

Twitter: @spixworthinfant

Uniform

We can only apologise for the issues some of you had with Tesco in ordering uniform. However, thank you for providing your child with our school uniform. They all look very smart and already seem proud to be part of the Spixworth team! Please make sure that all uniform is named and that both indoor and outdoor PE kits are provided including trainers.

Thank you



Child Whispering

At Spixworth Infant School we believe a child's personal, social and emotional skills need as much nurturing and challenging as their academic skills. This year we are extending our work on Growth Mindset through introducing Child Whispering. Child Whispering supports children to build a vocabulary and develop skills in dealing with a range of emotions. Hopefully your child will soon start sharing their Child Whispering learning with you. We will also provide more information soon and hope to invite Sandy Kennedy, the founder of Child Whispering to our school in the new year. If you would like to find out more please visit: www.childwhispering.co.uk



Enrichment

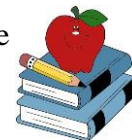
Every child is different and the world is wide. To give children the broadest range of experiences and opportunities as possible, we are introducing an enrichment afternoon each week. The children will take part in learning that goes beyond the National Curriculum for their age. A separate letter explaining more about our enrichment afternoons is coming soon.

The Daily Mile

Beginning twice a week and increasing over time to daily, we will all be walking, jogging or running for 15 minutes to improve our health and well-being. To find out more about this National initiative visit: thedailymile.co.uk

Homework

Learning that happens at home can support and even go beyond that which happens at school. Spending 10 minutes practising phonics or sharing a reading book every day has so many positive benefits for your child. We have also paid for every child to have access to Mathseeds and Reading Eggs at home as another tool for you to engage and support your child in learning. Those children that made regular use of these at home last year made better progress at school than those children that did not. Please get involved and enjoy learning together.



Parent/Teacher Meetings

A new format for our parent and teacher meetings is being introduced this year. We will meet more frequently and with a clearer focus on setting targets for your child's progress together. A separate letter with details and dates is on its way to you.



GoGoHares 2018

The Friends of Spixworth Infant School always put their fundraising efforts to excellent use. In the new year the children of Spixworth Infants will have the opportunity to create a hare to be part of the Norwich trail. GoGoHares 2018 is presented by Break charity in partnership with Wild in Art. We will keep you up to date with our work in school but to find out more, look at www.gogohares.co.uk



School Opening Times



Doors open at 8.55am. Please be prompt as lateness can count as absence and ultimately lead to a fine. The end of the day is at 3.15pm

Safety Reminders



- Only certain members of staff are allowed to let visitors into the school
- If you come into school you will be asked to sign in and out at the office
- Unless otherwise informed, push chairs should normally be left outside school in the buggy park or in the entrance
- Children should not be on the play equipment or their own bikes/scooters before or after school

General Reminders

- Please park considerately. Doing so makes our school and the surrounding area safer for everyone. The school car park is for staff only. The car park opposite is for residents only.
- We are outside in most weathers. Please make sure your child has a named coat, wellies, sunhat and water bottle 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.

Attendance

It is all too easy to forget how fortunate our children are to have free access to education and the chance to become whatever they wish to be in the future. I know that the vast majority of our families value education and do not take lightly the decision to take their child out of school for a holiday. As a parent, I am fully aware of the difference in price of holidays in and outside of term times. However, time in school is short (only 190 out of 365 days each year) and the children in every year group learn so much that simply cannot be caught up on if significant time is missed. Of course, time off for illness cannot be helped. As a Headteacher I have a responsibility to ensure the best learning and progress possible for your children. I aim to make the curriculum as inspiring and irresistible as possible for the children. I will also keep you informed of the number of learning hours lost generally as well as the attendance for your individual child if this becomes a concern. Our current attendance target is 95.5% but I hope that together we can raise this to 96% which will bring us in line with National figures.

Dates
Staffing diagram