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

# 'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,

## Dates for the Diary



- **KS1 Nativity Performance** – Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am
- **Pupil Christmas Lunch** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December
- **KS2 Christmas Carol Service at St. Andrew's Church** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 6pm
- **Christmas Stay and Play** – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, morning session
- **End of Term Celebration Assembly** – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm
- **Non Pupil Day School Closed** – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January
- **Spring Term Begins** – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January
- **Foundation Visit to the Sedgwick Museum** – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January
- **Year 4 Swimming Begins** – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January



*You are cordially invited to*

*The Spinney Christmas Carol Service*

*On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 6.00pm at St. Andrew's Church*

*EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!*

*Mulled wine, mince pies, juice and biscuits will be served at the end of the service.*

### Headteacher's reflections: Thank you!

It was wonderful to return to school on Monday and hear the comments from our governors about the weekend's Winter Wonderland Fair. They commented on the welcoming and friendly atmosphere and the number of new faces they saw helping out. With just a few hours of your time having such a positive effect on our school community and the fundraising efforts of The Friends, I would like to **thank you** for supporting the school in this way. I would also like to express a very special **thank you to Teresa and all The Friends Team** for making the Fair such a wonderful opening to our festive events. You give such a lot to our school that enriches our offer. We are truly very grateful! The next of our Christmas events to take place is our KS1 Nativity next week. I have been fortunate to be able to hear the children practicing from my office and I am sure we are in for a real treat.



### Good Bye and Thank you

We are sad to be saying goodbye to Mrs. Filmer who will be leaving us at the end of this term. Having been at The Spinney for over 22 years Mrs. Filmer has made a huge contribution to the school and her dedication and hard work has had an impact on so many children. Her creativity and artistic talent will be missed as she has, over the years been instrumental to the set design and creation of props of many of our school productions. The Nativity performances that you will see next week is no exception and I am sure that you will see that her creative flair is an asset in our school. She will be missed. Mrs. Filmer says she is looking forward to the arrival of spring as she plans to spend time more in her garden enjoying the plants and flowers. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking her for everything she has given the school and wishing her all the very best for the future.



### Key Stage 1 Christmas Performance. "Bethlehem's Buzzin'"

There will be three performances of the Christmas Nativity production of "Bethlehem's Buzzin'", beginning with the dress rehearsal to KS2 children on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December. This will be followed by the two main performances for families on the afternoon of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm and the morning of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. Crèche facilities are available however places are limited so please remember to book in advance via the ladies in the office.



### Christmas Cards

The Spinney School Post box is in the main entrance hall for pupils to post Christmas cards for their friends. House captains will empty the box each day and will distribute all cards to the class teachers. Please ensure that envelopes are addressed correctly, i.e. with surname and class number. Thank you.

### Pupils' Christmas Lunch

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December we will be having our special Christmas lunch for pupils and staff. Those children having a school dinner will be enjoying roast turkey or roasted vegetable and cranberry parcels with roast potatoes, vegetables and gravy. For dessert there is Christmas pudding and custard or home made iced chocolate cake. All children will be able to enjoy the atmosphere together with crackers and festive cheer. There is no need for children to book in advance.



### Spinney Carol Service

The Spinney Carol service takes place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at St. Andrew's Church. The service starts at 6pm, it is a wonderful way to celebrate this time of the year singing traditional carols and spending time together. The service will be followed by refreshments, including mince pies, mulled wine, juice and biscuits. Everyone is welcome!



### Christmas Stay and Play

Stay and Play is a Family Learning activity funded by the Friends, where you have the opportunity to work with your child whilst having fun. Please come along and join us in your child's class on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December to make a gift together to celebrate Christmas.

Foundation class to Year 5 are offering 2 sessions so that if you have children in different year groups then you will be able to spend time with both children. Session 1 will run from 9:15 – 10:15am and session 2 from 10:45 – 11.45. Look out for the sign up sheets are located outside each classroom.

Year 6's stay and play is called 'Stay and a Play'. There is one session and it will last from 9.15am - 10.15am. Adults and children will be acting out 'Hamlet' by William Shakespeare. All parents, grandparents and other relatives who come along will need to be prepared to act!

If you have younger children that are not yet at school or nursery we will be offering a crèche facility. The creche is full for the first session but there are still a few spaced for the second. We regret that younger children will not be able to remain with you in class due to a lack of space. Please note that we only have limited places in the crèche and they will be offered on a first come, first served basis. We look forward to seeing you.



### End of Term Celebration Assembly

Everyone is warmly invited to our end of term Celebration assembly which will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm. As on previous occasions the assembly will be an informal opportunity for the children to share their thoughts, ideas and singing with you. We hope that everyone, families, friends and governors will join the children and staff to celebrate the end of another exciting term at The Spinney! We look forward to seeing you there.



### Mrs. Fasching's Magnolia Tree

Thank you for all of your donations to Mrs. Fasching's memorial fund. On advice from our grounds team we will be planting a magnolia tree in the spring, as part of a Memorial Service and Celebration of all that she has done for us. We will of course let you know more details nearer the time and if you would like to donate and have yet to do so, it is still possible via your Agora account or the school office.



