

Headteachers' Bulletin

January 2019

Spixworth Infant School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the Spring Term and Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you had a wonderful break and feel excited for what 2019 has to bring. This half term our whole school topic is 'Super You, Super Me' with the enquiry question: 'Who were the superheroes of the past?' I look forward to seeing how each class set sail for the past with both History and Science in their sights. As always we have a busy half term planned. Please make sure you check the key diary dates at the end of this newsletter and look out for the 'what's coming up next week' emails each Friday.

Staffing Update

Firstly, welcome back to Mrs To who re-joins us this term from her maternity leave.

Secondly, for your information, to best support the needs of our children some of our support staff have changed classes from this term. Miss Hines will now be working in Oak class with Mrs Kidd also providing part-time support. Mrs Russell and Miss Molly will be sharing the support of children in Sycamore class.



Festivities!

What fun we had!

Thank you to the Friends of the school, St Peter's Church helpers and all families for their input into making our Christmas events so special.



School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance

- As suggested by Parent Forum 'A Day in the Life' leaflets showing a typical timetable for a Spixworth child in either EYFS or KS1 are now available on our website in full colour. Black and white copies will be sent home shortly.
- Look out for attendance certificates for last half term, and the whole of the Autumn term in book bags soon. Letters, where attendance has become concerning, will also be shared shortly.

Our target is 96%. Results for December:

Beech Class: 91.7%

Oak Class: 94.8%

Maple Class: 96.5%

Sycamore Class: 95.4%

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.

New Reception Intake 2019

Reminder: If you, or someone you know, has a child due to start school in September 2019, please ensure admission forms are completed and returned to Norfolk County Council by 15th January 2019.



PE and School

I am very pleased to share that we are now awaiting the installation of two Activall Pods to our outdoor area. The pods are fully interactive and are designed to support independent learning, motivation, co-ordination and problem solving as well as many specific PE skills. The children will all be able to use the pods in PE



Spring Term Enrichments

All pupils this term will continue to receive Mandarin lessons and have Forest School lessons weekly. Additionally to this, this term we are also providing Singing, Makaton sign language and Engineering sessions.



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 and water bottle in school every day.



If any of your details or circumstances have changed, please let us know so our records are kept up-to-date.



Children may play on the all-weather surface before/after school but may not play on the equipment or in the garden or forest school area

Children's Mental Health

Reminder: Please come along to our next parent workshop on 14th January on Children's Mental Health at 2.30pm.



Safeguarding



Please check your social media privacy settings and think carefully before posting pictures of your children on line – some people accessing pictures of children do not do so innocently. You may be interested in this short clip from Privacy for Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpX5R63eu98>

Key Spring Term Dates

Parent Workshop: Children's Mental Health – 14th January

Sharing Afternoon – 18th January

Cafés: Reception – 24th January; Year 1 – 22nd January; Year 2 – 23rd January

Parent Forum: Tapestry – 31st January

YEAR 2 ONLY Parent/Teacher Progress Meetings: February 8th, 11th, 12th, 13th all 3-4pm

Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February: School closed for half term

Parent Workshop: Assessment – Tuesday 5th March

Class Assemblies: Sycamore: 15th March; Maple: 22nd March; Oak: 29th March; Beech: 5th April

Sharing Afternoon – Monday 25th 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

At Least 95%

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 were concerned about the behaviour of a few children

Our response: We know how important it is for you and your child to feel safe at school. We also recognise that young children are learning about behaviour and how to respond to experiences and feelings. We aim to support all children, regardless of their needs, with their own next steps. We work collaboratively with families and provide a consistent approach. Where necessary we ask for further specialist advice. If you are concerned about behaviour, please speak to your child's class teacher.

You said: Some parents said their child does not participate in clubs; they do not know the governors well and communication can be inconsistent

Our response: We will continue to offer a range of clubs for your consideration. Providers being able to use our school hall keeps prices down for you. We hope this means more children can benefit. We now have a new governor, Mrs Whiting, whom will be looking into new and improved ways for communicating and working with parents. We always aim to make sure all communication to and from school is effective. Please let Mrs Read, our new Clerical Assistant, know if something is not working for you and we will do our very best to resolve any issues and improve any systems.

At Least 95%

Of parents/carers felt:

- their child was happy at school
- they could speak to their child's teacher
- behaviour in school is good
- they were happy with the amount of homework
- 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 felt homework could be improved with some parents wanting more. A suggestion was made for a Mathseeds workshop and also for improved recognition of homework completed off-line

Our response: Maths, Reading and spelling homework is available and can be completed daily. It is currently a significant concern for teachers that many children are not completing homework regularly. Some children have never logged on to Mathseeds, never read at home and not returned any spellings. For children to make the best progress we expect them to read at least 3 times per week at home and complete 1 Mathseeds and 1 spelling activity per week. Meeting this expectation will support children to meet their own targets but also be excellent preparation for Junior school – where homework is not optional. Mrs Heley will be hosting a Mathseeds workshop this term (thank you for the request) and Miss Mattock is keen to reward spelling and Reading homework in new ways...watch this space!