

Executive Headteachers' Bulletin

End of Year 2021



THANK YOU

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we draw to the end of another, unusual, academic year I want to offer a huge thank you to our staff for never giving up, to you as parents for bearing with it all and mostly to the children for taking so much in their stride. The resilience, perseverance and commitment I have seen this year from everyone involved with our school cannot be under-rated. It has rarely been easy and the learning curves have at times been bigger than anyone would have liked, but we've made it, together, one way or another. I wish you all a fantastic Summer and can't wait to do it all again with you in September.

Ms Jordan



Coronavirus Safety

As we end this year, schools have been given revised guidance on what measures should be in place from September. Although this guidance is always subject to change, and local variations may be necessary at any time, we are planning for a return in September with reduced restrictions. We will work systems with two large bubbles in each school. Staggered starts and finishes will no longer continue but careful timetabling of breaks and lunches will allow for an easy return to smaller bubbles if required. Increased cleaning of key areas and high touch points as well as increased hand hygiene will continue and children should continue to come to school in their PE kits on their PE days.

Keep Learning!

For the best start for your child in their new year group in September, please regularly refresh those learning skills. There is lots to choose from! Make time for reading, using learning apps or browse the attached holiday ideas letter for fun and educational things to do.



Reminders

Please make sure every item of uniform including coats, lunch boxes and water bottles are labelled ahead of September



Safeguarding

If you have a concern about a child, call 0344 800 8020 to pass it on.
The Domestic Abuse helpline is 0808 2000 247
Call the Samaritans on 116 123
The Young Minds parent helpline is 0808 802 5544



Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility

September Staffing

I am pleased to share that Mrs Brown will be joining the infant school support staff team from September, supporting a child in Reception and Mr Woolley will be leading the before and after school care and supporting in Sycamore class throughout the day. I am also thrilled that the infant school will be supporting two student teachers across the next academic year. Miss Newstead and Mr Dodd will both complete placements in Maple class, learning from our very experienced team. From September Miss Tranfield will be crossing the road to provide additional staff support in Sparrow Hawk class at the Junior school and Miss Claxton will be taking the reins as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant.





Spotlight on an Excellent Curriculum



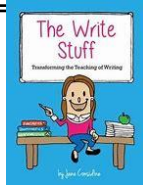
Phonics

All schools are now expected to choose one Systematic, Synthetic Phonics programme. Spixworth Infant School uses the Letters and Sounds approach to teaching phonics. In recent years we have used images and ditties from another programme to support our children to remember the sounds being taught. From September we will just be using the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds programme. This will allow us to continue with our same great teaching sequence and keep using most of our current reading books, but you might notice a difference in some of the images and memory hooks we use in school (and send home) as we ensure the best possible teaching for our children.

If you want to know more about our phonics programme and support your children with phonics at home go to: [Letters and Sounds for Home and School - YouTube](#)

Writing

All teachers have recently completed training in The Write Stuff approach to teaching writing. From September all classes from Year 1 to Year 6 will use this high quality, consistent approach.



The related approach to reading (Hooked on Books) and spelling will also be embedded next year after an initial trial period.

To find out more see [The Write Stuff by Jane Considine - Bing video](#)

Maths

Consistency is key! All teachers, from September, will be using the Write Rose curriculum in Maths. All children will also be taught Maths in single age groups, meaning every child will be accessing age expected objectives in every single lesson and so building the strongest foundation for their next year.



To find out more see: [For Parents & Carers | White Rose Maths](#)

Extra Support

Our classroom support staff are thrilled to have a new routine from September. Every class will have a full-time Teaching Assistant supporting learning in the mornings. Part of the afternoon session will see these TAs leading small 'keep-up' groups. Here, children who have not quite achieved the learning objectives in the morning can be given the extra support they need to be ready for the next day's learning. Keep-up sessions in the Infant School will focus on phonics with English and Maths being the focus for the Juniors.

Mrs Russell and Mrs Kidd (both Higher Level TAs) will be working across both schools to support the legal requirement for teaching staff non-contact time.



PE

We are excited to be working with NCFC and LB Coaching next year to further upskill all our teachers in providing the highest quality PE sessions for every child.



UKS2

Our upper Key Stage 2 children will have weekly opportunities to take control of some of their learning in the foundation subjects. Making full use of our suite of Chromebooks, the teachers will be able to offer more individual challenge.

All this and more from September!

Future Dates 2021-2022

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent/Teacher meetings will be held virtually again next year as this has allowed more parents to attend.

A letter will be sent in the first week of September for you to request days/times. The meetings will take place four times over the year in the weeks beginning:

27th September
2nd December
7th February
28th April



In-School Events

We can't wait to welcome parents/carers back into school!

We are currently planning one event at the end of each term (Christmas, Easter and Summer) and one smaller scale event each mid-term.

We are also looking forward to getting back to offering parent forums and workshops on a range of subjects.

Further details will be shared in September.

School Holidays

School reopens for all children on Monday 6th September

October half term: Monday 25th – Friday 29th October

Christmas break: Monday 20th December - Tuesday 4th January

Additional holiday in lieu of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Wednesday 5th January

February half term: Monday 14th – Friday 18th February

Easter break: Monday 4th – Tuesday 19th April

May Day: Monday 2nd May

May half term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Summer break: Monday 25th July

Please do not book holiday in school term time, thank you.



Wishing you all a happy, fun-filled and safe summer.

From all of us at The
Federation of Spixworth
Schools.

