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

'THE SPINNEY STANDARD'

Thursday 9th November 2017

**Dear Spinney Parents, Children and Carers,
Dates for the Diary**

- **Information Coffee Morning** – Friday 10th November 9.15am
- **Remembrance Assembly** – Friday 10th November 10.40am
- **Parent Teacher Consultations Years 1-6** – Monday 13th November
- **Positive Friendship Week** – Week Commencing Monday 13th November
- **Children in Need Refreshment Stall** – Tuesday 14th November
- **Y4 Viking Day** – Tuesday 14th November
- **Travelling Book Fair** – Tuesday 14th November – Thursday 16th November 3.15-4pm
- **Year 1 Visit: Fitzwilliam Museum** – Thursday 16th November
- **Year 3 & 4 Bikeability** – Friday 17th November
- **Children in Need Non Uniform Day** – Friday 17th November
- **Y2 Visit: Teddy Bear Hospital** – Tuesday 21st November
- **Foundation and Year 6 Weighing and Measuring** – Thursday 23rd November
- **Friends Christmas Fair** - Sunday 3rd December 2.30-5pm in the school hall



You are warmly invited to join us for a
Special Coffee Morning
which will be followed by our
Remembrance Assembly



On Friday 10th November from 9.15am in the School Hall
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Headteacher's reflections:

We are so fortunate to have a wonderful sense of community here at the Spinney and I feel honoured to be part of a school where parents, grandparents and teachers work together to create such a wonderful learning environment. The Friends of the Spinney are always working hard to raise funds and the whole school enjoyed a fabulous puppet show on Monday this week which was generously funded by The Friends and added to the enrichment of our curriculum. Parents, family friends and grandparents make an invaluable contribution to our school and studies continue to show how it can also have a significant positive impact on a child's achievement and experience of school. We are always looking for new volunteers to help us offer children additional

opportunities to advance their learning and I hope that many of you will be able to come to our special coffee morning tomorrow to find out more about how you too could make a difference.

Information Coffee Morning

We will be holding a special coffee morning for parents on Friday 10th November. This is an opportunity for you to come and hear more about volunteer opportunities within the school. You are welcome to join us in the hall from 9.15am. Mrs. Young has also arranged for Hannah Currington, our Early Intervention Family worker to explain her role, how she can support families and her forthcoming workshop helping your children with their self esteem. You are also welcome to join us for our Remembrance Assembly which will follow on from this event.



Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Assembly

As usual the Spinney is taking part in this important national appeal. Pupils are able to buy poppies taken around school by the Year 6 pupils for a suggested minimum donation of 20p. Other amounts are of course welcome e.g. 50p/£1. We will also be holding a special assembly on Friday 10th November at 10.40am, which parents are welcome to attend.

Parent/Teacher Consultations for Years 1-6

The children will be bringing home their end of term reports tomorrow. We hope that you will spend time with your children congratulating them on their achievements and talking through the discussion points with them.

Parent/Teacher meetings take place between 1 -7pm on Monday next week, 13th March. Appointment sheets are on display outside each classroom door, and there are still spaces available for families to secure a 10 minute appointment with the class teacher. This really is an important opportunity to meet your class teacher and to discuss your child's achievements, their progress so far and how you can best support your child's reading at home. We strongly advise that you do not sign up siblings at immediately consecutive times around the school. You will appreciate that although we try to keep to schedule, it is tricky.

Travelling Book Fair - Tuesday 14th -Thursday 16th November

This year we are again holding the terrific Children's book fair in school. From Tuesday 14th November until Thursday 16th November a display of excellent children's books will be on offer for you to purchase, at prices from as low as £2.99. Books from author's such as Michael Morpurgo, Jacqueline Wilson and Julia Donaldson plus many others will be available so please pop into the school hall between 3:15 – 4:00 pm and see if any of them take your fancy! If you would like to purchase pre-paid internet book vouchers so that your child can make their selection and pay themselves, visit www.travellingbooks.co.uk
Please note the book fair will not be taking place on Friday 17th November.



Children in Need Friday 18th November

On Friday 17th November, we will be holding a special non uniform day in support of this worthwhile charity. Children are invited to wear something stripy or spotty to school for a suggested minimum donation of £1. For those children in years 3 and 4, taking part in Bikeability don't forget to wear something that you can cycle in.

