



Headteacher: Mrs R Snape
Deputy head: Mr L Mawson
School Business Manager: Mrs S Jelliman

Telephone/Fax: 01223-568836
Email: office@spinney.cambs.sch.uk
Web: www.spinney.cambs.sch.uk



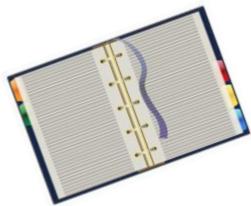
**Child Centredness, Teamwork and Community, Excellence, Learning,
Improvement, Responsibility, Optimism**

'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

Thursday 10th May 2018

Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,

Dates for the Diary



- **KS2 SATS Week**- Week beginning Monday 14th May
- **Year 5 visit to C.A.S.T.** – Wednesday 16th May
- **Year 4 Visit to Clip and Climb** – Wednesday 16th May
- **Royal Wedding Special Lunch** – Thursday 17th May
- **Walk to School Week** – Week beginning Monday 21st May
- **KS1 SATS** – Week Beginning Monday 21st May
- **Pupil Disco** – Friday 25th May

Headteacher's reflections:

As some of you will be aware our year 6 children will be taking their SATS next week. Looking at the forecast for the weekend, we should have the perfect weather to spend some time outside, relaxing, enjoying the sunshine and fresh air, perhaps a lovely walk, a bike ride or even a picnic. Fresh air and exercise improve concentration, increase energy levels and help us to think more clearly. So I hope that the children have a fun filled but restful weekend to enable them to start the week refreshed. Most importantly, please remind the children not to worry, they have all been working extremely hard, and I am **VERY VERY PROUD** of each and every one of them and I am sure they will all do well. We look forward to seeing you on Monday morning at 8.30am for the Year 6 Breakfast Club.

Polite Request for SATS Week

To help us support our Year 6 children during SATS week, we kindly ask parents to avoid using the main reception area after 9am. This is to keep noise to a minimum to allow the children to concentrate without disruption. Thank you for your cooperation.

Music Lessons, Clubs and SATS Week

Please be aware that there will be no instrumental lessons with Mrs. Rigby or Mr. Andrews during this time so that the school is quiet and ready for tests.



Changes to Calendar Dates

We have made a change to the advertised date and time of our End of Term Assembly. This will now take place on Monday 23rd July at 9.15am.

Year 6 visit to Thorpe Woodland will now take place on Monday 25th June.

Our summer Stay and Play and Sports Day will now take place on Friday 29th June



Royal Wedding Lunchtime Special with Ice Cream Factory. On Thursday next week we will be having a special lunch to mark the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. The children will be able to choose from Roast Chicken or Vegetarian Coronation Wrap with Princess Peas, Queen's Roasted Potatoes and Palace Garden Salad and Cheese Cake or Duke's sliced fresh fruit for dessert.

To celebrate the occasion, those children having a school meal will also be able to enjoy, free of charge, Harry and Meghan's Ice Cream Factory, with a choice of flavours, sauces and toppings.

Children will be able to order their meal as usual on the day during registration.



Walk to School Week 2018 takes place as part of National Walking Month each May, bringing together nearly one million school children, teachers and parents. This year's Walk to School Week runs from Monday 21st – Friday 25th May. The Spinney will be taking part in this campaign to encourage and promote sustainable means of transport. We would like to encourage all the children to try to walk, cycle or scoot to school each day.

Please ensure that you remember your bicycle lock so that you can secure your bike or scooter in the cycle shed and always wear your cycle helmet on your journey. Each class will record the number of children who have walked to school that week and children will be given a sticker to confirm their participation. Please note that whilst we urge you to bring a bike lock and to secure your cycle safely, unfortunately, the school can not be held responsible for any loss or damage to bikes brought onto the school site.



We are sad to be saying good bye to Mr. Ingram this week as he leaves us after more than 10 years at the school. He has been an invaluable member of The Spinney Team and we will all greatly miss his piano playing, gardening skills and of course his I.T. abilities. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking him for his dedication and hard work and wish him well as he embarks on a new journey working for the wonderful organisation Camfed, that supports the education of girls in rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Card Swaps

If your child has trading cards to swap with their friends, whether they are Pokémon cards or football stickers, please can it be arranged for parents or carers to bring them in after school so that they can swap the cards after school rather than in school hours. The children are asked not to bring the cards into school during the day.



Pupil Disco

There will be a school disco on Friday 25th May in the school hall. The Foundation and KS1 disco will be held 4.30-5.45pm and the KS2 disco will be held 6-7.30pm. This is a drop-off event and costs £3 on the door. The price includes a drink and a packet of crisps for each child. All children must be signed in and out. Please note that for safety reasons, children are not allowed to wear Heelys.

If you are able to help at either disco, especially the KS1 disco, can you please let one of the Friends know by emailing friends@spinney.cambs.sch.uk.

Did you know that you can **raise money for the school** whilst shopping on-line and it won't cost you a penny? To raise money, instead of going directly to the retailer website, log into <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> first and click on the retailer you want to shop with. You'll then be taken to the retailers' website where you shop as you would normally. But because you visited easyfundraising first, the school will get a donation. There are over 3,000 retailers which include Amazon, M&S, Clarks, eBay, John Lewis and Argos. The donation is usually a percentage of how much you spend or a set amount. For all first time users you will need to join by setting up an account and registering that you are supporting The Friends of the Spinney School – Cambridge, Cherry Hinton.

