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

'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'



Thursday 21st September 2017

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



- **Family STEAM Festival**- Saturday 23rd September
- **Macmillan Coffee Morning** – Friday 29th September
- **The Selfish Giant** – Monday 2nd October
- **Friends AGM** – Monday 2nd October 8pm Team Room
- **MindUP Development Day** – Wednesday 4th October 3.30pm Team Room
- **Harvest Festival Service & Bring your Parent to Lunch** – Monday 9th October
- **Friends Pupil Disco** – Friday 6th October
- **Harvest Service** – Monday 9th October, St. Andrew's Church
- **Parents' Lunch** – Monday 9th October
- **Y5 Colne Valley Railway** – Wednesday 11th October

Headteacher's reflections

This Saturday sees our annual Kite Teaching School Alliance's Family STEAM Festival and we are extremely grateful to Suzie Young and a team of fabulous volunteers and parents from the local community as well as friends from businesses and industry, who have come together to make it happen. Encouraging STEM and STEAM skills in our children is vital for our future as they drive many essential service and product innovations. The STEAM festival programme is a reflection of the skills, expertise and talents that come from within the community be it parents; volunteers, business or industry and we are thrilled to have the support of Anderson Group, ARM and many other this year.

With a world class Teaching Hospital on our doorstep the research from the CBI/Pearsons Education and Skills Survey 2015 is worth noting:

"By the time that young people reach secondary school, many have already 'switched-off' from science –deciding that it is not something that they want to pursue. If we are to tackle the growing shortages of science-based skills in our economy, we need to ensure that children are engaged in and enthused by science from the beginning of their education."

We hope that everyone will come along to this wonderful event on Saturday. I look forward to seeing you.



FREE Family STEAM Festival for Spinney Parents and Local Community!

STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Maths.

Our annual **Family STEAM Festival** will take place this year on Saturday 23rd September, here at The Spinney Primary School. The event is free and all are welcome (not just Spinney Families!). We have an exciting programme of FREE hands-on workshops and shows, all themed around **STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Maths**. There is something for everyone in the family to enjoy and some really yummy

festival food will be available to buy at a fair price. We hope to see as many of you there as possible and as we are opening this event to the Cambridge community please invite your friends, family and neighbours and point them in the direction of our website – www.familySTEAMfestival.com or search 'Family STEAM Festival' on Facebook or Twitter. We're very much in need of **VOLUNTEERS** to help us run this event. If you or your older children can spare all day or half a day to help us please do come and speak with Suzie in the school office or email info@familysteamfestival.com



MindUP™ Parent Workshop

The MindUP™ team will be revisiting our school for an Extension Day Workshop. During this visit they will be holding a program workshop for parents, which you are encouraged to attend. During this interactive workshop you will learn about the MindUP™ curriculum and be given tools and tips on how to integrate MindUP™ into your home and family life. For Parents, MindUP™ provides new techniques to better cope with and manage the challenges of work/life stress. MindUP™ also helps parents build healthy relationships between siblings, their children and the community, and finally, between their children and themselves.

The workshop will take place on **Wednesday 4th October 2017 from 3:30pm until 5pm at The Spinney Primary School (Main Hall)**. Please sign up for a place on the workshop with the ladies in the office.



Harvest Festival Service and Bring your Parent to School Day.

On Monday 9th October, we are inviting you to join us for our annual Harvest Festival Service at St Andrew's Church followed by 'Bring your Parent to School Lunch'. This is another highlight in our calendar event. Parents and Carers are the children's first teachers and at the Spinney we value our partnerships between school and home.

Come into school when you drop your child off and wait a few moments while your child is registered and then accompany your child's class as we walk together to St. Andrew's Church to share our traditional Harvest Festival Service which will start at approximately 10:00 am. After the service we will walk back to school and on our return to school at approximately 11:30-11:45am parents will be offered tea or coffee and biscuits. You can then join your child on the playground until it is time to go in with them for lunch at approximately 12:00. Foundation Stage Pupils and KS1 pupils will go in first with their parents, and siblings will be accommodated so that families can eat together. There will be a delicious lunch of beef or vegetarian casserole served with seasonal vegetables followed by chocolate sponge with chocolate custard or sliced fresh fruit and an assortment of yogurts. We love having parents in school but as ever we rely on your patience in ensuring that this process, which understandably takes a little longer than usual, can flow as smoothly as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

Tickets cost £3.50 and are available from the school office from Monday 18th September. Unfortunately they can only be purchased in cash and not via your Agora account. Payment must be made at the time of purchase. Tickets for the lunch are on sale until **Wednesday 4th October** as the kitchen staff will need to have final numbers so please remember to buy your tickets in advance.



Outdoor Clothing and Indoor Shoes

To enable the children to play on the field during their lunch break, please can parents of Key Stage 2 children provide a set of old clothes for them to wear over their school uniform. It is also essential that they take their outdoor shoes off and change into a soft pair of shoes, such as a pair of slippers or plimsolls, when they come into class. These 'overs' and outdoor shoes really do help keep both your washing load down and school clean and tidy. Thank 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.

