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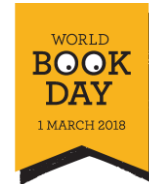
Child Centredness, Teamwork and Community, Excellence, Learning,  
Improvement, Responsibility, Optimism

# 'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

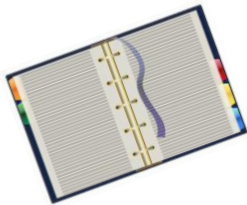
Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,

Dates for the Diary



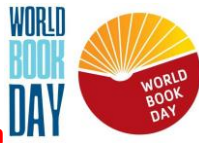
## WORLD BOOK DAY



- **International Week** – Commencing Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February
- **World Book Day** – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March
- **Passport to the World Day** – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March
- **Parent Teacher consultations** – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March
- **Science Week** – Week Beginning 5<sup>th</sup> March
- **Non Uniform Day for Cancer Research** – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- **Mothering Sunday Service, St. Andrew's Church**- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March
- **Mother's day Lunch** – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March

### Headteacher's reflections – The Brilliance of Books to build brains and better worlds!

I would like to share with you a lovely thing that happened at the end of last half term. I was just by the gate one morning and a member of our school community congratulated the school and my colleagues on the way that we promote happiness, positivity and good mental health and well-being. He said that he had seen something on the television about a Happy School but felt that our school was equally deserving of being described as one of the happiest schools in the Country. This comment made me very happy indeed! I thanked the gentleman for his kind words, and we found some synergy as he has worked for a long time in the Health Service and we discussed our shared belief and knowledge in strength based approaches, appreciative enquiry and unconditional positive regard (Carl Rogers). His words were much appreciated and affirming for us as a teaching team, as promoting happiness, kindness, teamwork, positive relationships, compassion and empathy are central to the work in our school, as exemplified by our seven school values including Child-Centredness. As parents will know we connect with a number of National and International organisations to enhance our curriculum including with The Mind Up Foundation – so that children understand how their brains work and how to have Brain Breaks - Random Acts of Kindness Foundation – to learn about the importance of developing pro-social skills including kindness and EmpathyLab which uses the power of books to not only increase a love of brilliant stories and reading but to strengthen neural pathways to understand more about themselves, each other and the world around them. In assembly this week, I talked about some of the books that made me! Reading with your child, however old develops strong emotional bonds and takes children to new worlds that create unique shared experiences. Please do your best to share books and stories in your families, even if your children are older. There are some terrific graphic novels and sophisticated picture books that you can find in the library. We will continue to discuss the books that we love in our classrooms this week and next and World Book Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> March links to our work with EmpathyLab. Thank you so much Miss Garrill for your creativity, enthusiasm and leadership of this work and organisation for World Book Day and International Week.



### World Book Day Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March we will be celebrating World Book Day. Children are invited to come to school dressed up as their favourite story book character and this year we are focusing on characters you show empathy. There will be a costume parade during assembly where prizes for each year group will be awarded for the most creative costume. There will be different activities during the school day exploring the characters they have dressed up as. We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful outfits and having time to enjoy some fabulous reading together.



### International Week

The week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> February will be International week. Each class will be learning about a different country including their culture, customs and celebrations. This year there will be a specific focus on the linguistic brilliance and diversity of our school, community and world. On Friday the children will participate in "Passport to the World Day" where they will have the opportunity to hear about the countries other classes have been learning about.

### Multi-Academy Trust Parents Consultation

The Governors thank the parents who raised questions before and during the Multi-Academy Trust Parent Consultation Meetings on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February which are now being evaluated. The presentation used at the Spinney Consultation Meetings can be found on the website along with a copy of the Spinney Questions and Answers. A copy of the questions and answers from the 3 primary schools working together to form the Innovation Trust - Fulbourn, Mayfield and the Spinney – are available on the [Parents' Page](#) on the school website. Alternatively please click [here](#) to see the presentation given, and [here](#) to see a copy of the questions and answer. Thank you again to those parents who attended the meetings and for the thoughtful and meaningful discussion which took place.



### Fundraising for Cancer Research UK

### – Non Uniform Day 8<sup>th</sup> March

In September Cancer Research UK launched a special appeal in partnership with the Cambridge Independent to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRUK Research Centre in Cambridge. Local schools have been invited to hold a fundraising/science day to celebrate the work that is taking place in their home City and nationally and we have decided to hold a non uniform day during science week on **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March**.

