

The Parish Post

10th February 2023

Welcome to the next edition for this academic year of the 'The Parish Post', another bumper issue.

The focus will be to share aspects of the children's learning journeys each week across the different Phases and Year Groups. This may be subject specific or across the curriculum. We will also celebrate 'proud moments' across school alongside sharing general updates with parents/carers - #proudtobeParish.

We are keen to receive any feedback regarding your thoughts and also with regards to the content you would like to see included each week. Please get in touch at <u>feedback@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk</u>.

Wholly inclusive, striving for fulfilment, empowering the flourishing of our world.

In this week's Parish Post



- Diary Dates
- Read all about it...
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- Online Safety Update
- Community Corner
- Weekly Awards
- Phase Learning Journeys
- And Finally...

Diary Dates



Term 3

WB 20th February

Monday 20th February

Start of Term 4

Whole School Collective Worship

Year 5 Swimming

Tuesday 21st February

Deadline for ordering hot lunches for WB Monday 27th February

Wednesday 22nd February

Whole School Collective Worship

Thursday 23rd February

Friday 24th February

Y6EW Class Presentation

WB 27th February

Monday 27th February

Whole School Collective Worship

Year 5 Swimming

Tuesday 28th February

Deadline for ordering hot lunches for WB Monday 6th March

Wednesday 1st March

Whole School Collective Worship

Year 5 National Space Centre Trip

Thursday 2nd March

Year 1 Theatre Visit

World Book Day

Friday 3rd March

Y3EP Class Presentation

WB 6th March

Monday 6th March

Whole School Collective Worship

Year 5 Swimming

Tuesday 7th March

Deadline for ordering hot lunches for WB Monday 13th March

Year 3/4 Tri-Golf Event

Wednesday 8th March

Whole School Collective Worship

Singsation at Spalding Academy (Year 5 and 6)

Thursday 9th March

Y2DO Class Presentation

Friday 10th March

Y5RW Class Presentation

WB 13th March

Monday 13th March

Whole School Collective Worship

Year 5 Swimming

Tuesday 14th March

Deadline for ordering hot lunches for WB Monday 20th March

Year 5/6 Tri-Golf Event

Wednesday 15th March

Whole School Collective Worship

Thursday 16th March

Y1PB Class Presentation

Friday 17th March

Y3SH Class Presentation

Read all about it...



Term 3 Review

And just like that another term concludes and we find ourselves halfway through the academic year already. It has been another very busy term as we continue to move towards normality in all aspects of school life. One of the real highlights of Term 3 has been the reintroduction of our Class Presentations on a Thursday morning for EYFS and Key Stage 1 pupils and on a Friday morning for Key Stage 2 pupils. It has been fantastic to be able to welcome parents and carers back into school as part of this programme of events and we know, from the feedback we have received from some of you, that you also appreciate the reintroduction of these.

It has also been fantastic to continue to develop our extra-curricular offer both in terms of visits and visitors, lunchtime and after school activities and also sports events. We know from numbers that the clubs have been extremely popular this term and also how much pupils have also enjoyed being part of sporting events. The behaviour at such events is always really very positive with many comments regarding this made to staff. More events are planned in the coming weeks and we know this will further enhance the current offer in place.

Illnesses and Absences

As you will see later in the newsletter, we continue to see an increase in the numbers of pupils absent from school mainly due to illness. However, with a day or two rest and with the help of medicines such as paracetamol, most children are able to return to school fairly quickly to continue their learning.

Thank you to all of you who have only kept your children off school for the necessary time and not extended their absence any longer than needed. Being back with friends and back to usual routines often helps children get back to normal.

If your child has been prescribed medicine such as antibiotics, it doesn't mean they have to stay absent from school until the medicine is finished. Once your child starts to feel better, send them into school and, as long as you complete the necessary form at the office, we will be able to administer the medicine for you at the time your child needs to take it.

As well as thanking you for your support in making sure your child attends school when fit and well, we recognise that children can suffer from minor ailments such as a headache or a slight cold and yet are still fully able to attend school. We do realise that any child can suddenly fall ill and be unable to attend school but we would recommend that, if you are not sure if they are well enough to attend, bring them in to see how they get on; we will certainly call you should they need to go home.

