



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

18th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Term 5 Update

Today would have marked the final week of Term 5 prior to next week's Term Break. Despite the ongoing situation, as a result of the pandemic, I hope you are all managing to keep yourselves safe, well and healthy. You all remain in our thoughts on a daily basis as part of our Spalding Parish family.

Learning Projects

This week brings the next set of fortnightly Learning Projects, however given the Term Break in the middle of the cycle, these will run over 3 weeks to Friday 5th June. The learning projects for this fortnight are again differentiated for Year Groups with an overall focus this cycle of Animals – something I'm sure all the children will be able to relate to and potentially have experience of. As stated previously the intention is that the core areas of Maths, Reading, Writing and Spelling will allow pupils to practise and reinforce their skills in these areas linked to the curriculum for their Year Group whilst allowing some overlap with the topic activities so you may work on these as a family. Please see today's Wisepay for the links to the Learning Projects, these will also be on the school website on the relevant Learning Pages. Please do get in touch via the Year Group emails if you do have difficulties accessing.

It has been fantastic to hear from many of you about the things you have been getting up to at home, through our regular communications – the staff and I have loved hearing from you all, please stay in touch. We are trying hard to respond to any feedback so we can fully support all our families and our pupils. Recently a number of parents/carers have queried whether a fortnightly timetable could be shared to support with organising learning activities. If this is something that you would like, please email either the Year Group emails or feedback@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk and we will send you a copy.

However, as I keep reiterating, please only do what you can, indeed the intention of this letter is not to put pressure on parents with regards to home learning. It is to keep you informed and to make sure you are all aware of the support that is available. We all acknowledge this is an unusual and unprecedented time for us all. Remember what we are all being asked to do at this point in time is not normal practice. There is a reason we are either a working parent, a stay at home parent, or a part time working parent. Working, parenting and teaching are three very different jobs that cannot be done at the same time. It's not hard because you are doing it wrong. It's hard because, for many, it's simply too much. Please, please just do the best you can.



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When you have to pick, because at some point you will, choose connection. Pick playing a game over arguing about an academic activity, pick teaching your child to do simple household chores over feeling frustrated that you can't get them to do anything, pick laughing and snuggling and reminding them they are safe over getting annoyed about little things.

It has been good to hear that many of you have been working through the Learning Projects, whilst others have been adapting activities for your own children and some of you have been linking their learning to real life experiences including baking and gardening, all very valid learning opportunities. As I have said before what works for one family and in one household will not necessarily work in another. You, as parents, know your children best and we trust you to make the right decisions for them. If you are finding the home learning a challenge lower your expectations where you can or reach out for support via the Year Group emails. We are all in this together and we are here to support you.

SPCEDS Challenge

Thank you for all the contributions so far for our NHS challenge. This challenge runs until the 22nd May so please let us have your contributions before then. Remember you can send them via the Year Group emails and via Twitter. It may be a good opportunity to work on something more practical as a family. With the Term Break running from 22nd May to the 31st May, the next SPCEDS Challenge will be sent out on the 1st June, at the start of what would be Term 6. At the moment I am not in a position to share any clues but further details will be forthcoming shortly.

Parent Feedback

Thank you to all of you with children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 who have already taken the time to complete our short questionnaire. If you have not already done so, please do so at your earliest convenience as this will support our planning process in school, particularly with regards to reopening. Further information with regards to reopening will be sent in due course, following completion of our risk assessment, including views of all stakeholders. We will also be asking parents/carers of children in Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 to complete the survey in due course so please look out for the links via email.

And Finally... We'll Meet Again!

As I'm sure you are aware all the staff have been very busy, ensuring learning activities are ready for pupils, keeping in touch with families and forming part of the rota that is keeping school open each day to key worker families. There has also been a great deal of work going on behind the scenes including staff completing online CPD that will directly impact on practice on our return to school alongside further activities to support the transition of all our pupils come September. I am very proud at how the entire team has pulled together for the benefit of the Spalding Parish community and would like to say a public thank you to each and every one of them. Thank you all! We have also been busy putting together a message for each and everyone of you (a special thanks must go to Miss Siddall and Miss Bird). We hope you enjoy! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOlwiK2vtU8&feature=youtu.be>

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

Kind Regards,
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