Vacancy

We are looking to appoint After School Club Assistants to help launch our brand new and exciting After School Club here at The Spinney Primary School. The club, for Spinney pupils only, will run from 3:15 – 6:00pm daily during term time only. For more information please visit our website http://spinney.cambs.sch.uk/school_office/vacancies.php or speak to Mrs. Jelliman.

Message From The Friends

It was lovely to see so many of you at this year's **Cherry Hinton Festival**. Despite the bad weather and very wet tombola tickets, we managed to raise £200 for the school. A big thank you to everyone who helped and supported this event.

Frozen Fridays will be held after school every Friday until the end of September (weather permitting). Ice pops and mini milks are priced at 50p each.



The annual **Macmillan Coffee Morning** will be held on Friday 29th September from 9am in the school hall. This is open to everyone and is a good way to meet other parents over a cup of coffee and slice of cake whilst raising money for a good cause. We hope to see you there. Cake donations gratefully received. Straight after the Macmillan Coffee morning there will be a **free** taster fitness session with Premier Sports on the school field. 45 minutes of fitness with experienced instructors – including stretches, squats, lunges, sit-ups – what better way to burn off those cake calories! Exercises are tailored to your own fitness ability so people new/returning to fitness and seasoned professionals are all welcome. All that is required are comfortable clothing and trainers, a towel or mat and a bottle of water. Future sessions will be held every Friday straight after registration and cost £5.

The Friends Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday 2nd October at 8pm in the Spinney Team room. Everyone is welcome. Please come and find out what events took place last year, what is planned for the coming year and how much we raised for the school in 2016/17.

There will be a **School Disco** on Friday 6th October in the school hall. The Foundation and KS1 disco takes place from 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.

With the festive period fast approaching, the Friends will once again be selling their **Christmas puddings**. There are three scrumptious flavours to choose from (or perhaps get one of each) - traditional, chocolate and sticky toffee (all non-alcoholic). These puddings are always very popular, so please make sure you don't miss out. There will be an opportunity to buy them during refreshments on Harvest Festival Day on Friday 9th October 2016. They are very reasonably priced at £6 each or two for £10.



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>

My Cambridge invites Headteachers, Teachers and Arts and Culture Subject Leaders to **Marketplace 2017**. A day of talks and workshops entitled, "Constructing Cultural Lives, creative skills for attainment, employability and wellbeing". The event takes place on Monday 25th September from 6pm-8pm at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Tickets are £5/10 and available via Eventbrite. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mycambridge-marketplace-2017-constructing-cultural-lives-tickets-36440895700?aff=es2>



52 Stories

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

Coffee Morning at St. Andrew's

Maureen and Gill would like to invite you to a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, at St. Andrew's Church Centre on Friday 22nd September from 10am- 12pm. There will be a raffle as well as cakes tea and coffee.

Free Exercise Classes

Alicia's (year 4) mum, Anna would like to invite everyone for the free exercise classes which she runs on Tuesdays during the school term and in the fine weather. The meeting takes place at 9.30am until 10.30am by the duck pond at the Cherry Hinton Hall.

The class is called Treasure Hunt. The treasures are benches, red boxes and big stones. Once the treasure is found, corresponding exercises are performed which are squats, burpees and press ups. Do come and join in. Alicia's mum holds a degree in PE from Poland and Postgraduate Certificate in Managing Leisure from the Metropolitan University.

Cambridge Festival of Ideas- Monday 16th to 29th October

The Cambridge Festival of Ideas celebrates its 10th anniversary with a line-up of distinguished speakers and a host of exhibitions and events.

Truth has dominated the news agenda in the last year and is the driving force of academic research. This year's Cambridge Festival of Ideas puts truth under the spotlight, discussing everything from whether we can still believe in experts and how conspiracy theories stake their claim to truth to what has driven populism around the world to whether we can still keep secrets in an age of technology. For more information please visit the festival website.

<http://www.festivalofideas.cam.ac.uk/>

Wonderful Wandlebury Archaeology & History fun day

Cambridge Past Present and Future are holding an Archaeology & History fun day on Saturday 7 October 12 noon - 4.30pm at Wandlebury Country Park. Learn about the landscape from local archaeologists - presentations start at 12 noon with 'Iron Age Hillforts'. Enjoy the fascinating trails around the hillfort and 19th century estate, Cambridge Storytellers, Cambridge Beekeepers, puppets with Vital Spark Theatre, archery, cord making, face painting, costumes, chainmail making and basket weaving. For more information visit www.cambridgeppf.org. Entry is free but normal parking charges apply.

And Finally....

I look forward to seeing many of you tomorrow at our Family STEAM Festival. It promises to be a fantastic event with activities and workshops for everyone.

With very best wishes,

Rachel Snape

Rachel Snape
Head Teacher

National Leader of Education

“**CREATIVE** people
are **CURIOUS**, **f(lexible)**,
PERSISTENT,
and **independent** with a
TREMENDOUS SPIRIT
of **adventure**
& **a love of play.**”
HENRI MATISSE