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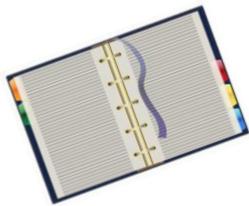
**Child Centredness, Teamwork and Community, Excellence, Learning,
Improvement, Responsibility, Optimism**

'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

Thursday 18th January 2018

Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,

Dates for the Diary



- **Foundation Vision Screening** – Wednesday 24th January
- **Big Birdwatch weekend** – 27th-29th January
- **Friends Pupil Disco** – Friday 2nd February



Headteacher's reflections

Our Foundation Stage enjoyed their first foray into the Spinney Wild Wood earlier this week and I have enjoyed hearing their stories of adventure and discovery. The determination to keep trying to climb a tree, the diligence of finding the best stick and the independence of climbing down from the tree with out help from others are wonderful examples of the way the children can learn from this fabulous resource. Here at the Spinney we believe that the outdoors is an extension to the classroom and the wood gives the children a wonderful opportunity to independently explore, build creativity and develop imagination. Being given the opportunity to be stimulated in this way, over time, increases children's self belief, confidence, resilience, learning capacity, enthusiasm, communication and problem-solving skills as well as having a positive effect on their emotional well-being. We hope that parents will find ways of following this learning up at home by visiting some of the wooded areas we have across our brilliant County, including at Anglesey Abbey.



School Disco

There will be a school disco on Friday 2nd February 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 money raised will be donated back to the school.

Attendance & Punctuality

We would like to welcome to Zena Cooper, the schools new Education Welfare Officer, who will be visiting us tomorrow, Friday 19th January. Zena will be inspecting our Attendance and Punctuality and we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that if your child requires a medical appointment these should be made outside school hours wherever possible. However if an appointment during school hours is unavoidable and your child has an appointment card or letter, please bring this to the school office where you will be asked to complete an absence request form.

Morning Rain: Information for Parents

If it is raining as you arrive at school the teacher on duty for that day may make the decision to allow the children into their classrooms early. If there is no one on the playground when you arrive children may enter the school through one of the side doors either by the learning bay or next to the Year 5 classroom. Foundation and Year 1 children may be helped round to their class by parents and carers, all other children should make their way to the classroom themselves

Outdoor Clothing – Overs

We would like to remind parents of Key Stage 2 children to provide a set of old clothes for children to wear over their school uniforms. Also old trainers or shoes will be required if your child wishes to play on the school field during their lunch break. These 'overs' and 'outdoor' shoes really do help keep both your washing load down and school clean and tidy. Thank you.



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>



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 15th January, and then every Friday afternoon from 3:20pm until 4:00pm.



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. 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.

Romans Invade the Museum!

The Romans are coming, the Romans are coming! Join in on Saturday 27th January as the Romans Invade Ely Museum! There will be a Roman soldier to meet, typical Roman foods to taste, togas to try on, Roman crafts to try & lots more fun for all ages! This event is suitable for all ages, there's no need to pre-book, just pop down to the museum from 11am – 3:30pm. For more information visit <http://www.elymuseum.org.uk/events/romans-invade-the-museum/>



Tuesday 13th February 2017 4.30pm – 7.30pm

This February half-term, take a leap into the unknown and explore 14 local museums and collections after dark... Experience museums and collections in a different way, discover somewhere new, and unearth some remarkable objects.

Twilight at the Museums is a FREE after-hours event for families where museums and collections across the city turn down the lights and open their doors for after-hours fun. With free, drop-in activities and themed trails across the venues, there is plenty for families to enjoy.

Pack a torch and experience some 'Neon Navigation' at All Saints Church, meet some Arctic explorers at the Polar Museum, set out on a scientific expedition across the Whipple Museum, and try your hand at code cracking with the Museum of Technology.

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/museums-and-collections/events/twilight-at-the-museums>

And Finally . . .

I would like to thank those parents who joined our Foundation class in the wild wood this week as well as those who frequently accompany the children on educational visits. Your partnership with the school, enabling these enrichment activities to go ahead, is very much appreciated.

'There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing.'



Rachel Snape

Rachel Snape
Head Teacher
National Leader of Education