



'Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Luke 14:28-30

24th February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of Term 3 Newsletter

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the academic year. As I reflect on the year so far, I realise what a busy and exciting time we have had, with even more exciting times ahead. As a school and a community, our drive to foster and develop the home-school partnership continues. Only by working together can we all ensure the children fulfil their potential. I am always happy to discuss areas of concern personally, as are members of the Senior Leadership Team, with appointments available each day with myself or one of the team. Your feedback is essential to developing our working partnership and your child's Class Teacher will always make a mutually convenient time to discuss concerns before they seem to be too big. We would prefer to hear your concerns sooner rather than later, this allows us the time to monitor your concerns and put things in place to support – remember we are not mind readers, if we are not told by the children or by you, we may not know there is a concern and therefore cannot do anything about it.

On a positive note, as part of this partnership, it has been fantastic to see so many parents/carers in school involved in school events, including attendance at celebration assemblies, our regular reading mornings and our LAAT Welcome Service, to name just a few. Year group workshops are planned in the near future including one for our Year 6 parents and carers sharing information on the statutory assessments that the vast majority of Year 6 pupils will be involved in later this year. We will also be delivering our second Parent Consultation meetings of the year shortly after Term Break. We look forward to welcoming you into school and sharing your child's successes and achievements. Further events are planned for the coming terms and will be shared with parents through Wisepay, Twitter and on the school website. If you don't yet follow us on Twitter please start. All Year Groups have Twitter accounts which can be found using @Y1SPCEDS (Year 1), @Y2SPCEDS (Year 2), @Y3SPCEDS (Year 3), @Y4SPCEDS (Year 4), @Y5SPCEDS (Year 5) and @Y6SPCEDS (Year 6) alongside the main Twitter account which can be found using @SPCEDS.



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E-Safety

Earlier this week the whole school participated in Internet Safety Day. With electronics always a popular Christmas gift, it is important to remind the children about how to keep themselves safe online. The 2020 theme, "Together for a better internet" is a call to action for every stakeholder to play their part in creating a better internet for everyone, in particular the youngest users out there. More than that, it is an invitation for everyone to join in and engage with others in a respectful way in order to ensure a better digital experience.

We will be continuing work on Internet Safety next term and should you require any advice/guidance in this area, do not hesitate to speak to Katey Robinson, UKS2 Leader and our E-Safety Lead. We are always more than happy to host an E-Safety event for parents/carers if there is any interest – it can easily be added to our list of parent/carer workshops. Please speak to your child's Class Teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team if you are interested.

Fund Raising

Thank you all very much for your continued generosity in supporting our fundraising events so far this year. With your help we really are making a difference to others

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
Hebrews 13:16.

Our most recent charity event was the NSPCC Number Day which was held Friday 7th February. It was fantastic to see all the children participating in the event with numbers, numbers everywhere. There were a whole range of different activities focused on numbers, raising money for a very worthwhile cause. A huge thank you to all involved.

Local Council

As you will no doubt be aware Spalding Parish Church of England Day School has recently joined the Lincoln Anglican Academies Trust (LAAT). Indeed, the Welcome Service, a service of thanksgiving, dedication and commitment was to mark the occasion of SPCEDS joining the LAAT family of schools, thank you to all of those who joined us for this special event.

Whilst the vast majority of systems and structures will remain the same, one of the elements of school that has changed is the move from a Governing Board to a Local Council. The responsibilities of the Local Council are to take the lead in the ethos and values of the school, become local champions for the school within the local community and monitor aspects of the school particularly in relation to vision and values. They also contribute to the appointing of staff and review policies including the Admissions and Behaviour policies.

The Local Council is made up of myself alongside parents and members of the local community. Members are appointed both by the school and the LAAT. Our first meeting was held last week and with 6 members currently we are now hoping to add to this. If there are any parents who are interested in being more involved and would be interested or who would like more information please get in touch via the school office. Thank you!



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Parental Concerns

It has come to my attention, through conversations with both parents and staff, that we have had a number of incidences just recently where parents have raised concerns with staff and parents. Whilst raising a concern with your child's Class Teacher, or the office, is exactly the right thing to do in the first instance, I would ask that if you feel the query or concern is not resolved at this point then you make an appointment to speak to myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Similarly, if you, as a parent, ask for support with an issue, please allow us time to deal with any issues raised. It is not appropriate for parents to be using abusive language towards or repeatedly challenging members of staff or other parents and this will not be tolerated within the school community.

