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

## 'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,

### Dates for the Diary



- **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 & Invitation to a Focus Group!

We are very proud of our Year 6 children who have been working extremely hard and have shown a great deal of enthusiasm for their learning during the year. Next week they will be taking their SATS and I am sure their dedication will stand them in excellent stead for the week ahead. It is important, children that you recognise how well you have done and how well prepared you are! Take the time to enjoy the weekend ahead, relax with a book, get some fresh air and exercise and have a good night's sleep. We look forward to seeing our Year 6 class on Monday morning at 8.30am for the Year 6 Breakfast Club which we hope will be a wonderful and relaxing start to each day.

There has been much discussion recently in the Media about the importance of positive mental health. I don't know how many of you watched, Mind Over Marathon which I thought was a very positive programme? It demonstrates the positive impact that life choices such as exercise, socialising (in person rather than online) volunteering and taking walks in nature can have on well-being. At The Spinney as I hope you know, we are committed to a Whole Child Education and value the importance of teaching Social, Moral, Cultural and Spiritual Education alongside an academic curriculum. We are proud to be working with the Hawn Foundation and MindUp to introduce the children to tools which help the children to manage their emotions in a positive way. This includes the use of brain breaks to help with concentration and wellbeing. As a school where one of our values is Improvement (*or Kaizen – Good and Continuous Improvement*) Mrs Lane is looking for parents to attend a focus group to discuss your views on the school's provision of social and emotional wellbeing. Please do get in touch if you are interested in attending.

### 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 Multi-Skills (10<sup>th</sup> May) during SATS week. 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.

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.



**Walk to School Week 2017** takes place as part of National Walking Month each May, bringing together nearly one million school children, teachers and parents. This year's Walk to School Week runs from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. The Spinney will be taking part in this campaign to encourage and promote sustainable means of transport. We would like to encourage all the children to try to walk, cycle or scoot to school each day. Please ensure that you remember your bicycle lock so that you can secure your bike or scooter in the cycle shed and always wear your cycle helmet on your journey. Each class will record the number of children who have walked to school that week and children will be given a sticker to confirm their participation. Please note that whilst we urge you to bring a bike lock and to secure your cycle safely, unfortunately, the school can not be held responsible for any loss or damage to bikes brought onto the school site.



## Pupil Disco School disco

The next Friends disco is on Friday 19<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.

## **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.



### £5 Notes

We would like to remind you that tomorrow, 5<sup>th</sup> May, the old paper £5 notes will cease to be legal tender. We therefore will no longer be able to accept them as payment.



### 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.



### 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)

### Saturday 6th May, Hugh Lupton Tells Beowulf

A gripping, accessible and enjoyable performance by a legendary storyteller of the oldest story in the English language – a story which still has the power to raise the hairs on the back of the neck. It tells of a hero's life, a life that is mapped by three tremendous blood-curdling encounters. As a young man Beowulf defeats the monster Grendel and his even more terrifying Mother, the original creatures from the Black Lagoon. Then, as an old man, he tries his strength against a gold-guarding Fire-Drake (a dragon). Alongside these adrenalin-charged encounters the story explores the journey we all make from the seeming invincibility of youth to the heroic vulnerability of old age. The event takes place at The Unitarian Church Hall, Emmanuel Road, Cambridge. Tickets cost £10/£8 and are available from <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/394718>



### Blue Cross Fun Day

Cambridge Blue Cross will be holding a fun day on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May from 11am-3pm. There will be stalls, games, crafts, refreshments and a raffle. The event takes place at the Blue Cross Rehoming centre, Garlic Row Cambridge. For more information, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1849404345321974/>

### And finally . . .

We wish all our families a happy and restful weekend, particularly the Year 6 children and their families! It's going to be an exciting week next week – and we know you are going to do brilliantly!



Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.

*Helen Keller*

With very best wishes,

*Rachel Snape*

Rachel Snape  
Head Teacher  
National Leader of Education