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

# 'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,



## Dates for the Diary



- **Please Note: Bank Holiday Monday (School Closed) – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May**
- **Class Photograph Return Deadline - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**
- **KS2 SATS Week – 8<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> May**
- **Walk to School Week – 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May**
- **Pupil Disco – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May**
- **Drama Club Performance – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

## Headteacher's reflections for the week: Teaching and Learning Together

During this week it has been wonderful to see so many parents actively taking a positive part in school life, and it has reminded me how lovely it is to have such an amazing parent/carer community supporting our school. We have had parent governors, reading and maths volunteers, slipper makers, the great Friends team, and a number of year 2 parents dressed as Romans to help with the fabulous "History off the Page" day as well as parents accompanying the Foundation Stage children to South Angle Farm. Year 2 also enjoyed singing a special KS1 song, written by a parent who accompanied them on the electric guitar. Time and time again I am genuinely impressed by and very proud of the commitment and collaboration of our school community and I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your time and dedication. It is well documented that active parental involvement in school has a positive affect on your child's educational experience and attainment as well as benefitting the whole school by enhancing the creative offering, sense of community and shared identity. By doing this we all demonstrate and bring to life our school's central mission statement "Teaching and Learning Together" Thank you ALL so much!

## Foundation Visit to South Angle Farm

Foundation Stage had a fantastic visit to South Angle Farm on Monday this week. They had the opportunity to bottle feed lambs and Griffin especially enjoyed feeding the bearded dragon. Philippa's favourite activity was stroking the rabbits and holding Princess Fluffyboots the farm's resident tarantula! Thank you to everyone who helped to make the trip a resounding success.

## Update from the Friends

This year there are plans to have a second-hand uniform sale at the Summer Fair. Therefore, if you have any logood items (eg book bags, fleeces, polo shirts, t-shirts and jumpers) that you no longer need, and they are clean and in good condition (no stains or holes please) can you please hand them into the school office or to Becky Hawker (Years 2 & 4). We would be grateful if any name labels are removed in advance. Many thanks for your help.

This month the Friends have donated a further £1000 to the school. Items purchased include a science kit and reading books for the national curriculum. This could not have been done without your continued support and contribution to the many fund-raising events that the Friends organise. So, thank you.

## **IMPORTANT NEW ATTENDANCE UPDATE AS A RESULT OF SUPREME COURT RULING** **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**



### **Term-time holidays & Absence**

Many of you may be busily planning your annual summer holiday. Could we please remind all families that in response to government legislations introduced, Head teachers are not able to authorise any requests for children to be taken out of school to go on holiday during term time. We are aware that the costs of holidays are challenging but regret that the legislation for schools is quite inflexible on this point. Holidays are not able to be authorised as a matter of course or for financial reasons. Any request for absence will only be authorised for “*exceptional circumstances*”. Bereavements, medical appointments, and religious festivals are all examples of authorised absence.

We have been informed of a recent ruling made by The Supreme Court, which we have been asked to pass on to all Spinney parents/carers. The ruling is that as of the start of this new term, April 2017, any parent who takes their child/ren out of school for term-time leave of more than 6 consecutive sessions (3 days) over a 4 week period, not authorised by the school (Under exceptional circumstances rule) may receive a Penalty Notice.

It is therefore important that parents explain clearly the *exceptional* circumstances of being absent during term time when making their request to the Head Teacher. Requests should be put in writing using the absence request form available from the school office or school website and marked for the attention of the Head Teacher and delivered to the school office or put in the red post office box in reception. Requests should be made at least 2 weeks in advance to allow good time for processing. Any request made after the absence will still be marked as unauthorised unless it was due to unforeseen exceptional circumstances.

We have also been advised by the school’s Education Welfare Officer; if you have not informed the school as to why your child is absent by the end of the school day, it will now be recorded as unauthorised.

Therefore, if your child is absent from school for any reason please notify the school office before 9:30am either by phone or email. If you have had to make an emergency medical appointment we will require either an appointment letter or card. For more information on this matter, on the changes and how they may affect you, please speak in confidence with Mrs Barot, Attendance Manger, who will be very happy to advise you.



### **Homework via Parentmail**

Following feedback from parents we will now be sending homework, spelling and times table practice home via parentmail every Friday. We hope that this will significantly reduce the incidences of lost or forgotten work. As an Eco School we have been looking at ways to “reduce, reuse and recycle” and we hope this will significantly reduce our use of paper. Please let us know your thoughts on this and whether you are finding this helpful. Parent/Carer feedback is what helps us, in the spirit of Kaizen (good and continuous improvement) to developing our offer.

### **Supervising Your Child – After School**

Children and families are welcome to stay in the school grounds and play at the end of the school day. However, children must not be left unsupervised specifically after the end of the school day. We would like to remind you that from 3.15pm children are the responsibility of their parents or carers and should be supervised at all times. We would also like to advise you that the school gates are closed each day at 4pm.



### National Curriculum Assessments: Information for Parents

The Standards and Testing Agency have produced a new leaflet and 2 videos aimed at parents with children in year 2 and year 6. These provide basic information on the purpose and format of the tests, how parents can best support their child and how the results will be reported.

Both videos and the leaflet can be accessed via the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2017-national-curriculum-tests-for-key-stages-1-and-2-information-for-parents>



### Good News/Congratulations

We are delighted to inform you that Mrs. Williman our Year 1 teacher, is expecting her first baby in October. Mr. and Mrs. Williman are very much looking forward to their new arrival and we send many congratulations to them both.