### Take Everything Home Please! – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, we will be asking the children to take all their personal belongings home with them, PE Kits, indoor shoes, book bags, extra fleeces, etc. Unfortunately, we are unable to store mountains of property over the holiday. Please could you support your child by providing them with a named carrier bag by Wednesday to help them to get everything home? Many thanks.



## Message From The Friends

**Christmas fair:** A big thank you to everyone that came along and helped at the Christmas Fair on Sunday. We hope you and your family enjoyed the stalls and the activities that were on offer. The Friends undertook a final count on Wednesday night and are pleased to report that the fair made **£1,217.87** for the school. So a big well done to everyone. As announced at the AGM in October, the current Friends committee will be stepping down at the end of the school year and therefore this will be the last Christmas fair the current committee will be arranging. If you are interested in becoming the next Chair of the Friends Committee, please speak to Mrs Jelliman in the school office.

**Christmas cards and mugs:** An additional £235 has been raised from the sale of Christmas cards and mugs. Thank you for all your support with this. If you have not yet received your cards or mugs, then please see one of the Friends in the school playground after school on Friday who will be handling out any remaining orders.



**Spinney Christmas puddings:** There are a few Christmas puddings left to buy. They are available in three flavours - traditional, chocolate and sticky toffee (all non-alcoholic) – and are priced at £6 each or two for £10. Please let one of the Friends know if you would like to buy any.

**Raise money for the school whilst you do your Christmas shopping!:** Did you know that you can raise money for the school whilst doing your Christmas shopping on-line and it won't cost you a penny? To raise money, instead of going directly to the retailer website, log into <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> first and click on the retailer you want to shop with. You'll then be taken to the retailers website where you shop as you would normally. But because you visited easyfundraising first, the school will get a donation. There are over 3,000 retailers which include Amazon, M&S, Clarks, ebay, John Lewis and Argos. The donation is usually a percentage of how much you spend or a set amount. For all first time users you will need to join by setting up an account and registering that you are supporting The Friends of the Spinney School – Cambridge, Cherry Hinton.



**Le Club Français** will have their last sessions this term on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December for KS2 and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> for KS1. They will continue their French club after the Christmas break on Mondays (Years 1 and 2) and Tuesdays (years 3-6) from 15:25 to 16:10. The club gives children an informal introduction to language learning through songs, games, stories and activities.

Please contact Tim Morley on 01223 911575 or [leclubfrancais@westcambs.com](mailto:leclubfrancais@westcambs.com) with any queries, or sign up online at <https://ClubEnrolment.com/LCFcambridge>. The spring term will run from the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> January to 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Code Club**

Code club will run until Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and will restart on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January. All current members will have a place until February half term. After the half term break, children will need to re sign up to continue to enable others to have a turn. We will advertise in the newsletter nearer the time.

**Premier Sport Holiday Club** will take place at the Spinney School on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Activities available include Multi-activity, Streetdance and Musical Theatre. For more information and to book a place visit <https://www.premier-education.com/your-child>

**Football** club will have their last session on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> December and will restart in the New Year. Booking will be available on line and forms will be sent home with the children in due course.



**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

Saturday 9th December at 10.30am - 52 Stories with Isabel Thomas  
Saturday 16th December at 10.30am- Christmas Celebration with Richard Buttrey  
Saturday 23rd December- 52 Stories takes a break  
Saturday 30th December - 52 Stories takes a break  
Saturday 6th January at 10.30am - 52 Stories starts 2018 with Mark Ashton



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)

The 52 Stories Committee and Young Volunteers thank you for joining us in 2017 and look forward to seeing you in 2018,

### Cherry Hinton Carol Service: St Andrew's Church Sunday 17th 6pm

St. Andrew's church will be having their traditional carol service on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm all are welcome. This is a lovely community event that Reverend Karin has organised to bring our community together. You will no doubt recognise a number of familiar faces including myself and brilliant local Scout Leader Dr Varley.

### And Finally . . .

I had the most wonderful opportunity to attend the "Schools as Communities of Learning International Conference" in Barcelona last week and I am very grateful to Mr Mawson, Ms Garrill, Mrs Jelliman, and the rest of the brilliant team of teachers and TAs and the essential support team for ensuring everything at the school continued to run like clockwork for the couple of days when I was not in school.

While in Barcelona at the University, I was talking about The Spinney and in particular our focus on Teamwork and Community as well as the other 6 values that inform the quotidian and the strategic direction of our school.

In particular I talked about the importance of the Circle of Friends that is in our school's front entrance and why as a metaphor it is so important to us. I also shared the words that Ms Bennett found for us:

*"In the circle we are all equal,  
There is no one in front of us  
There is no one behind us  
There is no one above us  
And no one is below us  
The circle is precious  
Because it is a symbol  
Of our Unity"*



**Thank you to everyone who makes The Spinney the amazing team that it is!!**

*Rachel Snape*

Rachel Snape  
Head Teacher

National Leader of Education