Absence from school has a serious impact on children's attainment and progress as they miss vital chunks of essential teaching and learning in a carefully planned curriculum. Having seen lots of children missing from school over the last couple of weeks, we really hope that the recent illnesses soon disappear so that the children's learning isn't affected any further.

School Support

Just an update regarding the support Emily Hill and I are offering to a local Church school. From a school perspective I would just like to reassure parents/carers that daily life at Spalding Parish and for your child will not be affected. Our strong leadership team, supported by our effective staff team will continue to drive our school forward, clearly focused on our school vision and ethos of ensuring all are able to flourish.

As educators, Emily and I are committed to ensuring all have the opportunity to reach their potential. This is the case within both our school community and across the Trust. As such we are extremely positive about this opportunity to support another local school, whilst also recognising the benefits this may offer our school community. We will both continue to be in school for a significant period each week and look forward to working with you as always.

The current plan is that the days will vary week to week to ensure that we are at Spalding Parish for key times and events whilst also being able to offer the same support for the other school. I will endeavour to confirm this with you on a regular basis via the Parish Post but obviously this may be subject to change, depending on what is happening in school.

Week beginning 20th February: EH out Monday 20th, DM out at Ancaster Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd February

Week beginning 27th February: EH out Monday 27th, DM out at Ancaster Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February

Thank you for your continued support.



Head Lice

We are seeing an increase in the number of cases of head lice in school and therefore would just ask the following during the term break.

- Please check your child's hair asap and treat if lice are found.
- Conditioner and combing is the most effective methods. Please ensure you use a proper detection comb with teeth no more than 0.3mm apart as this works best to trap head lice. The comb is usually white in colour so that lice can be easily identified.
- Please also ensure that long hair is tied up.
- Further advice on the treatment of head lice can be found on NHS website <u>Head lice and</u> <u>nits - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</u>

There will be a further letter detailing further advice coming home to all parents/carers today but if you do have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you in anticipation.

Parking

Please remember to park courteously for the safety of all our community whilst respecting our neighbours. Please park legally allowing the safe use of the road and pavements for all. Do not park on the public footpath as it makes it dangerous with the numbers of people using them.

If you are just dropping your child off, please park up and ensure their safe exit from the vehicle on to the pavement so they can then walk safely into school. The closer to school you get the more congested it is so if you are able to park further away, or even walk all the way to and from school, this would be appreciated.



Attendance Update

A huge thank you must go to parents and carers and also the pupils themselves for your efforts re school attendance this term and for also ensuring children are in school on time. It is an area that remains high priority at Spalding Parish and one that we continue to work on given the direct link between good attendance and high achievement.

Recently released Government guidance classifies attendance using five categories: Good Attendance, At Risk of Persistent Absence, Persistent Absence, At Risk of Severe Absence, Severe Absence with percentage bands for each as follows.

Good Attendance: >95.00% At Risk of Persistent Absence: 90.00% - 94.99% Persistent Absence: 70.00% - 89.99% At Risk of Severe Absence: 50.00% - 69.99% Severe Absence: <50.00%

During the week beginning 30th January attendance at Spalding Parish was as follows in terms of pupil numbers and percentages with an overall percentage of 92.6% for the week.

Good Attendance: 441 pupils (out of 556), 79.3% pupils

At Risk of Persistent Absence: 20 pupils (out of 556), 3.6% pupils

Persistent Absence: 45 pupils (out of 556), 8.1% of pupils
At Risk of Severe Absence: 18 pupils (out of 556), 3.2% pupils
Severe Absence: 32 pupils (out of 556), 5.8% pupils

During the week beginning 6th February attendance at Spalding Parish was as follows in terms of pupil numbers and percentages with an overall percentage of 94.1% for the week.

