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

'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

Thursday 12th October 2017

**Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,
Dates for the Diary**

- **Y2 Wood Green Visit** – Tuesday 17th October
- **Individual Pupil Photos** – Friday 20th October
- **Foundation Super Hero Day** – Friday 20th October
- **Last Day of Half Term** – Friday 20th October
- **Teacher Professional Training Day** – (**Non pupil day**) Monday 30th October
- **Pupils back to school** - Tuesday 31st October
- **Year 3 Visit to West Stow** – Friday 3rd November



Headteacher's reflections

The Harvest Festival service on Monday was a special time of reflection as well as celebration. It was a wonderful setting to remember Mrs Fasching and by lighting candles we were able to feel that she was with us appreciating our thoughts and words. The butterfly memories are a fitting tribute to such a wonderful lady who we all miss. I have been deeply moved by everyone's recollections and I am sure that Mrs. Fasching would have been touched to hear how many people she has positively influenced. It was particularly special to receive a letter from an ex-pupil of hers, now at secondary school, who attributes his love of reading and desire to encourage others to Mrs. Fasching. A truly wonderful woman and an inspiration to so many.

The Spinney team (Teaching Assistants, Teachers, Children, School Council, Governors) have been sharing ideas of what they would like to do to celebrate Mrs. Fasching's life and all she has done. The emerging ideas are a photo of her in the Learning Bay and a Magnolia Tree to be planted in her memory. If you have other suggestions or like the ones suggested already please let us know.

Volunteers

As you know one of the brilliant ways that Mrs Fasching extended her capacity to positively affect so many children's learning was by training a team of volunteers. Countless volunteers have gone on to do great things having worked with Mrs Fasching, including some going off to train and becoming teachers themselves.

We would really like to keep Mrs Fasching's Legacy of Volunteering burning bright in our school. Mrs Hanadi and Mrs Gonzalez Azevedo are going to work with Mrs Jelliman and Mrs Moore to ensure that volunteers continue to be safely and carefully inducted into our learning community and given the skills and knowledge to support in class, with groups and individual pupils.

If you would like to join this growing team of volunteers please come along to our information morning on Friday 10th November and see Mrs Jelliman for a Volunteers role description and information about our safer recruiting process.

Parents Information Coffee Morning

We will be holding a special coffee morning for parents on Friday 10th November. This is an opportunity for you to come and hear more about volunteer opportunities within the school. You are welcome to join us in the hall from 9.15am. Mrs. Young has also arranged for Hannah Currington, our Early Intervention Family worker to explain her role, how she can support families and her forthcoming workshop helping your children with their self esteem. You are also welcome to join us for our Remembrance Assembly which will follow on from this event.

Information Update Request

Your child will be bringing home their data information sheet tomorrow. Please take the time to check all the contact details are correct and return it to the school office as soon as possible and no later than Friday 20th October. It is important that the school is up to date contact and health information for your child so that you can be easily contacted should it be necessary. There will also be a Video and Photography Consent form for this academic year for you to complete and return. Thank you



Foundation Super Heroes

On Thursday 19th October Foundation children and staff will be having a Super Heroes Day. Children can come to school dressed as their favourite Super Hero. It is not compulsory so if children would prefer to come in school uniform as usual, they are welcome.



Book Trust

Foundation children will be bringing home a lovely book from BookTrust. BookTrust is the UK's largest children's reading charity and each year they give foundation aged children a book as part of their Time to Read Campaign. You can visit the BookTrust website www.booktrust.org for tips, recommendations and resources.



Individual Pupil Photographs.

Kittle photographers will be in school on Friday 20th October to take individual pupil photographs. As these are a lovely memento of your child's time here at The Spinney please remember smart clothes and big smiles for everyone. Pre school children are invited in from 8:30am so that sibling groups can be taken before school starts. Family groups of siblings will be taken during the morning.

Update: Ongoing Campaign Against School Cuts

The General Secretaries of ASCL, NAHT and the NEU would like to update you about the ongoing campaign against school cuts.

As a result of pressure from school leaders, Justine Greening has provided an additional £1.3 billion over two years for school funding however this falls well short of redressing the £2.8 billion real terms cut in funding that schools have suffered since 2015, let alone covering the impact of cost increases in coming years.

