

Positive, open channels of communication between home and school are key!

Did you know . . .

The school **website** has lots of useful information for parents. This is regularly updated by Mr Ingram to include a ticker tape of upcoming events as well as a notice board and term dates to help you know what is going on.

A group of fabulous **Governors** support and help Mrs Snape and the SLT team in the strategic vision for the school. Please speak with them if you have some good ideas to help the school become an even better place for teaching and learning together or to find out about our suggestions and complaints procedure.

There is a **blue notice board** on the playground with updates of what is happening in school and what the lunch menu is going to be. There are **white boards** outside your child's classroom that are updated weekly with the curriculum information you need to know. Every week a copy of the **curriculum timetable** for your child is sent home to you. Please take time to look at it and talk about learning with your child.

There is a **suggestions box** in the front entrance for your comments, complaints and suggestions – As a school we are always keen to keep improving and we welcome constructive feedback and suggestions. You can also use OfSTED **ParentView** to give us your feedback, although we would prefer to hear from you in person if there is something we should know or we need to improve. The Spinney has an **Open Friday** afternoon every week where you are welcome to come into your child's class after school to look at their books and to find out what they have been learning that week.

You will receive a **termly report** about your child's learning and progress and there will be an opportunity to discuss this with your child's teacher during our parent and teacher meetings. However, if you ever want to talk to us at a different time, we will always be pleased to see you. Just make an appointment via the school office.

Mrs Snape, Mr Mawson, Ms Garrill and other members of the **Senior Leadership Team** are often around at the beginning and end of the day (except on Monday mornings when the staff have a weekly briefing) Please come and chat with us if there is anything you need to let us know or anything that we can help you with.

Mrs Jelliman, Mrs Barot and Mrs Varley – **The Office Ladies** – are able to answer your questions or will make appointment for you to meet other members of the teaching team including the Headteacher, Mrs Snape. Ask for their help and advice if there is something you are not sure of.

Everything you could want to know about what is going on in school is published in the weekly **newsletter**. If you are not sure please search for it on the website in the first instance or ask another parent via **Sircles** which is a new social way for parents to connect and talk with each other on line. This is the only one endorsed by the school and Terms of Use for Sircles and other social media tools are outlined in our Acceptable Use Policy.

The school uses **Parent Mail** to ensure that parents receive information in an efficient way. Please ensure that you have signed up. The **newsletter** every Thursday is sent home via Parentmail but is also available on the school website www.spinney.cambs.sch.uk

The school **website** has lots of useful information for parents. There is also a **notice board** with an up to date calendar of upcoming events for the week.

The Chair of **The Friends** Teresa Wallman works closely with the school in preparing this Termly Events Calendar. If you have any suggestions for other activities, please speak to Teresa via the school office. Please talk with her about ideas and suggestions for Friends events and get involved

Suzie Young is the **Spinney's Family Partnership Coordinator**. Suzie also works as the Alliance Coordinator for the Kite TSA which means she's in school on most days and able to offer her time flexibly in both roles. Call or text her on 07969 685971 or email syoung@spinney.cambs.sch.uk

Spring Term Teaching and Learning Together Calendar 2018








*“To be happy, you must be your own sunshine”
“Happiness is not ready-made, it comes from our own actions”
The Dalai Lama*

“Parents’ active engagement with their children’s school and their learning is the most important long-term influence on academic success and behaviour”
The Spinney School is committed to securing strong Family and Community Links so please look inside to find a number of ways that parents, carers and families can be involved in the life and learning of the school.

TEN TOP WAYS TO GET INVOLVED THIS TERM

1. Make a concerted effort to get involved, contribute to the school and join the **Friends of The Spinney this term**. It's fun and a great way to meet other wonderful Spinney parents and find out about ways to support events and enrichment activities for the children
2. Offer to help at the **School Disco**, and share in the fun and games the children experience at this noisy event
3. Come in to school to join in the fun of our **Easter Stay & Play** sessions later this term.
4. Enjoy making **Easter Bonnets** and decorate **eggs** with your child and share in the creative Easter events taking place during the last week of term.
5. Attend the end of term **Celebration Assembly**.
6. Volunteer as a **Learning Partner** in school (ask the ladies in the school office for more details) Mrs Hanadi would love to welcome you to the Learning Partner team.
7. Come along to our traditional **Mothering Day Service** and then stay in school for a delicious school lunch with your child.
8. Pop in to your child's class after school for **Open Friday**, where you have an opportunity to see your child's books and talk with your child about their learning and progress
9. Volunteer to accompany your child on their **Educational Visit** this term. Both you and your child will gain a lot from this experience and it will give you lots to share and talk about at home.
10. Take time to **share the curriculum map** and think of ways to extend your child's learning at home.

DATE	EVENT	HOW TO TAKE PART AND SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME
4 th January	Back to school	Welcome Back for more fun and "Teaching and Learning Together".
26 th – 28 th January	RSPB Big Birdwatch Weekend	Spend time with your children watching the wild birds in the garden at home and following up from what they have been learning in school.
29 th January	The Big Write	Ask your child about the special assembly and what the whole school writing activity was.
2 nd February	Friends Pupil Disco	*After school Discos for both Key Stages. Parent volunteers to help run these events are much appreciated.
12 – 19 th February	Half Term Holiday	Relax and enjoy some well earned time together.
20 th February	Back to school	Welcome Back for more fun and "Teaching and Learning Together".
w.c. 26 th February	International Week	This year we will be focusing on the linguistic brilliance and diversity of our school, community and world.
1 st March	World Book Day 	This year we are enjoying a 'Big Read' in school when we 'Drop Everything and Read'. We are, as usual, dressing up as our favourite book character costume whilst exploring empathy in stories and finding characters in books that show empathy.
2 nd March	Passport to the World Day	Children will spend today travelling around the classrooms learning about the different cultures of the countries they have been studying.
2 nd March	Spring term Reports Home	Share you child's Spring term report with them and talk about the achievements they have made.
5 th March	Parent Teacher Consultation	Sign-up for an appointment with the class teacher to discuss your child's learning and progress so far this year.
12 th March	Mothering Sunday Service & Bring your parent to lunch	*Join your child as we walk to St Andrew's for our traditional Mothering Service, then stay for a coffee, a biscuit and a chat followed by a special lunch. Please book in advance. Look out for more information in the weekly newsletter closer to the time!
16 th March	Class Photographs 	An opportunity for the children to have their photograph taken with their classmates in school. A great memento of their time here at The Spinney.
19 th March	The Big Write	Ask your child about the special assembly and what the whole school writing activity was.
23 rd March (morning sessions)	Easter Stay & Play	*Another fun event Family event. Join your child in class and help them make a lovely Easter gift.
26 th March	The Big Count 	On this day, the children work in House Teams to complete an exciting interactive Maths Challenge. At the end of the day ask your child about all the mathematical learning they have done.
27 th March	Easter Bonnet Parade 	*Help design and make an Easter Bonnet with your child and come and watch the delightful parade as the children show us their bonnets in the school playground.
28 th March	Easter Egg Hunt 	*Help your child find their special Easter Egg as they search the school grounds.
29 th March	Last Day of term End of term Celebration Assembly	Come and join us for our end of term assembly and see all that we have learnt this term.

*Activities in conjunction with the Friends of The Spinney, please speak to Mrs Wallman via the school office