Good Attendance: 493 pupils (out of 556), 88.7% pupils

At Risk of Persistent Absence: 0 pupils (out of 556), 0.0% pupils

Persistent Absence: 24 pupils (out of 556), 4.3% of pupils

At Risk of Severe Absence: 15 pupils (out of 556), 2.7% pupils

Severe Absence: 24 pupils (out of 556), 4.3% pupils

This means that the attendance of 17% of pupils during the week beginning 30th January and 11% of pupils during the week beginning 6th February was considered to be a concern. Whilst we appreciate that children cannot help being ill and neither would we want them in school ill, attendance at school is high priority and as such we need to be doing all we can to ensure pupils are attending school as much as possible. A table showing the potential impact of absence from school is below.

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 as such I would ask for your support in communicating with us in a positive way. We aim to work closely with parents and carers to support with improving attendance where this is causing concern and potentially impacting achievement. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.



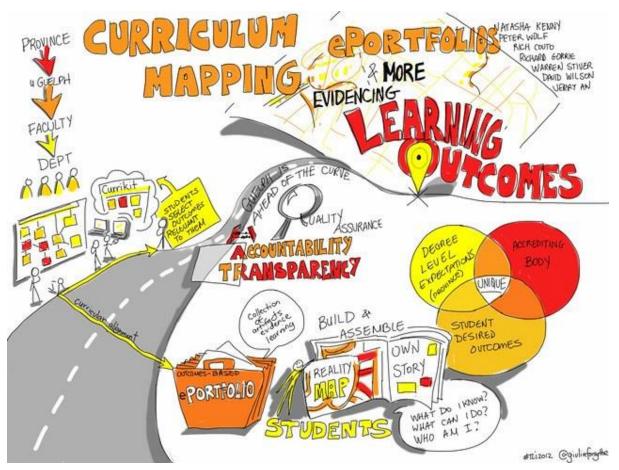
Please remember if your child is unwell and unable to attend school, you should inform school by 9.30am that day in line with our school procedures. Please contact school on each day of absence unless otherwise agreed.

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.

We are also seeing an increase in leave of absence requests. Current Government regulations 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, for any reason, 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. Should the absence be unauthorised this may lead to a Fixed Penalty Notice being issued. This may also be the case with regards to the increasing absences that we are seeing at the beginning and end of terms.



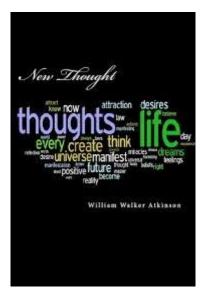
Curriculum Corner

Another very exciting couple of weeks at Spalding Parish however the highlight of the last fortnight has to most definitely be the launch of our 'World of Work' initiative that we launched on 6th February. Over the course of the morning Key stage 2 pupils worked in mixed age groups to undertake a range of activities including attending our careers fair, speaking to an industry expert and completing the first stage of their apprenticeship. Further activities are now planned over the course of the year building on our launch event today.

Thank you also to the individuals and companies that supported our 'World of Work' event today the event itself would simply not have been possible without your input. This included representatives from a whole range of organisations and occupations including retail, technology, healthcare, plumbing, horticulture, food production, journalism, education, finance, health and safety and we look forward to working with you again in the future.



Let's Pause for Thought...



Let's Pause for Thought...

Our school curriculum focuses on how we can all make a difference and our World of Work initiative has also looked at the impact different careers can have on the local community and beyond.

One person can make a difference and everyone should try - John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Do you consider how you can make a difference to others both today and in the future?



General Updates



COVID-19 Guidance

The current COVID guidance remains very much the same at this point in time. If you do have any questions around this please do not hesitate to get in touch.

From 1st April 2022 the guidance around COVID and testing has been amended, as was previously outlined on the COVID road map and our transition into 'Living with COVID'.

Covid is now specifically referenced in the guidance around the control of infectious diseases and there is no separate COVID guidance. Section 3 is related to management of infectious diseases, COVID being detailed within the section about Respiratory Infections. Section 4 of this guidance references actions to be taken should there be an 'outbreak'. For ease, the link to the document is below with the guidance being as follows.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-otherchildcare facilities/chapter-3-public-health-management-of-specific-infectious-diseases

Essentially – COVID will be treated as we would any other infectious illness. Staff and children will be encouraged to stay at home if they are unwell. Where there is a positive COVID test, the timescales as below are advised:

• 5 days for staff and 3 days for pupils.

