



Dear Parents/Carers,

# Welcome!


Welcome back to all our families across the Federation of Spixworth Schools, especially those new families joining us for the first time.

I hope you all had a great Summer, filled with fun and hopefully a little rest! With a number of new staff, an exciting plan for our enhanced curriculum and ever improving spaces, we can't wait to get going with the year ahead! Read on to find out more about our offer and what's coming up.

Happy New Academic Year Everyone!

Ms Jordan

### **Before and After School Club (The ARC) and Community Hub OPEN!**



A huge amount of work has taken place over the Summer to completely refurbish and repurpose two areas of Woodland View Junior School. We are thrilled to now be able to offer high quality, permanent wrap-around childcare from 7am – 6pm in our ARC (the name taken from three of our core values: adventure, respect and community). We are also excited to be working with a number of other agencies to provide a wide range of other services for families through our Community Hub space. More information on both of these additional services can be gained from the school office and will be available, with photographs, on our website in the coming days. Thank you to everyone involved for their efforts in making this happen within such tight timescales!

### **Staffing**

#### **Introducing Miss Owen Head of School: Spixworth Infant School and Curriculum Lead for the Federation**



Miss Owen is an experienced Head of School. She has worked across the Primary age range and been part of a number of National research projects to develop teaching and learning. Early Years remains a passion for Miss Owen as does outdoor learning. Her own love of travel, sports and other adventures leads her to have a passion for opening doors of possibility for every child.


### **Outdoor Learning Improvements**

We are pleased that the groundworks are complete ready for our new outdoor learning pods. We are aiming for these to be installed before half term.



Our next outdoor project is the pond area at the infant school. We would love for our children to be able to make use of this area, but it is in need of some time and love. Miss Owen will be progressing this project in the coming term. If you are able to help, or know someone who can, please get in touch.

### **A Spotlight on Norfolk's 'Just One' Services**



Just One Norfolk is an NHS website that provides help, advice and information for the parenthood journey from pregnancy to older teens. A huge range of general topics are available including supporting physical and mental health as well as more specialised topics such as speech and language and Special Educational Needs. You can find out more about the services on offer to support you and your family including booking video appointments: [Health Advice & Support for Children - Just One Norfolk](#)  
Just One Number is an NHS telephone line for everyone. You can make one call to contact a range of professionals to talk about any concern you have regarding your child or family. The practitioners may support you themselves, direct you to other services or support you with referrals. The number is: 0300 300 0123 or find out more: [Just One Number & Parentline \(justonenorfolk.nhs.uk\)](#)

## Schools Improvement Plan



Every year the governors and leadership team look at what has been achieved and what is needed to improve our schools even further. This year we will be embedding recent changes to our curriculum and ensuring all those extras – including visits and visitors are made full use of to give our children the best experiences possible. Vocabulary, reading and wellbeing continue to be a focus as well as working with families to support excellent attendance for all.

To find out more, please read the Schools Improvement and Development Plan on our website.

### DSLs



The Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) are:

Ms Jordan and Mrs Kidd (across the Federation)  
Miss Owen, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Betts (based at the Infants)

Mrs Payne and Mrs Clarke (based at the Juniors)

All safeguarding policies have been updated for this year and will be available on request or via our websites following governor approval.

### Attendance



Government guidelines on school attendance have been updated. This means all schools will follow the same procedures to ensure every child achieves the best attendance possible. There are no major changes from how our schools have worked previously. We will continue to:

- Ask you to phone the office on the first day of any absence so we know the reason for absence and that your child is safe.
- Phone you if we don't hear from you. If we still can't make contact, we will phone the other contacts for your child and make a home visit if necessary.
- Not authorise term time holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. Children are only in school for 190 days each year. Children have a right to receive that education and parents have a legal responsibility to ensure they do. Holidays should be taken outside of this time.
- Work closely with you and seek support from other agencies if needed to help you improve your child's attendance as soon as it becomes a concern.

To read the full government guidance, please go to:  
[Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)



### Communication



At the Federation of Spixworth Schools 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 share all letters and lots of other information via our websites. We have both Facebook pages and Twitter accounts. Please join us if this is your preferred way to receive communication from us. Please be careful to only use our official communication channels as we cannot guarantee the accuracy of information from elsewhere.

We take e-safety very seriously and have clear policies on how we will use the internet safely 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 schools and know that a good reputation is hard to build yet easy to break. If you do have an issue or concern, please contact us directly either by telephone or email.

Our policies are available on our website or you can request paper copies from the offices.

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/thefederationofspixworthschools](http://www.facebook.com/thefederationofspixworthschools)

Website: [www.spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk)

Friends: [Spixworthfriends@gmail.com](mailto:Spixworthfriends@gmail.com)



## Traffic Safety Update



Last term, I invited the Local Authority Health and Safety team to observe the traffic around our schools. Although they did not feel parking was any more or less problematic outside our schools than any other school at pick up or drop off times, they did share the following ideas:

- \* The village hall has ample parking and would be a suitable place for parents to park and walk their children to/from school whenever possible. Parents could take turns to lead a walking group.
- \* The Friends group could work with parents to create a charter that outlines how we all agree to behave for the benefit of our community. A car sticker could be used to show support.

I also spent time with the Local Authority property surveyor. The Governors and I have agreed to work with the surveyor to identify all possibilities for improving parking. There is an unused grassed area at the front of the Junior carpark that will be the focus for development. A circular drop off/collection point has been explored but the initial estimate of £70,000 is clearly far beyond our financial reach and, I would argue, even if available, would not be best use of money intended to improve the education of our children. Finally, with your support, we have raised money to purchase safety signs that will be added in and around our entrances to encourage safe driving and parking.

### General Reminders



- Please park considerately to our neighbours and safely for our whole community.
- All children should have their own, named, water bottle in school everyday
- Please name all your child's items.
- Please let us know if your details or circumstances have changed over the holiday.
- Our schools are nut-free zones. Please do not include any items containing nuts in packed lunches. Special diets can be catered for by the kitchen.

### 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 on the playground on their own bikes/scooters before or after school

### Key Dates for this Half Term

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

September

School opens for Year 1-6 children: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>

School opens for Reception children: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Jeans for Genes Charity Day: Monday 19<sup>th</sup>

Parent/carer book looks: w/c 19<sup>th</sup> (WV

Mon/Tue/Fri, SIS Wed/Thu/Fri)

Parent/Teacher Progress meetings online: w/c 26<sup>th</sup>

October

Year 6 residential: 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> October

Half term: 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October



### Reminder: Our Vision and Values

Our **community** supports our children to accept new challenges and be resilient in the face of adversity; to have humour, a willingness to laugh and be graceful in difficult situations.

We will open doors to opportunity and eyes to possibility - unlocking curious minds with knowledge that will allow our children to achieve **excellence** and realise their ambitions.

We proudly insist upon **respect** for all as we walk with every child to seize their best **adventure**.

We do this because we CARE.

