

# Headteachers' Bulletin

**January  
2018**

## Spixworth Infant School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

*Happy New Year 2018*

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas festivities and that 2018 brings you much joy. Our whole school topic for this half term is Green Machines. The children will be considering the power of plants as well as how eco-friendly we are. We have what promises to be a fantastic enhancement planned to get our topic off to a great start (more below) and look forward to finding out which direction the children of each class will take their learning.

### Parent Questionnaires



Thank you to everyone who returned a parent questionnaire at the end of last term. The Governors and I were thrilled to see how positive so many of them were. Every reply has been carefully considered including any comments added. We are very pleased to share the results of the questionnaire with you (attached) and how your views will be used to shape our future decisions.

### Child Whispering Workshop

Please do come along! This promises to be a fantastic event led by the founder of Child Whispering, Sandy Kennedy. Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2pm – 4pm



### Congratulations!

Congratulations to all of our children for their fantastic efforts in such a wide range of activities at the end of last term. All children performed like stars in their Christmas productions, the Year 2 children thrilled the residents of St Mary's Care Home by visiting them to sing Christmas songs and carols and all children participated with enthusiasm in our Christmas cafes, Christingle service and Christmas dinner.



### Attendance

Congratulations to the 76 children who received a certificate of attendance for last term! Good attendance is linked to educational success and social and emotional well-being. It can also be linked to safeguarding children. I will therefore always keep you informed of your child's individual attendance figures should they fall below the expected school or National levels and welcome you to provide me with the full picture behind any such absences.

Number of learning hours lost in December:  
651

### Staffing Update

We warmly welcome Mrs Kate Heley to Horse Chestnut class this term. Mrs Heley is already getting to know the children and their usual routines and is hoping to meet as many families as possible over the next few weeks. Please do come and say hello on the playground before or after school.



## Art and English Enhancement Day for Green Machines



On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January The Flying Shop of Imagination will be working with the whole school to enhance our Green Machines topic. Using their fusion of text and art, The Flying Shop of Imagination will create a project out of a story that is completely led by the children. The children will learn how important plants are for our survival as well as many literacy and art skills. The day will be conducted almost entirely outside. Please ensure your child has their welly boots in school as well as their coat, hat and gloves. For more information on The Flying Shop of Imagination please visit: <http://www.theflyingshopofimagination.co.uk>

### Tapestry

Reminder: For all year groups, please do add your own notes, photos or videos of your child's learning experiences at home. We do share these within classes to celebrate learning outside of the classroom. Thank you



### NEW Parent Forum

The Governors and I are very keen to work together with parents/carers to ensure the decisions we make are informed by your views. We have decided to keep the date but change the format of our coffee mornings. **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 9-9.30am will now be our first Parent Forum.** We will sit together to discuss and share ideas on one topic: **Homework.** At the end of the discussion we will also decide the topic for the next Parent Forum. Everyone is welcome. You do not have to feel strongly about the topic of discussion, please feel free to come along out of interest or simply to listen. (Younger siblings welcome)

### Keeping Children Safe Online



The NSPCC and O2 are working together to help adults to keep their children safe online. With tips, advice and a helpline available, this website can help you with everything about online safety from setting up parental controls and talking to young children about online safety to sexting and dealing with online abuse. Please take a look: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/partners/nspcc-o2-online-safety-partnership/> This link is also available on our school website under Key Information – Safeguarding.

### General Reminders

- Please make sure your child has a named coat, wellies and water bottle in school every day.
- Please park considerately to our neighbours and other parents and safely for our children
- If your details or circumstances change, please let us know.



### New Reception Intake 2018

Reminder: If you, or someone you know, has a child due to start school in September 2018, please ensure admission forms are completed and returned to Norfolk County Council by 15<sup>th</sup> January.



### Key Spring Term Dates

\*\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*\* Parent Forum (topic: Homework): 10<sup>th</sup> January 9am – 9.30am  
Cafes: YR - 23<sup>rd</sup> January; Y1 - 16<sup>th</sup> January; Y2 - 9<sup>th</sup> January. All 9am – 10am  
Child Whispering Workshop: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2pm – 4pm  
Sharing Afternoon: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2.45pm  
Parent/Teacher Progress Meetings Y2 ONLY: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>  
Half Term: 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February  
Assessment Workshop: 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
Sharing Afternoon: 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Parent/Teacher Progress Meetings ALL YEARS: March 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>  
Class Assemblies: Horse Chestnut - 13<sup>th</sup> March; Maple - 16<sup>th</sup> March; Beech - 21<sup>st</sup> March; Oak - 23<sup>rd</sup> March

# Parent Questionnaire – Your Responses

## Spixworth Infant School Governing Body

Thank you for completing our parent questionnaire.

Your views and opinions are very important to us as we make decisions about future improvements to our school.

Here is a brief overview of the responses you gave and some of things we have already planned to address the few concerns that were raised.

### Over 97%

Of parents/carers felt:

- that their child is making progress at school
- that their child is safe and well cared for
- they know the sort of work their child is doing
- they are kept informed of their child's achievements
- the school provides opportunities for parents to support their child's learning
- that the school's rewards and consequences have a positive effect on behaviour
- the school knows about and supports children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- they were able to speak to the Headteacher
- their child enjoys break and lunchtimes

You said: A few parents/carers said they would like a different amount of homework – some wanted more, while others wanted less

We did: We will continue to provide opportunities for children to access learning through reading, spelling support and online apps at home. To explore these views further we will make homework an agenda item for our new Parent Forum meetings – coming soon!

You said: You do not all know the school Governors or what they do – although this has improved from last year

We did: The Governing Body has increased the amount of opportunities they have to meet with parents/carers and the children and will continue to embed this practice moving forward.

You said: A few parents were concerned about the behaviour of a few children

We did: We recognise that behaviour and social skills are being learnt at this age and children will make mistakes in this process. We have increased the support available to children through Child Whispering and hope that as many parents/carers as possible come to the workshop so we can work collaboratively. We are also introducing 'zoned' activity areas at lunchtime to further support children's positive play.

### 100%

Of parents/carers felt:

- their child was happy at school
- they could speak to their child's teacher
- the newsletters are informative
- that any problems would be dealt with quickly and effectively
- that the school provides a range of learning opportunities to support the curriculum
- that the school is continually looking for ways to improve

You said: A few parents/carers mentioned entry to school, either with a concern about car parking, the paths into school or seeing all teachers more regularly

We did: We are currently considering two new approaches that could bring positive change to these concerns.

1. As most of our children live in Spixworth, we are looking into providing a 'walking bus' from the village hall. Children could be dropped off at the village hall (ample parking available) and walk with a member of staff to the school.
2. All children/families could come together on the main playground before school and line up at a morning bell (as the children do after break/lunchtimes) with their class teacher.

More information to follow, but if you would like to comment on either of these suggestions, please email the school.