Further to the above, children/staff with a temperature, should not return to school/work whilst they still have a temperature, but can return with mild cold symptoms and if they are otherwise well enough to be at school/work.

Start and End of Day Routines - Reminder

Thank you for your support in ensuring pupils are at school on time, it is very much appreciated and does ensure pupils are ready for the start of the day. There does seem to have been some confusion around timings for the beginning and end of day which are as follows:

FS2: Start of Day 8.50am (doors open from 8.40am)	End of Day 3.10pm
KS1 (Year 1 - 2): Start of Day 8.50am (doors open from 8.40am)	End of Day 3.10pm
KS2 (Year 3 - 6): Start of Day 8.45am (doors open from 8.35am)	End of Day 3.20pm

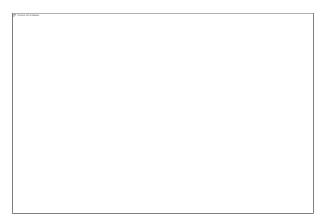
In a morning the gates will open at 8.30am on a morning to allow time to get onto site ready for doors opening at 8.35am (KS2) and close at 8.55am.

Similarly, on an afternoon, the gates at the end of the day will open at 3.05pm ready for end of day at 3.10pm (KS1) and close at 3.30pm.

These timings do need to be adhered to at the beginning and end of day to ensure our safeguarding requirements are met so we would appreciate your support with this. If you do have any concerns, please speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

When on the site please be courteous and stand away from the classroom windows and doors as pupils will still be learning until the end of the school day.

If we could also please ask that school equipment, including the gym equipment on the playgrounds, is not used at the beginning or end of the day. We appreciate that this is very tempting but use needs to be supervised by school adults so if you could please ensure your children do not use. This will ensure that pupils and families are able to stay safe.

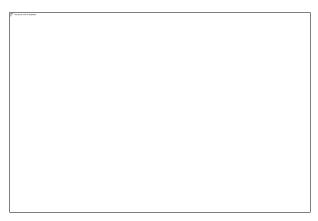


Safeguarding

Safeguarding is an important part of our work with children and young adults so we will keep this reminder in each edition of the Parish Post. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us.

If you have concerns about the safety of any child, please let somebody know.

Diane Mulley and Emily Hill are the designated safeguarding officers within the school. Similarly if you do require any support, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Academy Committee Update (previously Local Council)



The Academy Committee has been very busy over the course of the last couple of weeks. This week two members of the Academy Committee attended the World of Work launch and they were both very positive about the event and the benefits of this for the pupils. All of the children were thoroughly engaged with the event, asking relevant questions and considering their own aspirations for the future as a result.

We look forward to sharing more about the work of the Academy Committee in the coming weeks. If you would like any further information about the work of the Academy Committee, please do contact the School Office.



Online Safety Update



A regular addition to our weekly Parish Post is the Online Safety Update. Each week we will post some tips and suggestions just to support keeping children safe online. For this we will also share key tips from National Online Safety and their Wake Up Wednesday materials. If you do want any further details with regards to this or would like any further support please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

During Terms 3 and 4, as part of our continuous education about children keeping themselves safe, we will be undertaking further work on e-Safety. You can also access information via our website by clicking on the Learning tab and then clicking on the hyperlink: Staying Safe.

Digital Lives

This week the Wake Up Wednesday guide focusses on Safer Internet Day with tips on simply chatting to your child about their digital life can help them avoid online safety threats.

https://nationalcollege.com/guides/open-discussions-about-digitallives?utm_source=social&utm_campaign=nos-wakeupwednesday Through the Community Corner, we will aim to share different activities/events happening within the local community that may be of interest to pupils and families of Spalding Parish.

If any parents/carers or members of the local community have anything that they would like to share via the Parish Post, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Weekly Awards

Head Teacher Awards

Each week pupils in school are nominated for Head Teacher Awards celebrating their achievements be it academic success, sporting success, fantastic manners, role model behaviour or indeed anything else worthy of note. We look forward to celebrating all of our award winners over the course of the academic year.

