

Headteachers' Bulletin

**December
2019**



Spixworth Infant School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

December is upon us and Christmas is drawing ever closer! Our topic 'Bright Lights, Big City' is steering toward our Christmas productions and learning across the curriculum is beginning to have a Christmas twist with Advent Maths and essential Writing in the form of invitations, letters and lists! Everyone at Spixworth Infant School wishes you an exciting last few weeks of term and a Christmas break filled with happiness. Thank you for all of your support throughout 2019!



Strictly Come Spixworth – The Results



A lot of fun was had in all stages of our 'just for fun' dancing competition. Congratulations to the Red Robins House for gaining the most House Points for their team!



Staffing Update



I am pleased to report that Mrs Heley's operation was successful and she is on the road to recovery. We hope she may be able to pop in briefly to see the children before Christmas. Meanwhile Miss Tims is doing a brilliant job supporting Sycamore class. We are also thrilled to share that Miss Tims was the successful candidate at interview to step into Oak class to cover Mrs To's maternity leave in January.



Miss Tims will be staying at Spixworth to cover Mrs To's maternity leave

School Matters!



Attendance

Attendance certificates for this half term, and the whole of the Autumn term, will be presented to children at the end of term. If your child's attendance has not reached the school target (96%) or the National minimum (90%) parents/carers will receive a letter of further information.

Our target is 96%. Results for November:

- Beech Class: 97.5%
- Oak Class: 98%
- Maple Class: 97.4%
- Sycamore Class: 96.3%

Congratulations Oak class!

It is with sadness that I must also report that Miss Gowing has had to leave us due to on-going health reasons. I am sure you will join us in thanking Miss Gowing for her work, especially with Maple class and wish her health and happiness for the future. We will be appointing a new teaching assistant shortly.



PE and School Sports Grant

This year, schools will again receive money from the government that can only be spent on improving children's healthy lifestyles and physical well-being. The governors and I have agreed how this money will be spent at Spixworth Infant School. As well as continuing to support our cookery room and early morning club, our main aim this year is to provide greater all weather access to outdoor play and learning for all year groups, through the addition of a canopy on part of the main playground. A few parents had mentioned a need for this two years ago, when the Reception area received their canopy – we are very pleased to now be able to provide this. Our full PE and School Sports report can be found on our website (under Key Information – PE funding).

Pupil Premium Funding

Pupil Premium is paid to schools that support children of families in receipt of some benefits. This money should support individual children but also positively impact on these children within groups or classes – meaning all children benefit. As with any additional money provided to schools, how this is spent must be reported. At Spixworth Infant School we provide after school clubs and trips free of charge to children who receive Pupil Premium. We also provide small group support linked to specific areas of need, training for staff to support specific needs and whole school approaches. This year, emotional literacy, Lego therapy and speech and language training take priority. If you think your child may be entitled to Pupil Premium, please ask at the office for more information. To view our full report go to our website (under Key Information – Pupil Premium).



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

- Beech class will be lining up on the main playground from January
- Uniform sale: last Monday of each half term

Children's Mental Health



Unfortunately, the health service are unable to uphold their offer of providing a drop-in session for us in January. We have therefore decided to re-run our mental health workshop instead (first held in Jan 19). On **Monday 13th January at 9.10am** we welcome you to come and find out more about this essential topic and what we can offer you from school.

Safeguarding



For some families, Christmas can be a difficult time. If you find you need help or support, please reach out to family, friends or professionals. Domestic violence helpline: 0808 2000 247 Samaritans: 116 123 Children's Services: 0344 800 8020 Just One Number (NHS): 0300 300 0123

Still to Come this Term

Christmas Lunch (children only): 13th December

Christingle (children only): 16th December

Christmas Plays: 17th and 18th December

School closes for Christmas break 3.15pm on Wednesday 18th December



season's greetings