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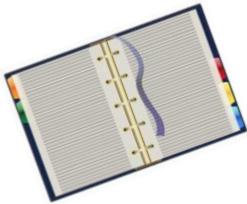
**Child Centredness, Teamwork and Community, Excellence, Learning,
Improvement, Responsibility, Optimism**

'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

Thursday 11th January 2018

Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,

Dates for the Diary



- **Foundation visit to the Wild Wood** – Tuesday 16th January am
- **Foundation Vision Screening** – Wednesday 24th January
- **Big Birdwatch weekend** – 27th-29th January
- **Friends Pupil Disco** – Friday 2nd February



Headteacher's reflections

Although we have already been together for a week I would like to take this opportunity to say a warm welcome back and Happy New Year! The staff and I would also like to say thank you for all the very thoughtful gifts, cards and words we received at the end of last term. Your kind words and appreciation are not taken for granted and we really are very grateful for the time many of you took to pass on your thanks and best wishes.

We are excited about the forthcoming term as we have some wonderful opportunities, events and visits planned for the children to take part in. Please do take the time to talk to your child about their school day and remember that you are welcome to come in on Friday afternoons for our Open Friday sessions which give the children an opportunity to show you their work and discuss their achievements.

Curriculum Maps

Your child's curriculum map for term will be sent home shortly. Please take time to read this through with your son/daughter and share with them the learning experiences they will enjoy over the next few weeks. Please also consider the ways you can support the learning themes at home through visits to the local library or local museums and art galleries.

Please also take time with your child to look at their class page on the school website, where you will find this map together with your child's class timetable.

News Regarding Mrs. Lane

It is with regret that I have to inform you that Mrs Lane will be taking a leave of absence for the time being as her illness and situation has not improved. We do not anticipate her being able to return to school until September 2018. We are keen to keep any disruption to your children's learning to a minimum so Ms Bennett has very kindly agreed to take on much of Mrs Lane's teaching hours. From Monday 15th January 2018 Ms Bennett will be teaching the class Monday to Thursday. Mrs Hewitt, a fantastic, regular supply teacher who currently also supports year 6, will be teaching the children on Fridays.

I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mrs Lane a speedy recovery and in sending our best wishes to her and her family.



RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch Weekend



As a school we will be taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch again this year. Families can also get involved during the weekend of 27-29th January. The RSPB would like as many people as possible to join in with the world's largest wildlife survey! If you want to attract birds into your garden for the birdwatch weekend, Mr. Ingram recommends that now is a good time to put food out as it takes a while for birds to spot the food in the first place.

As an activity that started life as something for their youth membership to do in winter, Big Garden Birdwatch has grown into fun for all the family. All you need to do is count the birds in your garden or a local park for one hour then tell them what you see.

If you love wildlife and want to do something to help, this is your chance to get involved in something that really counts. For all the information you need go to

<https://ww2.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdwatch>

This Year's Summer Production

Mr. Mawson is pleased to announce that this year's Summer Production is a musical version of William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' written by Neil Richards. It has several wonderful songs and a great take on the story. Year 6 will be taking the main roles, and years 3, 4 and 5 will be involved on stage too as part of the chorus. This musical play will be performed at the Atrium Stage at Netherhall on Wednesday 11th July and Thursday 12th July 2018.



Open Fridays

Find out more about what your child has been doing in school each week and celebrate their achievements and progress. We offer parents and carers the opportunity to come into the classroom with their child, so that the children can talk to you about their learning and show you the work they have been doing. Open Friday session will start this term on Friday 12th January, and then every Friday afternoon from 3:20pm until 4:00pm.

Foundation Stage Intake September 2018 Deadline

If your child was born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014, they are due to transfer to primary school in September 2018 and you must have applied for a school place by 15 January 2018. Please note there is no automatic transfer from nursery to Reception. Applications must be made in all cases Applications can be made online.

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20059/schools_and_learning/363/apply_for_a_school_place

KS1 Choir and KS2 Choir

The KS1 Choir is now full! We will keep you informed if spaces become available.

KS2 Choir will begin again on Tuesday 16th January.



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 Christmas Information

52 Stories Takes place every week at Cherry Hinton Library on Saturdays from 10.30am. If you would like to become a 52 Stories Reader or become a volunteer to help us please contact Cherry Hinton Library during one of our sessions and talk to one of the 52 Story Team Members. For more information visit www.facebook.com/52stores



Cambridge United Girls Development Centre

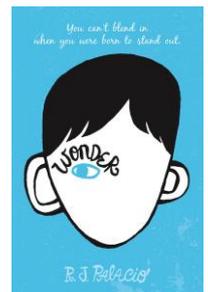
Cambridge United is delighted to announce they are exclusively opening a new Girls Development Centre at Bottisham Village College starting in February 2018. The new trial date is on Monday 29th January 5pm-6pm for U7-U15. To attend the trials please sign up at www.CUYD.co.uk and click YD 17/18 then GDC or call 01223 632770 for further information contact megan.todd@cambridge-united.co.uk



One Day Four Museums. See exciting new prototypes across four museums.

How would you change a museum? Over three days in January, four teams of makers, scientists, artists and communicators will develop prototypes to showcase the museums' narratives on climate change in the first ever Climate Hack. On Sunday 21 January, 2-4pm, the museums will reveal four prototypes for a limited time to the public in four University of Cambridge museums. It could be an audio experience, a game or something totally unexpected! Have a chat with the makers, vote on your favourite and tell us what you would like to see in our museums. FREE. Drop in Sunday 21 January, 2 - 4pm at the Polar Museum, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Whipple Museum of the History of Science and the Museum of Zoology.

And Finally . . .



One of the fabulous gifts I received at the end of last term was the book "Wonder" from Ana and Eva in Year 4. It is a deeply moving story of inner beauty and friendship and along with the book was a note that read,

"Our Rule for the New Year: Always be a little kinder than is necessary"

Rachel Snape

Rachel Snape
Head Teacher
National Leader of Education