FS2: Bonnie and Rayne (FS2AC), Elizabeth (FS2KB)

Year 1: Jaxon and Abigail (Y1CH), Riley and Omotorewa (Y1CCSE), Taliah and Joshua (Y1PB)

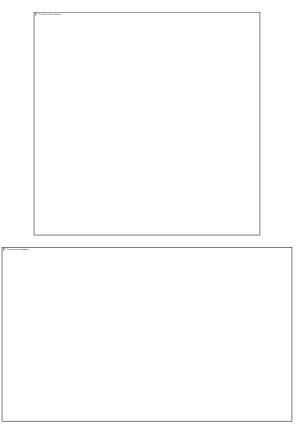
Year 2: Violet (Y2AR), Charlie and Lacie (Y2DO), Blaze and Holly (Y2SD)

Year 3: Alex (Y3SS), Bartek (Y3EP), Izabela (Y3SH)

Year 4: Roberta (Y4IN), Carly May (Y4KR), Stefan (Y4LS)

Year 5: (Y5RW), Tommy (Y5TS)

Year 6: Jack (Y6AS), Harry (Y6EW), Zviko (Y6KB)



Attendance Awards

Attendance and punctuality are attributes that are essential as children grow up and this is the time of their lives when they learn them.

A number of weekly and termly incentives and awards are in place to reward pupils who attend regularly and who are punctual for school at the start of the school day.

Our weekly attendance awards celebrate the class with the highest attendance in each Phase.

30th January - 3rd February

FS2: FS2AC (96.5%) - FS2AC are our best attender in FS2 and across school this week, well done!

KS1: Y2DO (95.7%) – Y2DO are the winners in KS1 this week, fantastic!

LKS2: Y4KR (94.6%) - Highest in LKS2 for Y4KR this week, superb!

UKS2: Y6EW and Y6KB (95.2%) – Joint winners this week in UKS2, brilliant!

School: 92.6% - A slight dip this week compared to last week. Still some work to do to hit the Government target of 97.0%.

6th February - 10th February

FS2: FS2AC (86.8%) - FS2KB are our best attender in FS2 this week.

KS1: Y1PB and Y1CCSE (96.6%) – Y1PB and Y1CCSE are joint winners in KS1 this week, amazing work!

LKS2: Y4LS (99.5%) – Highest in LKS2 again for Y4LS this week and also highest in school, fantastic!

UKS2: Y6KB (97.7%) – Y6KB are the best attenders in UKS2 this week!

School: 94.1% - A slight improvement this week, thank you for your support in improving our attendance. We do need to keep working hard to meet the Government target of 97.0%.

House Points

Each week pupils are awarded house points as a reward, with a weekly winner from our 6 SPCEDS House Teams:

Spiritual Solvers

Positive Promoters

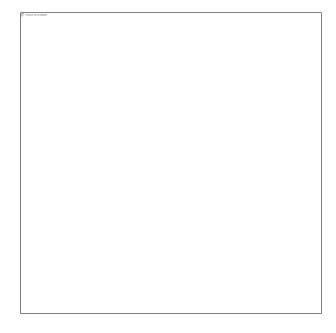
Challenging Challengers

Exciting Experts

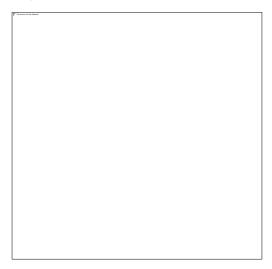
Dynamic Dynamos

Supportive Supporters.

The winners for Week 5 are **Dynamic Dynamos** with **719 points** - well done.

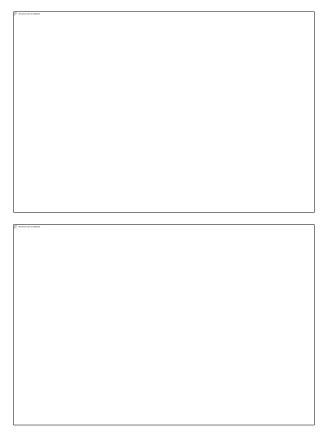


Phase Learning Journeys



Foundation Stage

We have been learning about people who help us and started to create questions that we would ask those people. We decided that we would like to find out more about being a vet, a nurse and a fire fighter. We would also like to become carers and look after the birds who need extra help at this time of year. If you have any books about birds that you would like to share with us after half term, please let us know.





