



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

22nd June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

COVID 19 – SPCEDS Update

Firstly, I would just like to say a huge thank you to all of you for all your continued support throughout the last few months. As teachers and school staff it has been challenging for us all as we miss all the children and families so much. I do fully appreciate that it will not have been easy for any of you, juggling learning for a number of pupils, alongside running a home and also perhaps working from home, challenges faced by many of us too! We have had to adapt to new ways of working, supporting and working with different Year Groups. However all staff have risen to this challenge and I would also like to thank all of them for their continued support since March. Thank you all!

Last week saw us welcome some of our pupils back to school, namely our Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. It was fantastic to see them all and I have to say, despite the changed way of working and the restrictions in place, it was a very successful week. The pupils are all very settled in their bubbles and adapting well to their new routines. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of them, and to their families, for their positivity during the last week. I am very proud of each and every one of you.

As I have shared previously staffing capacity does continue to present some challenges. However, we continue to review and adapt our plans for reopening. Today saw the opening of a further two 'bubbles', an additional Key Worker bubble for Key Worker pupils and a further bubble for Year 6 pupils. Whilst we have not yet been able to offer provision for FS2 we are hoping to be able to do so in the coming weeks and will keep you informed. Please be aware however, that as a result of staffing capacity, this may not be in their normal rooms or with their normal adults. If you have got any questions about your child returning to school please get in touch via the Year Group emails or via feedback@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk.

Learning Projects

This week brings the next set of fortnightly Learning Projects. The learning projects are differentiated for Year Groups with an overall focus this fortnight on Food. The intention remains that the core areas of Maths, Reading, Writing and Spelling will allow pupils to practise and reinforce their skills in these areas linked to their Year Group curriculum whilst allowing some overlap with the topic work so you could look at these as a family. Please see today's Wisepay for the links to the projects, these will also be on the school website. Please get in touch via the Year Group emails if you have any difficulties.



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Follow us on Twitter: @SPCEDS

Head Teacher: Diane Mulley

As I keep reiterating, please only do what you can, indeed the intention of the Learning Projects is not to put pressure on parents with regards to home learning. It is to keep you informed of possible activities that you can undertake and we are all here to support where we can, please just ask. As restrictions continue to be reduced and parents are returning to work in a range of ways, we do appreciate home learning may be more difficult to undertake. Please, please just do the best you can.

Last week a letter went home with regards to online provision for learning, which will hopefully allow for some contact between home and school using online systems. Please remember to return your Home School Agreements with regards to online provision asap as we cannot place your child into a group for this until it is received. If you could please return to the Year Group emails as class teachers are collating for each group so they can start to plan initial sessions. Paper copies to sign are available from the School Office if required. Further details with regards to this will follow.

SPCEDS Challenge

Thank you to all who took part in our Recycling/Upcycling challenge, all who have taken part will receive 10 house points on their return to school and this information has been shared with class teachers.

Our fortnightly winners for this challenge are:

Foundation Stage: Lacey-Anna for a fabulous ladybird bird house as part of our Upcycling challenge.

Key Stage 1: Archie for a super recycled rocket, inspired by the recent Space X launch.

Lower Key Stage 2: Maddison who has made a mascot from a whole range of recycled items.

Upper Key Stage 2: Milly who upcycled an old pair of jeans. They were too short so she made them into a pair of shorts, with the addition of a rainbow to remind her of this time when she wears them.

Overall: Amelia for recycling a whole range of items resulting in a whole range of new things, a new pencil pot, planters for herbs, garden decorations and funny glasses. Well done!

The focus of our next challenge is Food - linking well to our Learning Projects for this fortnight - in the form of Mrs Mulley's Bake Off. Please just send us a photo of an item of food you have prepared, baked or cooked during the next fortnight. This challenge will run from the 22nd June until the 3rd July. Please let us have your contributions before then - remember you can send them via the Year Group emails and via Twitter. Perhaps this could be a family project or activity - given the glorious sunshine planned for the coming weeks it could be something for a picnic in the garden or the outdoors. Please remember to follow the current guidance to keep yourselves safe.

And Finally...

As I said earlier in this letter it was fabulous to be able to welcome some of our pupils back last week. This also meant welcoming more staff back into school on a regular basis. Over recent weeks a lot of planning has had to go into this being achieved and on Friday morning, at the end of last week, I did take a moment to reflect on all that had happened since March 20th and indeed all that has been achieved. As I was leaving my house for school on Friday morning, I spied some beautiful spider webs hanging in the holly trees by my door. You can't really see them very well on the photograph I took but to the eye it was the most stunning, intricate web, sparkling with dew in the morning sun.



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It reminded me of the story of King Robert the Bruce. Once upon a time he was the King of Scotland. After being defeated in a battle, he escaped and found a hideout in a cave. Hiding in the cave for three months, the King felt very sad and lonely. He thought his life would never be happy again. While hiding out, he watched a spider building a web in the cave's entrance. The spider fell down time after time, but finally he succeeded with his web. This is when the King decided to restart his army, telling his men: "If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again".

This pandemic period has been a testing time. We've all felt sad and lonely at times and thought that we'll never have our 'normal' lives back again. But we've kept going. And keeping going has led to what we have seen each week during lockdown with pupils engaging with activities and with school adults via email or phone calls and to this week with pupils slowly but surely returning to school. It might not be quite as we know it but it is school all the same and this is testament to the support of each of you during this time – thank you. At this crucial time it is imperative we keep going. So please don't give up, remain positive, focus on the good in everyday and pray that our usual lives will return soon. Look how far we've come and then keep going!

Wishing you all well. Take care and above all stay safe. We are thinking of and missing you all!

Kind Regards,

Diane Mulley
Head Teacher