Date For Your Diary: This year's Spinney Summer Fair will be held on Sunday 24th June at 2.30-5pm. Please let the Friends know if you are able to help on the day (friends@spinney.cambs.sch.uk).



Term-time holidays & Absence

Many of you may be busily planning your annual summer holiday. Could we please remind all families that in response to government legislations introduced, Head teachers are not able to authorise any requests for children to be taken out of school to go on holiday during term time. We are aware that the costs of holidays are challenging but regret that the legislation for schools is quite inflexible on this point. Holidays are not able to be authorised as a matter of course or for financial reasons. Any request for absence will only be authorised for “*exceptional circumstances*”. Bereavements, medical appointments, and religious festivals are all examples of authorised absence.

We have been informed of a recent ruling made by The Supreme Court, which we have been asked to pass on to all Spinney parents/carers. The ruling is that as of the start of this new term, April 2017, any parent who takes their child/ren out of school for term-time leave of more than 6 consecutive sessions (3 days) over a 4 week period, not authorised by the school (Under exceptional circumstances rule) may receive a Penalty Notice.

It is therefore important that parents explain clearly the *exceptional* circumstances of being absent during term time when making their request to the Head Teacher. Requests should be put in writing using the absence request form available from the school office or school website and marked for the attention of the Head Teacher and delivered to the school office or put in the red post office box in reception. Requests should be made at least 2 weeks in advance to allow good time for processing. Any request made after the absence will still be marked as unauthorised unless it was due to unforeseen exceptional circumstances.

We have also been advised by the school’s Education Welfare Officer; if you have not informed the school as to why your child is absent by the end of the school day, it will now be recorded as unauthorised.

Therefore, if your child is absent from school for any reason please notify the school office before 9:30am either by phone or email. If you have had to make an emergency medical appointment we will require either an appointment letter or card. For more information on this matter, on the changes and how they may affect you, please speak in confidence with Mrs Barot, Attendance Manger, who will be very happy to advise you.



Remember Once a Week Take a Peek!

Remember Thursday night is **Once a Week Take a Peek!** Please comb and check your child’s hair tonight, and re-check it every Thursday evening. Putting long hair in plaits or bunches may also reduce the possibility of headlice transferring from one head to another. Thank you to the many parents and children who are already doing this. Please do not keep your child away from school because they have lice.

School Admissions and Education Transport Survey

The Local Authority is currently carrying out a review of school admissions and education transport within Cambridgeshire. The goal is to review the design of the services with the current needs of citizens at the centre and shape any changes on the basis of feedback from service user groups.

In order to gather feedback from parents the LA is currently running an online regarding the School Admissions and Home to School Transport process. They would appreciate any assistance that you would be able to provide in in completing these surveys. Both surveys will close on Friday 25th May.

Please see the links as follows:

[School Admissions](#)

[Home to School Transport](#)

Focus Group

There is also an opportunity for parents to get involved in a focus group and provide detailed feedback about either or both application processes. To get involved in this please leave your details in the last section of the survey or email transformation.team@cambridgeshire.gov.uk with the subject ‘School Admissions and Transport Focus Group’ by 5pm, Friday 18th May.



My Cambridge is a growing partnership of organisations and individuals committed to making sure that all young people feel part of the rich variety of culture in Cambridge. This link will help you to discover all the latest events, news and training opportunities for adults working with young people plus creative activities for children in Cambridge
<http://www.cambridgeartsnetwork.com/my-cambridge>



52 Stories Information

52 Stories Takes place every week at Cherry Hinton Library on Saturdays from 10.30am – 11.15am.

If you would like to become a 52 Stories Reader or become a volunteer to help us please come along to Cherry Hinton Library during one of our sessions and talk to one of the 52 Story Team Members. www.52stories.co.uk
www.facebook.com/52stores



Free Family Film Screenings and Night Markets In Market Square

CAMBRIDGE BID is delighted to announce the return of the al fresco family film screenings and Night Markets in Market Square with Cambridge City Council Markets team. Delivered under the new 'Love Cambridge' brand, the summer season opens with an extra-special two-day event - celebrating both the return of the open-air cinema and Prince Harry's wedding to Meghan Markle.

On Friday 18th May, they will be showing the highly acclaimed animated film, Sing at 18:30 followed by the comedy, Meet The Parents at 20:30.

On Saturday 19th May, they will be broadcasting the Royal wedding live from the big screen in Market Square. A street party atmosphere is expected with the square being decorated with patriotic bunting to mark the happy occasion. These events are free to the public. Limited seating is provided on a first-come-first-served basis – but, owing to the popularity of previous events, people are recommended to come early and/or bring their own portable chairs.

The Continental-style Night Market will once again feature on the Friday night with more than 50 local businesses and pop-ups selling a variety of street food, beverages, clothing and unique gifts.

For more information about Cambridge BID events please visit their [website](#)

And Finally....

I am grateful to Mr Mawson and the Year 6 teaching assistants as well as all the Spinney teachers and all my colleagues who have supported and worked with our oldest children in the school to prepare them for the national tests next week! I would also like to acknowledge the high levels of support and engagement from all the Spinney parents. I am proud to be part of the Spinney Community, which we hope has a positive impact on our children beyond the time they spend here.

*I love the idea that it doesn't take one person only to achieve your potential.
It takes a village, it takes a community, a street, a teacher, a mother*

Mira Nair

With very best wishes,

Rachel Snape

Rachel Snape
Head Teacher
National Leader of Education

