



Headteachers' Bulletin

**November
2019**

Spixworth Infant School

Ivy Road, Spixworth,
Norwich, NR10 3PX

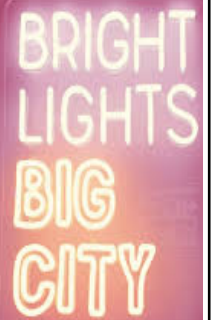
Tel: 01603 898483

Email: head@spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk

: office@spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term! Our whole school topic of Bright Lights, Big City continues with lots of learning to come before we turn our attentions to the inevitable end of term delights. At the end of this newsletter, please find some information on what and where to share your child's learning with us – thank you to Parent Forum for recognising and sharing the need for this clarity. We aim to always work with you and appreciate your feedback to enable us to do so.



School Council Events

Our School Council took part in a taste test at Woodland View Junior School to help us decide who should provide our meals in future.



The School Council and Friends are now running a second hand uniform shop on the last Monday of each half term. Please pop in!

Fund raising for Children in Need on 15th November will be planned by School Council. Details to follow.

Staffing Update

A huge Spixworth welcome to Mrs Hanson, Mr Woolley, Mrs Fiddament and Mrs Quantrell whom have all joined our team this half term. Mrs Hanson is an experienced classroom assistant having changed her career from nursing. Mr Woolley is an experienced outdoor activity leader and hopes to train to teach in the future. Mrs Fiddament and Mrs Quantrell also bring a wealth of experience to our cleaning and caretaking team. I am sure you will join me in making our new members of staff feel at home at Spixworth Infants.



School Matters!



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

Attendance

Our target is 96%. Results for October:

Beech Class: 96.6%

Oak Class: 99.0%

Maple Class: 97.3%

Sycamore Class: 96.3%

Congratulations Oak class!

Strictly Come Spixworth!



In PE this half term the children are rehearsing their dance skills. Over the coming weeks, all willing performers will show off their moves in a class-based first round of competition. In House teams, the children will vote their favourites through to a thrilling final! The final will be held in the school hall on Friday 29th November. Families of finalists will be invited to attend this fun event.

Parent Forum Feedback

A really useful Forum was held at the end of last half term on the topic of Reading. Here is a summary of the discussions.

* Some Reception parents were not sure what to write in the Reading Records and felt an advice sheet in the front of the books might help. Some also felt extra advice on supporting with Phonics would be useful. Miss Engall is going to address both of these points in the coming weeks. How reading changes from Year R to Year 1 and 2 will also be included in our Summer term year group information events.

* The reading challenges have been well received but clearer information sharing about what the challenge boards look like in the classes and when the children move along these was suggested. Sharing afternoons are a good time to look at these, but the teachers will also consider using Tapestry to share these too. A few inconsistencies across classes with regard to rewards for reading and number of reads at school were also raised. We always aim for consistency and clarity. If you have a question or concern, please speak to your class teacher straight away to enable us to remedy any issues.

* In other business, what and where to share all the different home learning experiences was discussed. Please see the attached grid which will hopefully help

* It was decided that the topic for the next Forum will be 'Apps.' Please come along on 14th Feb!

Christmas Events Information

1. Christmas Cafés are just around the corner. Held in class groups and with a focus on craft, there is a little more space and flexibility to allow us to invite younger siblings to attend if needed. Decorations made are hung in our school after the cafés and sent home at the end of term.

2. Rehearsals for Christmas plays will also begin soon. Class teachers will send letters if costumes are needed or support is required for learning lines. Reception perform one play while Year 1 and 2 work together on another. Tickets are allocated per family. A separate letter will be sent nearer the time to request yours.

3. Christmas lunches must be ordered in advance. A letter for this has been sent home.

4. Helpers from St. Peter's church lead our Christingle event in school. All you will need to provide is an orange. Details to follow.

5. Reminder: the Friends of Spixworth are supporting the community Christmas fayre this year on 7th December. Save the date!

Safeguarding

If your child is not at school we have a responsibility to ensure they are safe. Please call or email the office if your child is absent. If we do not hear from you, we will call you. If there is no answer we may have to make a home visit or call children's social care to check your child is safe.

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.



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.

Governor Monitoring Day: 7th November

Sharing Afternoons: November 15th Beech; 18th Maple; 19th Oak; 20th Sycamore

Open Afternoon for 2020 intake: 21st November

Parent/Teacher Progress Meetings: 22nd, 25th, 26th, 27th November all 3-4pm

Christmas Cafés: December 2nd Beech; 3rd Oak; 5th Sycamore; 6th Maple

Christmas Lunch (children only): 13th December

Christingle (children only): 16th December

Christmas Plays: 17th and 18th December

School is closed to children on Thursday 19th December and reopens on Monday 6th January



Celebrating and Sharing Learning – What, Where?

Where?	What?	Examples									
Reading Records	<p>* Let us know when your child has read their school reading book at home. We will change it when you write in the record. If you want to keep it to enjoy again, or would like an extra book for the weekend, please tell us that too.</p> <p>* You can also record other things your child has read with you e.g. library books</p>	<p>This could be just a smiley face or a tick, or you may wish to tell the teacher a bit more e.g.</p> <p><i>‘Tom found all the /s/ sounds on the page!’</i></p> <p><i>‘We talked about how the characters were feeling in the story.’</i></p> <p><i>‘Tom read to his grandma today – she was very impressed!’</i></p>									
Learning Outside the Classroom Passports	<p>* Please list clubs that your child attends (swimming, Rainbows, cookery, football, Lego club etc)</p> <p>* You can also list educational visits (a walk around Blicking Hall, a trip to the Sealife centre)</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>11/10/19</td> <td>Gymnastics</td> <td>1hr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13/10/19</td> <td>Castle museum</td> <td>2hrs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18/10/19</td> <td>Gymnastics</td> <td>1hr</td> </tr> </table>	11/10/19	Gymnastics	1hr	13/10/19	Castle museum	2hrs	18/10/19	Gymnastics	1hr
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Tapestry	<p>Most other things! Photos, videos and notes can all be shared. This gives the teacher a better understanding of your child as a whole person and the children love sharing their lives outside of school with their friends on Fridays.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Family events such as birthday parties * Family routines such as preparing meals together, crafting or playing together * Homework practise or other ‘academic’ tasks such as writing lists or invitations * A weekend away or other holiday experiences * Caring for pets * Playing board games or other sharing and turn taking fun with friends or family 									
No where!	<p>In this world of social media, it is important and healthy to feel that you do not need to share everything publically. Enjoy times as a family and make memories privately too!</p>										