Key Stage 1

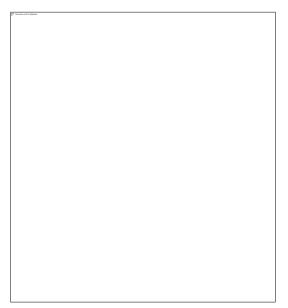
A visit to Year 1 and 2 this week to hear all about their learning over the last fortnight.

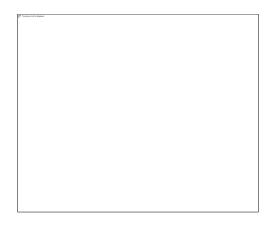
Year 1

Year One have been practising our writing skills by writing a letter from Paddington Bear to his Aunt Lucy back in Darkest Peru. We have had a go at editing our writing, checking we have used capital letters, full stops and finger spaces between our words.

In Art, we have been preparing to paint some landscapes in the style of Claude Monet. We have tried making tints and shades of different colours, and have investigated mixing colours to make a colour wheel.

We have finished our learning on the Great Fire of London by talking about what effect it had on the citizens of London. How life was different and better after the fire. We were amazed that 13,200 houses were destroyed but only 6 people were killed!



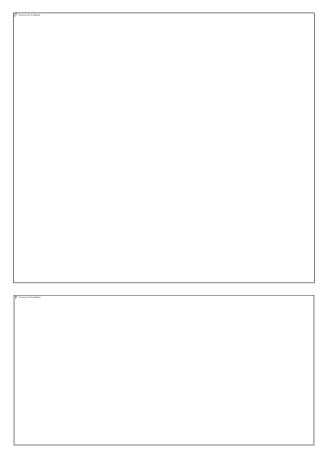


Year 2

In History Year 2 have investigated Spalding in the 1950s and compared it to modern day Spalding. We have looked at the first self-service shops and compared then with a modern day supermarket, looking at how supermarkets have changed or stayed the same over time.

We have also looked at writing a narrative from the wordless picture book 'Journey' and designed our own microhabitats in Science. In Maths we have begun to learn our multiplication times table facts, starting with the 2 times table and would appreciate support with learning these at home.

Logins for a website to practise at home called Times Table Rock Stars will be sent home with the children at the end of this week.





Lower Key Stage 2

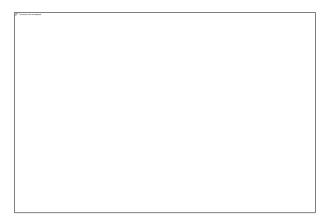
This week in Lower Key Stage 2 our focus is on Year 3 and Year 4 and their learning over the last few weeks.

Year 3

Year 3 have been composing a promotional leaflet for prospective parents. We have planned what to include and this week we visited EYFS to interview the children. Having discussed and decided on the questions beforehand, we gained fascinating insights into life in the first year at the school!

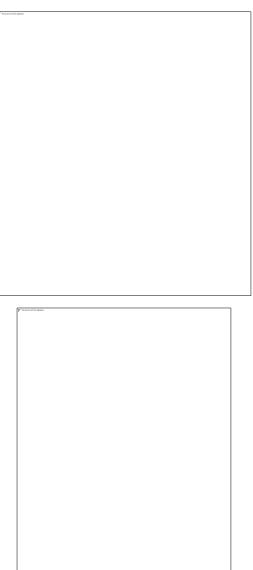
In History we have learned more about the Roman conquest. We were fascinated by life here under the Romans, especially the use of sponges on sticks instead of toilet paper! Did you know that you might have a library at the public baths?

