



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to October! How quickly the term is flying by and how exciting it is in school! Every class has chosen a new name to inspire them for the year ahead, Houses have been relaunched, Mrs Heley is busily supporting the children with the election of a new Federation Council and Mrs Jackson has been taking nominations for new E-Safety Champions. Playground Buddy and Play Leader training is underway...and quite a lot of 'work' has been done too! Well done to everyone for settling in so well and getting the year off to a great start.

Ms Jordan



Uniform Policy

All schools have been asked to review their uniform policies, especially with a view to value. Ours is on our website: [Federation Policies – The Federation of Spixworth Schools](#)
Please note: hooded tops are not permitted and skirts must be knee length.



Lego Teambuilding

This year, our Autumn wellbeing day will focus on teamwork. Every child will take part in a Lego challenge event led by Bricks McGee: [Model commissions and workshops with LEGO® bricks - Bricks McGee](#)
School dates to follow.



School Day - Reminder

Please make sure your child is at school on time. Arriving late means missed learning for your child and disrupted learning for everyone else's.
Our opening times are:
Infants: 8.45am – 3.15pm
Juniors: 8.40am – 3.10pm



Staffing

Introducing Mrs Smith Clerical Assistant



We are thrilled to introduce Mrs Smith to you as our new Clerical Assistant across the Federation. Mrs Smith will usually be the first person you see or hear at our schools as well as being the person busily working behind the scenes to keep you up-to-date with all you need to know. Mrs Smith has plenty of experience in administrative work and as a parent! She is looking forward to meeting you all and being a valuable link between home and school.

Our Enhanced Offer

We have received many positive comments about our enhanced offer for this year and look forward to the many trips, clubs and events planned. A few parents have shared their disappointment that not all year groups will have a residential visit this year, especially when children have missed out previously due to Covid-19. With awareness of the cost of living issues experienced by so many right now, we have decided our offer will remain unchanged. Over time all children will experience a residential. If you need help with costs of additional activities, please contact the school office for advice.



A Spotlight on the UN Rights of the Child

At the end of last year, Woodland View Junior School joined Spixworth Infant School in being awarded the Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award! Thank you to Mrs Heley for leading this work.

UNICEF UK works with schools in the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award embeds these values in daily school life and gives children the best chance to lead happy, healthy lives and to be responsible, active citizens.

To find out more, please go to: [What is the Rights Respecting Schools Award? - UNICEF UK](#)



Harvest Festival

This year the children will be celebrating Harvest through a special school assembly on Wednesday 12th October. We would be very grateful of any donations of dried or tinned foods. The foods will provide a display as part of the assemblies, then be placed in the Spixworth Community Hub food bank to support local people in times of difficulty. Food items can be brought into school from Monday 10th October. Donations for the food bank are welcomed through the year. The food, clothing and toy banks can be accessed between 8.30-9am and 2.30-3pm daily.



Safeguarding



The Norfolk Constabulary Safer Schools team are supporting Hate Crime Awareness week, which is 10th to 16th October. Our Year 5 pupils will take part in an online presentation called 'Respecting Others.'

The session covers more than hate crime. The children will learn about the age of criminal responsibility, criminal damage, theft, verbal abuse, weapon possession and anti-social behaviour at an appropriate level.

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.

Attendance

School Matters!



An excerpt from the updated Government guidelines on school attendance:

The law entitles every child of compulsory school age to an efficient, full-time education where parents decide to have their child registered at school, they have an additional legal duty to ensure their child attends that school regularly. This means their child must attend every day that the school is open, except in a small number of allowable circumstances such as being too ill to attend or being given permission for an absence in advance from the school. This is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. The pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 4 have higher rates of attendance over the key stage compared to those with the lowest attainment.

To read the guidance in full, go to: [Working together to improve school attendance - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance) (www.gov.uk) If you are struggling with your child's attendance, please speak to us as soon as possible.

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.

NEW Reception curriculum and Q&A workshops: 7th October 9.30am and 2.30pm

Harvest assemblies: 12th October

Y5 and Y6 Cross-Country event: 14th October

Friends Disco: 14th October

Year 6 residential: 19th – 21st

Lego Teambuilding events: TBC

Half term: 24th – 28th