### Foundation Stage Wild Wood: Helpers Required

Foundation Stage will be visiting the woods on; Friday 12th May, Friday 19th May and Friday 26th May. The class are reliant on volunteers to enable them to use this wonderful resource and need at least 4 parent/career helpers each week from 9.00am-11.30am. Please speak to Mrs Williman if you are available to accompany the children into the wood, your assistance is very much appreciated.



### 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.



### 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. Every Friday afternoon from 3:20pm until 4:00pm.

### Amazon Wish List [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

The Spinney School now has an Amazon Wish List. If you would like to donate to the school this is a wonderful way of giving something that has been requested by the teaching team. To view the wish list or purchase something from it, sign in to your own Amazon account and via the 'Your Wish Lists' drop down menu chose 'Find a List'. You will then be able to search for The Spinney Primary and purchase goods via your own account; these can be posted to the address listed as Sarah Jelliman. The Breakfast Club also has its own wish list and this can be found in the same way by searching for The Spinney Breakfast Club.

Thank you to those who have already bought items from the list, your generosity is very much appreciated.



### Look Smart Be Smart

We are hoping there will be a chance to enjoy some warmer dryer weather now that the Summer Term has arrived. Please note the school summer uniform consists of grey or black trousers or shorts (not sport shorts please), white polo shirts and a red spinney fleece or sweatshirt as necessary. Girls can choose to wear red and white gingham checked dresses if they wish and a red cardigan as necessary. Indoor shoes are an essential part of the school uniform and can be either slippers or plimsolls or something similar. Children are required to change their shoes every time they come in after playtime and this makes a huge difference to the cleanliness of the school. School PE kits comprise of a plain white t-shirt with black sports shorts and either plimsolls or trainers as required. Thank you for your help in providing your child with the appropriate wear – we find that school uniform promotes a good sense of well being and belonging. Items of school uniform can be purchased on line from [www.myschooluniform.co.uk](http://www.myschooluniform.co.uk) or from good local supermarkets.

### Music Lessons, Clubs and SATS Week

Please be aware that there will be no Multi-Skills (10<sup>th</sup> May) during SATS week. There will be no instrumental lessons with Mrs. Rigby during this time so that the school is quiet and ready for tests.

Please note that **Drama club** will be meeting as usual on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May to practice for their upcoming performance of “Pete the Pint Sized Pirate”. The performance will take place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 4.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.



### Circus Skills Clubs

Wish your children were more active? Looking for something different to the school sports teams? Come try circus skills at The Spinney! Improve your child’s physical abilities through fun skills like juggling, hula hooping, spinning plates and more. The first session is free to try. Spaces are available for Key Stage 1 and Foundation on Tuesdays, starting on 18<sup>th</sup> April, and KS2 on Fridays from 28<sup>th</sup> April. Both sessions run from 3:15-4:15pm. Contact [emma.wright@cantab.net](mailto:emma.wright@cantab.net) for more details.



### Mad Science New Club

There will be a new Mad Science Club taking place after school on Thursdays from 3:15-4:15pm during the summer term. The first session will be on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May and will continue until 6<sup>th</sup> July. Information about how to sign up will be sent home with the children on April 27<sup>th</sup>. For more information about Mad Science please visit <https://register.madscience.org/east/>



**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

52 Stories Takes place 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](http://www.52stories.co.uk)

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



### Free English Lessons!

There will be free English Lessons taking place at Chesterton Community College on Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am/ for more information or to book a place please contact Sarah Adams [sadams@chesterton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:sadams@chesterton.cambs.sch.uk)



**The Reach Ride** takes place on the day of the historic country fair in the village of Reach at the end of Devil's Dyke. This year's ride will take place on the Bank Holiday Monday 1st May. Cyclists assemble in front of the Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge from 9am for a 10am departure. Arriving at Reach riders can enjoy all the fun of the 800-year-old fair, Maypole, rides, beer and food tents, entertainment and meeting fellow cyclists. For more information please visit <https://www.camcycle.org.uk/events/rides/>



### Cambridge United – All Girls Soccer School

We were delighted to welcome Ben Szreter the COE of Cambridge United Community Trust to The Spinney before Easter. Ben told us about the vision for the trust which is "To place Cambridge United at the heart of a community where individuals respect each other and themselves, are empowered to maximise their potential and have the inspiration to fulfil this potential. An assembly has been planned for later in the term on the value of Respect and in addition we hope to keep letting you know about other events and activities that CUT are organising through this section of the Spinney newsletter.

Cambridge United is hosting a brand new, all girls soccer school. The first will take place from Tuesday 30th May - Friday 2nd June at Chesterton Community College. You can register your child online or find out more information at [www.cuyd.co.uk](http://www.cuyd.co.uk) or call 01223 566500

### And finally. . .

All the great work and support from the whole school Spinney community of Parents/Carers, Friends, Governors, Teaching Assistants, Specialist Teachers, Cleaning Team, Teachers, Office Team, Custodian Team and Catering Team reminds me of this wonderful quotation by Helen Keller:



Alone we can do so little; together  
we can do so much.

*Helen Keller*

Have a great Bank Holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing you again for more Teaching and Learning and fun Together on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

With very best wishes,

*Rachel Snape*

Rachel Snape  
Head Teacher  
National Leader of Education