We do operate an open door policy and as such I would ask, in the same way that we teach the pupils, that you come in and speak to one of us at your earliest convenience rather than worrying about a concern or trying to deal with it yourself. Only by working together can we ensure a safe, positive and happy environment for all our pupils. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Parking and Road Safety

Unfortunately, we continue to have concerns raised around parking and road safety. As a school the safety of our pupils and their families is of utmost importance with ongoing issues a real concern. Whilst I acknowledge that it is very busy at the beginning and the end of the school day around the school site I would ask that you continue to be considerate when dropping off and collecting your children and park only in places where it is safe to do so. Please do not park over driveways, across dropped kerbs or on corners as this can then impact on the safety of our school community, particularly when trying to cross the road.

With regards to travelling around the school site please remember when you approach the school to:

- ✓ Slow down when you see the crossing patrol warning sign or flashing lights and be prepared to stop;
- ✓ Stop when the school crossing patrol warden is displaying the stop sign;
- ✓ Be patient and do not move forward;
- ✓ Do not park where the school crossing patrol warden works, on zig-zag lines or other areas with parking restrictions in the vicinity of the school.

It is an offence to fail to stop when a school crossing patrol warden displays the stop sign. Failing to stop puts vulnerable road users at risk and wardens are instructed to report any driver who fails to stop to the Police. This could result in prosecution and also applies to parking inappropriately.

I hope you will support me in ensuring the continued safety of our pupils and families, particularly in relation to road safety. I do appreciate it may mean parking a little further away and walking a few metres further or waiting a few moments at the crossing patrol and your journey taking a few minutes more but it will ensure the safety of our whole school community as the last thing anyone would want is an accident or injury.

We will be holding a Road Safety Day in school on Tuesday 24th March to further educate the pupils in how to keep themselves safe when moving around the community beyond the school site. Please talk to your children before and after the day as we continue to work together on this very important issue. Thank you in anticipation of your support.



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PTA

A Parent Teacher Association is a group of parent and staff volunteers focussed on raising money to provide extras for the pupils and to enrich their time and experiences at the school by organising events and activities throughout the school year. This could be Christmas and Summer Fairs or smaller regular events like school discos and movie nights. Such events also provide a link between school, community and home life, giving staff, children and their families' opportunities to have fun together.

Every parent and carer with a child at the school is invited to be an active member of the PTA, as are staff members. In recent years we have not had a PTA at Spalding Parish, however it is something that we are now looking to reintroduce, interest pending. If this is something that would interest you, please contact Jane Williams at the school or via enquiries@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk.

Pupil Premium

Recently I have had a number of conversations with parents regarding Pupil Premium and support for pupils. Pupil Premium funding is allocated to schools in respect of children from low-income families who are currently known to be eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months and children from service families. This applies to both mainstream and non-mainstream settings. Since 2012-2013 this has also included pupils eligible for FSM at any point in the last six years (known as the Ever 6 FSM Measure).

Schools are free to spend the Pupil Premium as they see fit to 'close the gap' between children from disadvantaged circumstances and those above the low-income threshold – it is not linked to a specific child but is to be used for overall impact. However, as a school we are held accountable for how we have used the additional funding to support pupils given the primary focus of closing the achievement gap.

At SPCEDS Pupil Premium is primarily used to fund quality interventions focussed on a variety of areas across a range of situations. Whilst it can also be used to support funding for trips this is by no means the primary focus with only a proportion of the money received budgeted for this purpose each academic year. As such each case is considered on a case by case basis and so I would ask, if you would like to request Pupil Premium funding support for such an event, you contact the school office to make an appointment with Rachael Skidmore or myself so the need can be discussed in more detail and an informed decision be made. This will need to be prior to the planned event. Rachael and I both have time each week to meet with parents when such appointments can take place.

School Uniform

If I could please remind parents and carers that pupils do need to be wearing the correct uniform at all times. Whilst I do appreciate that our children are still growing and this could have an impact on uniform with no limited opportunities to replace until a holiday or term break, we are still only halfway through the school year and as such uniform does need to meet the school guidelines. Should you have any problems with ensuring your child wears the correct uniform please speak to your child's Class Teacher, Phase Leader or a member of the SLT.



