

Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

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'I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.' Philippians 4:13

30th October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of Term 1

It seems impossible to already have completed one term of our new academic year and yet we have and what a busy term it has been! All the children have started the year very well, including our pupils for whom this is their very first school. I have enjoyed meeting our new pupils and spending time in classrooms seeing the children excited and engaged and hearing about the fabulous things they have been learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome any children and families who have joined us during Term 1 – welcome to the Spalding Parish family. I hope this will be the start of a positive, and hopefully lengthy, relationship between school and home.

If you have any questions during the year do not hesitate to speak with your child's Class Teacher or come and speak to me or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Class Teachers are available to meet with you briefly in a morning but, if you need more time, do not hesitate to ask to meet with them at the end of the day once all the children have been collected.

Attendance

Attendance at school continues to be one of our key issues and continues to be closely monitored. Please remember if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, you should inform school by 9.30am that day in line with our school procedures. Please contact school on each day of absence unless otherwise agreed.

Also please remember that routine dental and medical appointments should not be made during school time. It is preferable and much more beneficial for pupils if appointments can be made either at the end of the school day or during school holidays. If you do have to make an appointment for during the school day, and we do appreciate that there are times when this may be necessary, please bring the appointment letter to the school office. Without this letter the absence will not be authorised.

Good attendance means...

being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days



Government regulations now mean that absence from school can only be authorised for "exceptional circumstances" for which there is very clear established criteria, again set by the Government. It is therefore highly unlikely that time off school will be authorised during term time. Requests for term time absence must be made at least 10 days before the absence, except in emergencies, by booking an appointment with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Should an appointment not be made, and in line with our safeguarding procedures and Government regulations, we will contact you with regards to your child's absence in order to clarify fully the reasons for absence. Your child's education is our primary focus and given the extensive research proving a direct link between good attendance and good outcomes, alongside the national attendance guidance for schools, we do follow all absences up. This is not about singling anybody out but simply carrying out our statutory duty as a school and I would ask for your support in communicating with us in a positive way. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Charity Events

SPCEDS have supported a number of charities during Term 1 including the Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity and the Alzheimer's Society.

On Friday 13th September we celebrated Roald Dahl day and the school was awash with characters from Dahl's famous books. All pupils spent some time reading and sharing his amazing stories. A fantastic £322.90 was raised, thank you to all for supporting this day and for kitting your children out in such amazing costumes.

Also a huge thank you to you all for helping us to support Mr Robinson in his undertaking of the Memory Walk for the Alzheimer's Society. We raised a huge £554.65 and I know Mr Robinson was extremely grateful for the generosity of our Spalding Parish family. Thank you all.

Choir and Clubs

You will have no doubt seen throughout the term numerous letters about extra-curricular activities taking place at Spalding Parish. There is now a wide range of activities offered, both at lunchtime and after school, with a large number of pupils accessing at least one of these clubs, with more to come over the future months. I would like to thank all the staff involved in these activities for their commitment to both school life and pupils, as without them such a range of activities to suit all pupils' interests would not be possible.

If you do have children in Year 3 and above who are interested in joining the School Choir, there are still places available. Choir takes place after school on a Tuesday until 4pm and the School Choir are booked for a number of performances over the year. For further information, please speak to Claire Hearth or a member of the Choir team.

Curriculum and Visits

A number of activities and visits have already taken place this year as part of our exciting and engaging curriculum. This term Year 3 pupils have travelled back to prehistoric times for their Stone Age Day whilst the Year 5 pupils have taken a very different journey, exploring the stars and constellations in our skies. Our Foundation Stage pupils have also had the opportunity to look at and hold a range of animals including a snake and spider as part of their Reptile Workshop.

Visits undertaken so far include Year 5 and 6 pupils participating in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) event in Peterborough which they thoroughly enjoyed. More exciting visits and activities are planned for the term ahead including a cinema visit, a trip to London and a trip to Flag Fen.

FS2 September 2020 Intake Open Morning

Thank you to all parents, carers and families who joined us for the first of two FS2 Open Mornings for the September 2020 intake – it was certainly a busy morning. If you have a child due to start school in September 2020 please come along to our final Open Morning on Thursday 21st November between 9.30am and 11.30am to see school in action, see what we can offer your child and meet key members of staff. I look forward to seeing you then.

