



Headteachers' Bulletin

**September
2018**

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, making new friendships and looking so smart and proud in their new uniforms. Our whole school topic this half term is 'Dream Big.' Already the teachers and children are working together to plan the direction this topic will take in each class. Look out for class newsletters coming soon!

Our Staff Team



A very warm welcome to Miss Molly and Miss Knapper who join our staff team this year. Over the coming weeks, the children and staff will all get to know each other well. If you would like to see an overview of everyone on our staff team and their roles in school, please visit our website. From the home page, click on Our School then Staff.

Summer Learning

If your child has completed the Mischief Makers 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.



Grand Opening!

On 19th September our brand new children's cookery room will be formally opened with some very special celebrity guests. An invitation to you all will be sent soon. We hope you can join us!



School Improvements

Work begun over the Summer to refurbish and redecorate the outside of our school. This should be complete by Monday 17th September. Please take extra care around any cordoned off areas. We will be upgrading our gates from the car park to the playground. Unfortunately due to demand, this couldn't be completed during the Summer so will now take place at October half term.



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.



Reception Parents Curriculum Event

All new families of Reception children are invited to find out more about the curriculum at our school on Friday 21st September from 9.15 to 10am. Please join us to find out more about what and how we teach Reception children at Spixworth Infants and how you can help at home.





Core Values and Behaviour

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 2018-19 prospectus.



Tapestry

Tapestry is used at Spixworth with 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 do add comments, photos or videos from home too.

Enrichment

Each term our children have the opportunity to experience learning that goes beyond the National Curriculum. This year we are offering Forest School and Mandarin every term with Mindfulness, First Aid and African Drumming added for the Autumn term. Every Wednesday afternoon the children will take part in three sessions. The sessions will change at half term, so all children experience all activities by Christmas.



Archant Sports Vouchers

Last term family and friends collected school sport vouchers from the Archant group of newspapers. We are very pleased to have collected over 1000 vouchers which means we will soon take delivery of a free sports pack worth over £60. Thank you!



Communication and Safeguarding



Here at Spixworth Infant School we try to make sure we offer as many ways to communicate with our families as possible. Most letters are sent via email, unless there is a tear off reply slip which we will send as paper copies. We also have a website with all relevant information and a Facebook page and Twitter account. Please join us if this is your preferred way to receive communication from us.

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 technology including 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

Website: www.spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk



Find Out More



Whether you are new to our school this year, new to a year group, or just have a spare five minutes, please do visit our website to find out more about our school and all the governors and staff are doing to offer your child the best start to education possible. You will find information on initiatives such as Daily Mile, Child Whispering, Growth Mindset and School Council as well as statutory information such as our Ofsted report and key policies. If you can't find something you are looking for please let us know so we can make sure you have all the information you need.

Homework

Spending 10 minutes sharing learning together every day has so many positive benefits for your child. We provide reading books and spelling or phonics sheets in bookbags, but we also pay for every child to have access to Mathseeds, Purple Mash and Espresso Education online apps at home as further tools for you to engage and support your child in learning. All login information for Reception children are on their way. 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.



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.
- On that note: Please name everything!
- If any of your details or circumstances have changed over the holiday, please let us know so our records are kept up-to-date.



School Matters!



Attendance

We all want our children to achieve the best they can and have every opportunity in the future to follow their dreams. School attendance (and not just at junior or high school, but at infant school too) makes a real difference to how confident and capable our children become. Put bluntly, missed school means missed learning and missed learning cannot always be caught up on quickly or fully meaning your child will achieve less than their potential. Of course illness cannot be helped, but additional absence (e.g. for holidays) is detrimental. Our school target for overall attendance is 96%. I will keep you updated as to how well we achieve this each month, but this target is not for our benefit, it is for the children's and also for yours. Did you know that it is an illegal offence to take your child out of school in term time? Doing so could lead to a fine and ultimately a criminal record that would be disclosed on a DBS check and could therefore affect your applications to certain jobs. Children are only in school for 190 days per year and education is important. Wherever possible, please book holidays outside of school time. The agenda item for our first Parent Forum, on Wednesday 7th November will be Attendance. Please come along if you have questions or would like to discuss attendance further.

Key Autumn Term Dates

Please note a full list of key dates for the year was sent in July and is available on our website.

Cookery Room Grand Opening: Wednesday 19th September

Reception Parents Curriculum Meeting 21st September 9.15-10am

Cafes: Reception – 25th September; Year 1 – 26th September; Year 2 – 27th September all 9-10am

Sharing Afternoon – 4th October 2.45 – 3.25pm

Parent/Teacher Progress Meetings (letter to follow): 5th, 8th, 9th and 10th October all 3-4pm

30th November, 3rd, 4th and 5th December all 3-4pm

Harvest Festival (children only to Church, parent helpers to walk needed): 15th October

Parent Forum: 7th November

Health Visitor Drop-In: w/c 12th November

Open Afternoon for 2019 intake: 22nd November

Christmas Cafes: November 26th Beech; 27th Oak; 28th Maple; 29th Sycamore

Christmas Lunch (children only): 12th December

Christingle (children only): 17th December

Christmas Plays: 13th and 14th December