Refreshment Stall in Aid of Children in Need

The School Council will be holding a refreshment stall on **Tuesday 14th November** in aid of Children in Need. This will take in the school hall alongside the book fair. Any donations of drinks, cakes or biscuits would be very welcome.



Indoor shoes and Overs

Thank you to the many families who ensure that their child has a pair of indoor shoes to change into in class. This is particularly important at the moment as the field is becoming wet and muddy. The children thoroughly enjoy playing on the field and they are encouraged to go out in all weathers because we know how important regular active play is for the children's physical and social development. We strongly recommend that the children bring a pair of wellies or other sturdy shoes for this season and it is essential that they change into a soft pair of shoes when they come into class such as a pair of slippers or plimsolls. We would also recommend that you provide your child with a set of "Overs" i.e. a set of outdoor clothes that they can change out of at the end of playtime so that the children can keep their school uniform clean (and hopefully reduce your laundry time!).

English for Women, Free Lessons

Chesterton Community College is offering free lessons for women who would like to improve their English. The lessons will take place on Tuesdays for 4 weeks starting on Tuesday 7th November 1pm-2pm at Chesterton Community College, CB4 3NY. Please contact Sarah Adams sadams@chesterton.cambs.sch.uk to book your free place.

There will also be an extra class on Thursday 16th November from 9am-10am here at The Spinney. Places for this can also be booked at the email address above.

Message From The Friends



Christmas card designs: Your child has been busy designing their Christmas cards and design proofs have been sent home this week with information on how to order. Please keep an eye out for them in your child's school bag. Please note that orders must be in by Friday 17th November at the latest. Unfortunately we are unable to accept orders after this date.

Winter fair raffle tickets: Raffle tickets for the fair will be sent home week commencing 13th November so please check your child's school bag. Tickets cost £1 each and all money raised goes towards fundraising for the school. Please return completed stubs in a marked envelope to the school office (please retain the ticket). Cheques can be made to the 'Friends of the Spinney'. Please also return any unused tickets. Tickets will also be available to purchase at the Fair. Prizes include £50 cash, a Christmas hamper and a premier sports party voucher. If you are able to donate a raffle prize, please leave this with the school office. This year's Christmas Winter Wonderland fair is on Sunday 3rd December 2017 from 2.30-5pm in the school hall.

Help required: We still require more volunteers to help with this year's winter wonderland fair. If you are able to assist or if there is a group of you who would like to run a particular activity or stall please leave your details with the school office or let the Friends know by emailing the friends@spinney.cambs.sch.uk. A rota will be available next week to sign up to. Unfortunately if we don't get enough volunteers we will have to reduce the number of stalls and activities planned.



Spinney Christmas puddings: There are a few Spinney Christmas puddings left to buy. There are three scrumptious flavours to choose from - traditional, chocolate and sticky toffee (all non-alcoholic). These are priced at £6 each or two for £10. If you would like to purchase some puddings please inform the school office or let the Friends know by emailing the friends@spinney.cambs.sch.uk.



Fundraising donations: This month the Friends have donated a further £1000 to the school. Items purchased include 7 visualisers, a new urn, chess boards for the chess club and a poetry book. We also funded the tin soldier play that many of your children would have enjoyed on Monday of this week. 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.

Non-uniform day: In preparation of the winter fair there will be a non-uniform day on Friday 1st December and in return children are asked to bring donations for the 'pocket money stall' as follows:

- o **Yousafzal** – Brother
- o **Marie Curie** – Sister
- o **Shakespeare** – Dad/Grandad
- o **Dahl** – Mum/Grandma



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 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



The Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum (CECF) cordially invites you to an afternoon of cultural diversity on Sunday 19th November, from 2pm-4pm. The event will take place in the Atrium Hall at Netherhall School. There is a full programme of interesting and exciting performances ranging from poetry to dance. Refreshments and snacks will be on sale and donations are also welcome. Monies raised will go towards CECF's new Refugee Service. This is a free event; however tickets must be obtained through Eventbrite booking. For further information phone 01223 655241.



And Finally....

I know many of you will be taking part in Remembrance Services across Cambridge this weekend as we take time to think about those who have given so much in wars both past and present. I wish you all a happy and peaceful time with your families.

“In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky

The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.”

From “In Flanders Fields” by John McRae

Rachel Snape

Rachel Snape
Head Teacher

National Leader of Education