Education in 2017 needs to be about much more than a basic cut-price learning process. We need the Treasury to recognise this. We have to demonstrate to MPs that this issue is not going away, that parents, teachers and support staff know the facts about school funding and that they expect the cuts to be reversed.

You can help take the campaign forward by doing two simple things:

1. Take a look at the joint education union www.schoolcuts.org.uk site. This has been updated to reflect the latest school funding figures published by the DfE. We would like you to share the link with staff and parents, so that this campaign is again broader than just school leaders and governors. Parents, in particular, are key to our success. Simply type in your postcode to see how our school is affected.
2. The campaign is organising a lobby of Parliament on the 24 October. This will be an opportunity for parents, carers, governors, teachers and leaders to arrange to meet their local MP in person inside Parliament in order to request their commitment to reverse school cuts. You can sign up for the lobby at www.schoolcuts.org.uk.

The campaign will continue to make a strong, principled and evidence-based case that children's education will be damaged unless further funding is urgently found.





The Netherhall School Year 6 Open Evening

All Year 6 Students are invited to the Netherhall Open Evening on Thursday 12th October - 6-8pm. On this evening you will have the chance to be given a tour of the school, visit each of our faculties and find out first hand what it's like being a Netherhall student. We really look forward to welcoming you!



St Bede's Inter-Church School, Open Evening

St Bede's Inter-Church School invites you to their Open Evening on Wednesday 18th October from 5.30pm-8pm. This evening provides an opportunity for parents and children to look around the school and speak to many members of staff. Website: www.st-bedes.org.uk

Message From The Friends

The Friends are pleased to report that **the discos last Friday raised a profit of £123.50** for the school. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who helped with this event. From seeing all the red faces, it certainly looked like the children had lots of fun!

On the last day of term, the Friends will be selling **flumps and milky ways** as an end of term treat for the children. Selling will take place in the school playground and all items are priced at 30p each.

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 retailer's 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.

The Spinney School **Christmas puddings** are still available to buy. There are three scrumptious flavours to choose from - traditional, chocolate and sticky toffee (all non-alcoholic). These are priced at £6 each or two for £10. Please speak to one of the Friends in the playground if you would like to buy a pudding or two!



Date for your diary: This year's **Christmas Winter Wonderland Fair** will be on Sunday 3rd December 2017 from 2.30-5.30pm in the school hall.



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

The Cambridge Stem Cell Institute is bringing a selection of fun, family friendly activities to 52 Stories this Saturday, 14th October. Children and families will be able to learn more about blood cells and their development through this interactive event.

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



Fireworks Drawing Competition

Each year, the Midsummer Common Fireworks Display promotes safety and unity by keeping down the number of firework related accidents from home displays. They are keen to promote this message to local primary schools to hopefully encourage children and their families to attend the safe and free event. There will be a competition across local primary schools for children to draw their own depictions of Bonfire Night Fireworks. The competition is open to all primary students in Cambridge. Entries will be displayed in the VIP marquee at the event and the winning child will have the opportunity to push the plunger that starts the firework display. There is also a £250 prize to the winning entrant's school. Entries can be handed into the Cambridge Live Ticket Office or posted to, Sophie Osborne (City Events Coordinator), Cambridge Live, 3 Parson's Court, Wheeler Street, Cambridge CB2 3QE. The Closing date is Friday 20th October

Biology Week

Big Biology Day 2017

Come along to the Big Biology Day a fun, engaging and informative hands-on biology activity day for all ages. There is something for everyone and it's free. The Big Biology Day takes place on Saturday 14th October from 10am to 4pm at Hills Road Sixth Form College, for more information about the event visit <http://www.hillsroad.ac.uk/college-life/events/2016/10/15/default-calendar/big-biology-day>

Festival of Ideas

The Faculty of Education is delighted to be hosting a 'Playful Learning' day for children and their families as part of this year's Festival of Ideas. Children will have the opportunity to try out fun activities with PEDAL, explore fantasy and fiction with creative writing and see science experiments in action.

The event will take place on Friday 27 October, 10am - 2pm (drop-in) at the Faculty of Education, 184 Hills Road (CB2 8PQ). No booking is required for this event. Please note that we are unfortunately unable to provide parking at the Faculty of Education on the day.

And Finally....



"The greatest gift you can give someone is your time, because when you give your time you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back."

Rachel Snape

Rachel Snape
Head Teacher

National Leader of Education