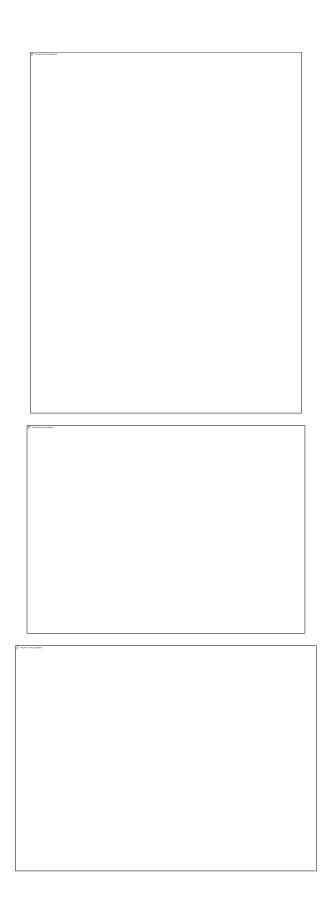
We have made short stop-frame animations of a scene from Roman life in our Computing lessons and filmed them on the ipads. We learned about what makes a good film and how to use the ipad effectively. We made some fun films!

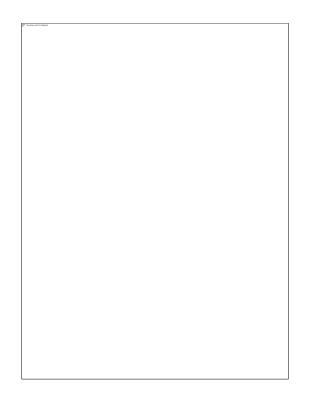


Year 4

Year 4 had an exciting week for Maths! On the 3rd of February we celebrated number day by coming into school wearing a number and doing lots of number-based activities. Year 4 looked at the book 'Sir Cumference and all the King's Tens'. We used the story to complete some number-based activities, we had to work out how many guests were coming to the King's party and how to count them all! After trying to put them in a circle and a line we decided to group them all! As more guests arrived we had to add on to our original method using column edition. We have also especially enjoyed Art, we have been developing our painting skills by looking at different techniques such as layering, sponging, and dotting and mixing our colours. We have then been working hard to produce seascapes!







Upper Key Stage 2

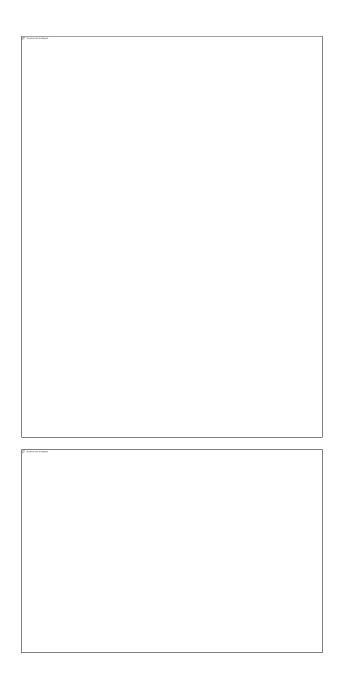
Year 6 and their learning over the last couple of weeks is the focus of the Parish Post this week.

Year 6

Year 6 enjoyed Number Day 2023. They have really been digging deep into fractions, decimals and percentages over the last couple of weeks. Our focus book was Infinity and Me by Kate Hosford: <u>ViewPure</u>

We had a great oracy discussion linked to infinity and when we might have started thinking about it as a concept. We completed a number of activities linked to the book: designing our own infinity symbol (we did see some strong similarities), described through pictures and words what infinity meant to us and explored cutting a line (using our expert fraction knowledge).

In English, we have been exploring motivational speeches and the power of persuasion through our use of language. Using all of our learning about Ernest Shackleton and the Endurance expedition, the children in Year 6 wrote as one of his 26 crew members encouraging the others not to give up and to continue in the face of potential danger. We were amazed by all of their speeches, some which Y6AS shared in their Class Presentation. We have enjoyed editing and improving, then sharing them in our classes too. Well done Year 6!



And Finally...

Please remember if you do have any queries or concerns to come and speak to one of us, either the class teacher on the door or a member of the SLT on the playground each morning and afternoon.

You can also get in touch via email, using <u>feedback@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk</u> or the Year Group emails.

EYFS - FS2@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk

Key Stage 1 - <u>Y1@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk</u> or <u>Y2@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk</u>

Lower Key Stage 2 - <u>Y3@spaldingparish.laat,co.uk</u> or <u>Y4@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk</u>

Upper Key Stage 2 - <u>Y5@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk</u> or <u>Y6@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk</u>