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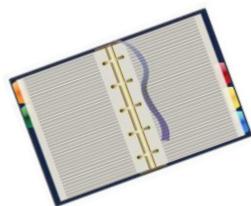
**Child Centredness, Teamwork and Community, Excellence, Learning,  
Improvement, Responsibility, Optimism**

# 'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,

## Dates for the Diary

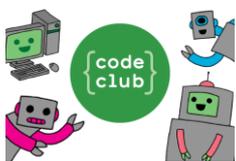


- **May Day Bank Holiday School Closed** – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May
- **Back to School** – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May
- **Y4 Amazon Visit** – Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May
- **Year 3 Visit to Clip and Climb** – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May
- **KS2 SATS Week**- W/B Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May
- **Year 5 visit to C.A.S.T.**– Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May
- **Year 4 Visit to Clip and Climb** – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May
- **Pupil Disco** – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May

## Cambridge LAUNCHPAD

### Headteacher's reflections: STEM and STEAM Opportunities

We are delighted that our Year 4 and 5 classes have been invited to take part in Cambridge Launchpad's Stars program. Cambridge Launchpad is dedicated to inspiring young people into STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) careers and also aims to reduce the gender gap of the current STEM workforce. In addition to learning from STEM ambassadors, the children will be visiting business and other partnerships to see STEM Careers in action. Having these partnerships with local companies and organisations is invaluable, children benefit from the wonderful expertise within our local community which hopefully will inspire them to think of exciting pathways to follow in the future in the STEM and Creative industries.



In thinking about STEM skills, I would also like to express my thanks to the wonderful volunteers from Arm who come in on Wednesdays and run Code Club. Coding and digital making is another excellent skill for our young people to have.

### The Spinney Primary School Election of Parent Governors

The governing body of The Spinney Primary School has a parent governor vacancy. You will have received a letter last week asking if you would be interested in becoming a school governor at this important time when the governors are considering Multi-Academy Trust status.

Nominations should be sent in to the school office by Friday 4th May at 3:30pm. If you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact us.



## Sports Funding PE & Sports Equipment and Netball Club

As I mentioned last week, we have recently completed an extensive audit of our sports equipment. With the help of Mr. Sharman we have updated our outdoor and indoor P.E. equipment to enhance what we can offer pupils in their weekly P.E. lessons. More information on how we have used our Sports Funding can be found on the school [website](#). We are also delighted to remind everyone that Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Varley lead a weekly Spinney Netball Club every Monday after school for years 5 and 6. The club has proven to be very popular and we hope the children will enjoy the opportunity to gain the skills confidence in this popular sport. This club is very timely as it coincides with fabulous win for the England's Netball team who achieved an [impressive GOLD](#) in the Commonwealth Games.

## Polite Request SATS Week

To help us support our Year 6 children during SATS week, we kindly ask parents to avoid using the main reception area after 9am. This is to keep noise to a minimum to allow the children to concentrate without disruption. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Music Lessons, Clubs and SATS Week

Please be aware that there will be no instrumental lessons with Mrs. Rigby or Mr. Andrews during this time so that the school is quiet and ready for tests.



We are sad to be saying good bye to Mr. Ingram next week as he leaves us after more than 10 years at the school. He has been an invaluable member of The Spinney Team and we will all greatly miss his piano playing, gardening skills and of course his I.T. abilities. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking him for his dedication and hard work and wish him well as he embarks on a new journey working for the wonderful organisation Camfed, that supports the education of girls in rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Card Swaps

If your child has trading cards to swap with their friends, whether they are Pokémon cards or football stickers, please can it be arranged for parents or carers to bring them in after school so that they can swap the cards after school rather than in school hours. The children are asked not to bring the cards into school during the day.



## Pupil Disco

The next Friends disco is on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Entrance costs £3 on the door. The Foundation and KS1 disco takes place between 4.30 and 5.45pm and the KS2 disco will run from 6 to 7.30pm. Please note that this is a drop off event. If any parent or carer is able to help at either disco please contact the Friends.



## 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.



### 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 – 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](https://www.facebook.com/52stores)



**Fairy Fair** will be taking place on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th May from 10am-5pm at Primrose Woods, Norfolk, PE33 9HA. This is a magical day out for the whole family and includes Fairyland Trust workshops, live music, storytelling and many other drop-in activities. More information and booking can be found at [creativeorchardevents.com](http://creativeorchardevents.com) Tickets cost £10 adults, £9 children and under 3's free. Sorry No Dogs. Dressing up positively encouraged!



## Free English Lessons!

There will be free English Lessons taking place at Chesterton Community College on Friday April 27<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 7<sup>th</sup> 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/>



### And Finally....

I hope that families enjoy their May Day together. May Day is seen as an international day to celebrate workers and May Day is also seen as a traditional Spring Festival in many countries. Maypole dancing, singing and eating cake is often how the day is celebrated! Whatever you do this bank holiday weekend, whether it is working or relaxing, I hope it is JOYFUL.

We look forward to seeing you all back in school on the 8<sup>th</sup> May for more Teaching & Learning Together.

With very best wishes,

*Rachel Snape*

Rachel Snape  
Head Teacher  
National Leader of Education