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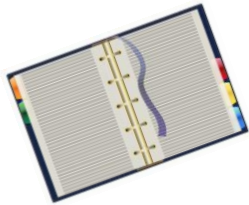
**Child Centredness, Teamwork and Community, Excellence, Learning,
Improvement, Responsibility, Optimism**

'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

Thursday 25th January 2018

Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,

Dates for the Diary



- **Big Birdwatch weekend** – 27th-29th January
- **Friends Pupil Disco** – Friday 2nd February
- **Pancake Day Special** – Friday 9th February
- **Last Day of Half Term** – Friday 9th February
- **Staff Training Day: School Closed** – Monday 19th February
- **Pupils back to school** – Tuesday 20th February
- **World Book Day** – Thursday 1st March



ASHOKA

Headteacher's reflections:

As many parents are aware The Spinney is one of only 15 Ashoka Changemaker Schools in England and is part of a larger network across the world of some 200 schools, colleges and Universities who in addition to promoting academic excellence also promote compassion, collaboration, creativity and problem solving skills in order to make the world an even better place. Next week I have been invited to be a speaker at the [Yidan Prize Conference: Educating for The Future](#) at Jesus College and will also be attending the European Changemaker Education Summit in Lyon. This will be an opportunity to share ideas with other Changemaker schools, global education thought leaders and innovators from around the world.

As an Ashoka Changemaker school we believe it is important to give our pupils the literacies, competencies and qualities to be happy and successful now and in the future as well as the confidence to become changemakers. In practice this involves providing learning experiences which foster skills such as leadership, responsibility, collaboration and the confidence to keep improving the world for the good of all. Our rounded holistic curriculum promotes oracy, problem solving, kindness and empathy. And through home learning and project based activities we encourage the children to understand that learning is not limited to the school environment but takes place anywhere in a variety of forms. Giving children control over their learning develops self-regulation and autonomy and empowers children to make decisions for themselves, encourages good time management and allows for creativity. Sharing the work they have produced with their peers also develops their speaking and listening skills. I am always impressed by the quality and standard of the work they do at home and there is a wonderful diversity and creativity in the way the children present their projects.

In my absence Mr Mawson and Mrs Jelliman will ensure that the school continues to work with the high standards of excellence, cogence and joy that we value at The Spinney.

School Access and Child Safety

We have recently reviewed our school access arrangements and we have highlighted certain areas of improvement. In light of our new afterschool club we have made some important changes to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children. The gate between the school playground and field will be locked at 3.30pm each day. Children are welcome to play on the field if they are supervised by their parent or carer.

We will also be keeping the main carpark gates locked so that we can better monitor access during school hours. Our children's safety is extremely important and I am sure you will appreciate the need to review and improve our procedures. We very much appreciate your support in this matter.



School Disco

The School Disco takes place 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.

After School Club and Disco

If your child is attending the Spinney Afterschool Club and would like to go to the disco, please return the consent form you received last week and payment as soon as possible and by Tuesday 30th January at the latest.

PARENT/STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION MEETING - INNOVATION TRUST WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2018

The Governing Body and Headteacher invite you to a Multi-Academy trust consultation meeting to share with you our vision of the proposed Multi Academy Trust conversion and to give you the chance to present your views, voice concerns or ask questions.

The meetings will take place on Wednesday 7th February at 3:30pm in the Team Room as well as 7:00pm in the hall.

A crèche will be offered for the 3:30pm meeting – however this must be booked in advance.

Views expressed at this meeting will be captured and included in the final considerations of the Governing Body. Please send in questions beforehand to mat@spinney.cambs.sch.uk or alternatively, post your questions in a sealed envelope clearly marked 'MAT consultation' through the red letter box in the front entrance.

The formal consultation period will close at 5pm Monday 19th February 2018.

Attendance & Punctuality

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 though 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

The Little Princess Trust - Megan Y5

We would like to say a big Well Done to Megan (Y5) who has recently donated her hair to The Little Princess Trust. Last weekend Megan's four long plaits were cut and sent to the charity to be used to make wigs for children. Megan is thrilled to be able to use her hair to make someone else happy and she says "I recommend this to every person with long hair of which you are planning on cutting, instead of throwing all the hair in the bin" This is a beautiful example of changemaking and making a difference in the lives of others. Well Done Megan!



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 – 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

Fulbourn Friends are fun sessions with a variety of learning activities for parents and carers with children from 0-24 months. Fulbourn Friends takes place on Fridays from 10.15am – 11.45am at The Fulbourn Centre, Home End. CB21 5BS

The group costs £2 per family or a Children's centre voucher. For further information call Children's Centre on 01223 712082 or email cherryhintonchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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>

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



500 WORDS 2018

500 Words is now one of the most successful story-writing competitions for kids in the world. Nearly half a million pupils have written a story for us; that's over 277 MILLION words!

Children write an original story on any subject or theme in 500 Words or fewer and submit it online. If they win, their story will be read live on the radio by a superstar celebrity...like Julie Walters, Jeremy Irons, Tom Hiddleston or Sherlock himself – Benedict Cumberbatch. Each year, 10 million Radio 2 listeners hear, read and love these stories.

Not only will the winners rub shoulders with the world's biggest celebrities and massive pop-stars performing at the Final, they'll meet real-life royalty: Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Cornwall, who returns in 2018 to support 500 Words.

The competition is now open and closes on Thursday 22nd February. For more information visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00rfvk1>

A friendly Neighbourhood exercise class at The Spinney! **MOVESFITNESS**
MOVES FITNESS is an exercise to music class that's ideal for everyone regardless of age, shape or ability. Whether you are a beginner or an experienced exerciser, you'll feel at ease with the safe and structured programme. You can work as hard or as gently as you want. The Class is here in your very own school at the Spinney! Come along with a friend or by yourself! Everyone is welcome. The class takes place every TUESDAY from 7.30 – 8.30pm. Just £5 per class. Please bring a mat or towel & wear trainers & clothes to move in. For more information call Janice on 01638 730116 or email janice.vincent1@btinternet.com

And Finally . . .

“Education is not the filling of the pail, but the lighting of a fire!”

William Butler Yeats

Rachel Snape

Rachel Snape
Head Teacher
National Leader of Education