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The uniform is as follows:-

Boys and Girls School Uniform Purple Sweatshirt or Cardigan
Purple or White Polo Shirt/Shirt/Blouse
Grey Trousers, Dress or Skirt
Gingham Summer Dress – Red, Purple or Yellow
Plain Grey, Black, or White Socks or Tights
Flat Black Shoes

Please no trainers, heels, or nail varnish as these are not part of the agreed uniform.

Smoking

As you will no doubt be aware the Spalding Parish Church of England Day School site is a no smoking zone in line with government legislation introduced in July 2007. Recently I have had a number of concerns raised about the number of parents/carers smoking at the entrances/exits to the school site.

Research has shown that there is an impact of passive smoking, especially for children. As adults we are able to make the decision as to whether we choose to smoke or not, however with secondhand smoke, people do not get this choice. Whilst I wholly appreciate the areas mentioned are public areas, if I could please ask you to be considerate of our families and specifically our pupils when accessing and exiting the site, even if it just means moving a few metres away from the school gates. Thank you in anticipation.

SPCEDS Choir

Our School Choir has continued to be very busy during Term 3 following on from their numerous successful Christmas Performances. Each week they continue to wow the school in Collective Worship and the choir is going from strength to strength.

With the choir now a key feature within our school community, we have recently welcomed additional children from Year 2. Year 2 children are now able to attend the Tuesday evening choir rehearsals and sing during School Collective Worships initially with Church Services and other events in the future. Thank you to all of the Year 2 pupils who have got involved.

Sporting Events

Our children have continued to represent the school over the past few weeks, with teams participating in Hockey, Netball and Football events. Thank you to all who have taken part. Thank you to the children who represented themselves and school very well and to parents for their continued support. A big thank you to the staff for their time in both coaching and attending the event.

Start and End of Day Routines

A huge thank you to all of our parent body for ensuring their children are in school on time and ready to learn following my plea in our recent newsletter. If I could just ask that, at both the start and end of day, you supervise your children before dropping off and after collecting. Whilst there are staff around at these times, they do have a class responsibility. Your support with this would be very much appreciated. Thank you.



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If I could also ask that you are prompt to collect children at the end of the day or that the adults collecting are. This academic year we have tried hard to offer a wide range of extra curricular activities, most of which are led by school staff. If children are not collected on time, this can have a detrimental impact on the extra-curricular sessions that we offer. If you do know you are not able to collect on time – 3.10pm for FS2 and Key Stage 1 and 3.20pm for Key Stage 2 – please contact Parish Pioneers on 07504520256 to book a space for your child.

Wisepay

Wisepay continues to be used for all our communications to you and for all school payments. Whilst we did have a slight problem during our recent academisation I can confirm that the system is now fully operational again and should be used for all payments to school please. As parents/carers you should all have received your own log in code and password to enable you to register onto Wisepay so that you can receive any letters and so that you can make any payments. Please contact Alex Stoker at alex.stoker@spaldingparish.lincs.sch.uk if you have not received your login.

NOTE: all hot lunches must now be ordered through Wisepay. Lunches MUST be ordered by 11.59pm on the Sunday evening for the week ahead. We will not be able to order lunches after the cut-off time for that week.

And finally, let's pause for thought...

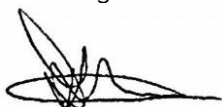
Having recently celebrated the start of 2020 and all that a New Year brings, including making resolutions for the year ahead I came across a thought from the President of China, Mr Xi Jinping.

President Xi has been touring China talking with students and during the tour one of the things he said is that life is like a shirt with buttons where you have to get the first few right or all the rest will be wrong. This is a clever idea and one we should consider.

We will shortly begin Term 4, halfway through our school year. Like buttoning a shirt, where if the first few buttons are right, the rest will also be correct, we could apply this to the learning and achievements we want for our children during next term. As adults we will be thinking about what we want them to learn and achieve, in the hope that if we get this right, they will all achieve and succeed. If we shared this with our children, I wonder what their aims would be for the term ahead – I'd love to find out!

Have a restful Term Break whatever you are doing. Enjoy time with your families and make the most of the break. The staff and I look forward to welcoming you all back into school on Monday 24th February.

Kind Regards,



Diane Mulley
Head Teacher



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