If you do have any questions about 2020 admissions please email a member of the school team on admissions@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk. The online application system on the Lincolnshire website opens on 14th November 2019 and can be accessed using the following link <https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/parentportal/>

Harvest

On Friday 18th October we held our Harvest Festival celebrations and again many of you were able to join us as we held our annual service in Church. We also wish to thank you for all your donations towards the local Agape Food Bank. The donations will be taken across to the foodbank next week for distribution to those in need.

If you have not yet made a donation and would like to, the Food Bank are most grateful for donations of dried and tinned goods – and also long life milk, squash and pasta sauces. Donations will be accepted here at school until Friday 1st November.

Hot Lunches

Our new menu for Term 2 is now available – all the usual favourites, plus some new exciting dishes for children to try and enjoy. Please remember to book meals by midnight on a Sunday night for the following week using the following link <https://www.wisepay.co.uk/store/generic/template.asp?mID=156735&ACT=nav>

Illness

Should your child be unwell and they have sickness and diarrhoea, as we are dealing with lots of children all confined in classrooms together, do not send them back to school until 48 hours after their last bout. Supporting us with this will stop the spreading of these conditions. Thank you.

Parent Consultations

With our first round of Parent Consultations approaching during the week beginning November 25th. Further details with regards to dates and times of the two sessions will be sent out in the very near future to allow you to book your appointment times. I look forward to welcoming you all into school over the course of the week to hear all about your child's learning and their subsequent achievements so far this term.

PE Kit

As we head into Term 2 there has been a noticeable change in the weather including a drop in temperatures. However, as long as the weather is dry, the children will still participate in outdoor PE sessions on a weekly basis. As such if you could please ensure that your child has the correct kit in school, including a tracksuit or jogging bottoms and jumper for outdoor PE sessions, this would be appreciated. This will ensure that your child is able to undertake all aspects of the curriculum successfully.

Pupil Information and Consent Forms

A huge thank you to all parents/carers who have returned the many different forms that we have recently sent home for you to complete and return. This will mean that your children can take part in the various activities that consent is needed for including food tasting, educational walks in the community etc. Unfortunately without written consent, children cannot take part. If you have yet to return your forms please do so as soon as possible.

Please can we also remind you that if you do change your address or telephone number, or if any of the emergency contacts for your child change their contact numbers, to please remember to let the school know the new details. Should we have an emergency or your child becomes unwell, we need to be able to contact someone for your child. I cannot express how important it is that we have up-to-date numbers on our school records. Thank you for your support with this.

Secondary School Transition

All Year 6 children should now have received a letter regarding their transfer to secondary schools. These letters are essential for the transfer process and gaining a place at Secondary School. Please ask your child if it has not made it home or speak to a member of the school office team if you do have any questions. Applications for secondary school do need to be made by 31st October 2019 and can be made by accessing the following link <https://lcc.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/parentportal/>

Social Media

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about appropriate use of social media, specifically in relation to our pupils. Whilst we all acknowledge social media can be an excellent way of communicating with family and friends there is very clear guidance with regards to age restrictions for the use of such sites with many including Facebook and Instagram (where the age restriction is 13 years and above). These restrictions are in place for a reason as this is then deemed to be an age where such sites can be used appropriately.

In recent weeks there have been an increasing number of incidents where there has been unkindness between pupils but, upon investigation, this has happened as a result of communication on forms of social media, with parents unaware of the fact that there child was even on any social media sites.

With the increase in numbers of children having mobile phones and other mobile devices, I appreciate this is much harder to monitor. However with the safety and happiness of our pupils our priority we would ask that you do have the conversation with your child about social media.

Later this month we will be taking part in anti-bullying week where the theme this year is 'Change Starts with Us' with the focus being on small changes resulting in big differences. Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life well in to adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, we can challenge bullying. Change starts with a conversation. It starts with checking in. It starts with work together.

Start of Day Routines

FS2/KS1 - classroom doors are opened at 8:40am, with the day starting at 8:50am.

KS2 - classroom doors are opened at 8:35am, with the day starting at 8:45am.

To ensure a suitably calm and settled start to the school day it is essential that children arrive on time. I hope you see the value in being on time with this being a very important life skill to develop at such an early age. Children will certainly need to be on time when they enter the working world and if we can establish this routine now it can only help. With this in mind we will also ensure that children are out on time at the end of the school day to support you. I do appreciate how difficult this can be particularly if you are trying to collect more than one child.

