



Headteachers' Bulletin

**November
2017**

Spixworth Infant School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

A special Congratulations to the Reception children who have now completed their first half term in school and a very warm Welcome Back to everyone for the second half of the Autumn term. Our whole school topic for this half term is: Do I celebrate in the same way as you? The children will be thinking about their own and other people's cultures and how great it is that we can learn from and with each other. We are looking forward to many special events this half term, not least toward the later part of this half term our new Christmas Cafés which will ensure our halls are decked in time for the Christmas celebrations to begin!

Outdoor Improvements

Over half term a much needed canopy has been erected outside the EYFS classrooms.

The children can now access outdoor learning whatever the weather.

I am aware that the path from Lilian road into the school gets rather congested in the mornings. As Autumn sets in, mud from the grass beside the path is making it less pleasant for parents/carers to get their children to Maple and Horse Chestnut. To help with this, I would love to widen the path. Do you or anyone you know have any paving slabs or sand that could be donated to the school for this purpose? If so, we could set up a weekend working party together to get the job done. Any offers of donations in the first instance to Mrs Halton please.

Jaya Dance

We will be welcoming Jaya Dance company to our school on Thursday 9th November.

As part of our topic work learning about ways in which different people celebrate, the children will find out more about some Indian traditions, have a go at some Indian dancing and also find out how their own first name would look and sound in the Punjabi language!

Bollywood at Spixworth – we can't wait!



Spelling

For the next two half terms, our whole school improvement focus will be Spelling! Look out for more information and new ideas coming soon!

Attendance

There was an unusually high number of days taken in holiday during our first half term which means as a whole school we are not yet meeting our attendance target. However 85 children received certificates at the end of half term to reward their attendance over 96% Well done!

Number of learning hours lost in October:
564

Staffing Update

I am very pleased to announce that Miss Kate Heley will be joining us in January to teach Horse Chestnut class when Mrs To leaves to have her baby. Miss Heley is a very experienced teacher who will keep the Chestnuts in very safe hands. There will be plenty of time for the children (and families) to get to know Miss Heley as, baby permitting, we are planning an extended transition time of up to 3 full weeks.



Child Health Workshop

Tuesday 14th November 2-3pm. Please make sure you have this event in your diaries. We know that learning only happens at its best if our children are ready to learn and so many, relatively minor things like sleep or hearing, can be barriers to learning for so many children. It is not often we have medical professionals at our finger tips willing to offer advice and answer questions on such a broad topic as Child Health. There are no silly questions! If something is concerning you, or you just want reassurance please come along. Younger siblings welcome.



Class Assemblies

This term the children will be performing their assembly with their **morning** class. If your child works in Sycamore class they will not perform twice with their afternoon class as well. Christmas Cafes will also be held in morning classes.

Road Safety and Car Parking



All of our children have received road safety training this week. (A huge thank you to the parent helpers!) Our Year 1 children have been out on the pavements next to the roads. Their behaviour has been impeccable and I can only hope they stay safe near the roads for their entire lives. As drivers, we must recognise how dangerous roads are and how easy it is for a child, or adult, to make a mistake near a road that could have very serious consequences. Please help to make sure that the roads around our school are as safe as they can be. Please park safely near our school and respect others. Thank you.

Mathseeds and Reading Eggs Clubs

Beginning this half term, our teachers will be running lunch time Mathseeds and Reading Eggs clubs. Children who are unable to access the programmes at home will be invited to join. Other children who would also benefit from an extra session, to either support or challenge their Maths or Reading will also be invited.



General Reminders

- Please make sure your child has a named coat, wellies and water bottle in school every day.
- If your details or circumstances change, please let us know.



Child Whispering Workshop for Parents

Thank you for responding to my recent letter about the best time for a Child Whispering workshop for parents. Most responses were in favour of 2pm – 4pm with a free cinema club after school for the children. Sandy Kennedy, Child Whispering founder, will lead the workshop on Tuesday 30th January. I hope you can make it.



Growth Mindset

Last year, a group of interested parents joined me to develop Growth Mindset across the school. Having a Growth, rather than Fixed mindset, allows the child (or adult) to see mistakes as learning opportunities, to never give up and to be confident that challenging themselves will lead to greater achievements. There is now a section on our website dedicated to Growth Mindset, regular 'Learning Circles' where the children help each other to understand what it means to be a good learner with a Growth Mindset and homework diaries and mascots so we can recognise children's use of their Growth Mindsets outside of school. The homework diaries will soon be coming home again! Each class has two diaries. The children take it in turns to bring the diaries home and add to them. Children can write or draw in the diary or you could include a photograph or notes for your child. The children's Learning Policy is in the front of each diary and your child's input can be related to any area from the policy. Please return the diaries each week so they can be given to another child.

Key Autumn Term Dates

Parent/Teacher Progress Meetings: December 8th, 11th, 12th, 13th

Sharing Afternoon: 7th December at 2.45pm

Class Assemblies: Beech – 23rd Nov; Oak – 30th Nov; Sycamore – 24th Nov; Maple – 16th Nov; Horse Chestnut – 17th Nov. All at 9am

Christmas Cafes: Horse Chestnut – 29th Nov; Maple – 1st Dec; Sycamore – 4th Dec; Oak – 5th Dec; Beech – 6th Dec. All at 9am

Open Afternoon for prospective families: 28th Nov

Health Workshop – Tuesday 14th November

Christmas Performances: Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December

Christingle – Monday 18th December

Christmas Lunch Tuesday 19th December

Tuesday 19th December close for Christmas. School reopens Wednesday 3rd January 2018