The money raised from will go towards helping fund research into an imaging technique currently being trialled in Cambridge. The hope is that this trial will progress the way cancer treatment is given and make therapy more effective for patients in the future. This new technique could potentially mean that doctors will find out much more quickly if a treatment is working for their patient instead of waiting to see if a tumour shrinks. For more information please read the launch article from the newspaper:

<http://www.cambridgeindependent.co.uk/news/cambridge/join-the-cambridge-independent-s-rapid-scan-appeal-with-cancer-research-uk-to-help-fund-clinical-trials-at-addenbrooke-s-1-5219557>

**Parent/Teacher meetings** take place between 1 -7pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March. From next Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, appointment sheets will be on display outside each classroom door for families to secure a 10 minute appointment with the class teacher. This really is an important opportunity to meet your class teacher and to discuss your child's achievements, their progress so far and how you can best support your child's reading at home. We strongly advise that you do not sign up siblings at immediately consecutive times around the school. You will appreciate that although we try to keep to schedule, it is tricky. We kindly ask parents to come into school to register their appointments themselves rather than do so via the school office. Thank you.



### **Mothering Service and Bring your Parent to School Day.**

On Monday 12th March, we are inviting you to join us for our annual Mothering Day celebration at St Andrew's Church followed by 'Bring your Parent to School Lunch'.

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 Mothering Sunday 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 beef or vegetable Lasagne with garlic bread, fresh seasonal vegetables and a selection of salads. This will be followed by banana cake and custard or sliced fresh fruit. 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.

Meals cost £3.50 and can be ordered using the reply slip on the letter that was sent via parentmail separately. We will not be issuing tickets but will hold a central register of meals ordered. Pupil meals can be ordered in the usual way.

Unfortunately parent meals cannot be purchased via your Agora account and payment must be made at the time of purchase. Slips must be returned to the school office by Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March as the kitchen staff will need to have final numbers.

### **Maths No Problem, Year 1 and 2**

We would like to draw your attention to the videos which have been created for parents by the Maths No Problem team. These wonderful resources are there to help explain Maths No Problem teaching techniques and can be found via the link on the Year 2 page of the school website. <http://spinney.cambs.sch.uk/children/year2/>



### **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.



**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.

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](http://www.52stories.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/52stores](http://www.facebook.com/52stores)





### Saturday Kids Art and Craft Club

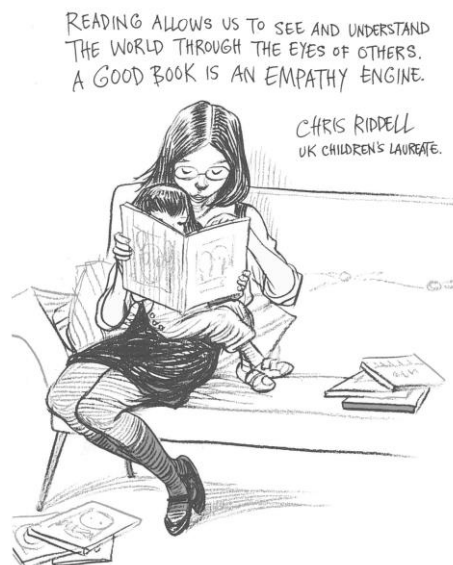
Maxwell and Scott will be starting their Saturday Kids Art and Craft Club here at The Spinney starting on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The Sessions take place from 10:30am-12pm and are for children aged 6-11 years (4/5 year olds may join but must be supported by a parent) The cost is £8 per session or £7 when booked for a block of 5. Booking is essential. Activities include: Painting, collage, mosaics, ceramics, clay, printing and much more. To book your place please contact Tel: 07771765348 [maxwellandscott@gmail.com](mailto:maxwellandscott@gmail.com) [www.maxwellandscott.co.uk](http://www.maxwellandscott.co.uk)

**Kettle's Yard** is the University of Cambridge's modern and contemporary art gallery. Kettle's Yard is a beautiful house with a remarkable collection of modern art and a gallery that hosts modern and contemporary art exhibitions. It has recently re-opened following a major redevelopment project which includes; a four-floor education wing, new and improved exhibition galleries, a new entrance area and a café.

Kettle's Yard is open Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 5pm. For further information about visiting visit <http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk/>

### And Finally....

Here is a delightful illustration by Chris Riddell that beautifully captures the pleasure and wonder of books. Happy Reading Everyone!!



With very best wishes,

*Rachel Snape*

Rachel Snape  
Head Teacher  
National Leader of Education