I would also ask that, unless you have given us signed consent for your child to walk to school alone, that you supervise your child on the playground until the doors are open. This will also ensure that you know they are safely in school.

Supporting Reading

I hope your child is continuing to enjoy their reading and completing their 'Reading Rambles'. Remember to take your child's Reading Ramble if you go to the Library or to Bookmark in town. Listening to your child read is so very important, just 5/10 minutes a day can have a huge impact on their learning. Your child seeing you read is also very encouraging for them and fosters a love and enjoyment of reading.

Uniform

Please check the school website for full details about the agreed uniform and ensure your child is dressed correctly. Children should be appropriately dressed for their day's learning; shirts and t-shirts should be tucked in during school hours. A fleece is classed as a coat and shouldn't be worn in class therefore your child should be provided with either a purple school jumper or cardigan, again thank you in anticipation of your support.

Volunteering in School

Should you be at a loose end and find yourself wanting something to do we would be more than happy to hear from you. Any support is very much appreciated. Please speak to your child's Class Teacher or to Alison Ladbrook (Year 6 HLTA) who will be more than happy to discuss this with you.

And finally,

Thank you very much for all your support during my first few weeks in the substantive role of Head Teacher and for the many kind words and wishes I have received from the parent/carer body, it is very much appreciated. Term 1 has certainly been a busy and enjoyable term and I'm looking forward to the year ahead.

Yours sincerely



Diane Mulley
Head Teacher

Diary Dates

Term 2

School Opens
Anti-Bullying Week

Parent Consultation Evening
Parent Consultation Evening
Christmas Concerts
Christmas Jumper Day
Christmas Lunch
Christmas Fair
Christmas Parties
KS2 Carol Concert
School Service (AM)
School Closes

Tuesday 29th October
Monday 11th-Friday 15th November

'Change Starts with Us'

Tuesday 26th November (4.00-7.30)
Thursday 28th November (3.30-6.00)
Monday 9th – Thursday 12th December
Friday 13th December
Friday 13th December
Friday 13th December
Monday 16th -Thursday 19th December
Monday 16th December (7.00-8.30)
Thursday 19th December
Thursday 19th December

Christmas Break

Christmas Day
Boxing Day
New Year's Day

Wednesday 25th December
Thursday 26th December
Wednesday 1st January

Term 3

School Opens
National Storytelling week
Number Day
Safer Internet Day

School Disco (Y1-Y6)
Church Service (10.30)
School Closes

Monday 6th January
Saturday 1st – Saturday 8th February
Friday 7th February
Tuesday 11th February

'Together for a better internet'

Wednesday 12th February
Thursday 13th February
Thursday 13th February

Term Break

Term 4

School Opens
World Book Day
Class Photographs
Parent Consultation Evening
Parent Consultation Evening
Church Service (10.30)
School Closes

Monday 24th February
Thursday 5th March
TBC
Tuesday 24th March (4.00-7.30)
Thursday 26th March (3.30-6.00)
Thursday 2nd April
Thursday 2nd April

Good Friday
Easter Monday

Easter Break

Friday 10th April
Monday 13th April

Term 5

School Opens
School Closes
May Bank Holiday
School Opens
KS2 SATs
KSI SATs
Church Service (10.30)
School Closes

Monday 20th April
Thursday 7th May
Friday 8th May
Monday 11th May
w/b Monday 11th May
w/b Monday 11th May/18th May
Friday 22nd May
Friday 22nd May

May Bank Holiday

Term Break

Monday 25th May

Term 6

School Opens
Phonics Screening
FS2 New Entrants (7.00)
National Sports Week
Sports Day KSI am/FS2 pm
Sports Day LKS2 am/UKS2 pm
School Disco (FS2-Y5)
Transition Day
Open Evening
Y6 Leavers Assembly (2.00)
Church Service (10.30)
School Closes

Monday 1st June
w/b Monday 8th June
Wednesday 10th June
w/b Monday 22nd June (TBC)
Tuesday 23rd June
Thursday 25th June
Wednesday 1st July
Friday 3rd July
Thursday 9th July (4.00-6.00)
Thursday 16th July
Tuesday 21st July
Tuesday 21st July

Summer Break