



The Parish Post

27th January 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 feedback@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk.

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

In this week's Parish Post



- **Diary Dates**
- **Read all about it...**
- **Curriculum Corner**
- **Let's Pause for Thought...**
- **General Updates**
- **Local Council Update**
- **Online Safety Update**
- **Community Corner**
- **Weekly Awards**
- **Phase Learning Journeys**
- **And Finally...**

Diary Dates



Term 3

WB 30th January

Monday 30th January

Whole School Collective Worship

Year 5 Swimming

Tuesday 31st January

Deadline for ordering hot lunches for WB Monday 6th February

Year 5/6 Cross Country Festival

Wednesday 1st February

Whole School Collective Worship

Thursday 2nd February

Y2SD Class Presentation

Friday 3rd February

Y6AS Class Presentation

Level 3 Bikeability

NSPCC Number Day

WB 6th February

Monday 6th February

Whole School Collective Worship

Year 5 Swimming

Tuesday 7th February

Year 3/4 Cross Country Festival (rearranged)

Wednesday 8th February

Whole School Collective Worship

Thursday 9th February

Y1CCSE Class Presentation

Friday 10th February

End of Term 3

Whole School Church Service

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

Friday 3rd March

Y3EP Class Presentation

[Read all about it...](#)



Illnesses and Absences

As you will see later in the newsletter, we have unfortunately seen 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 30th January: EH out Monday 30th, DM out at Ancaster Tuesday 31st and Wednesday 1st February

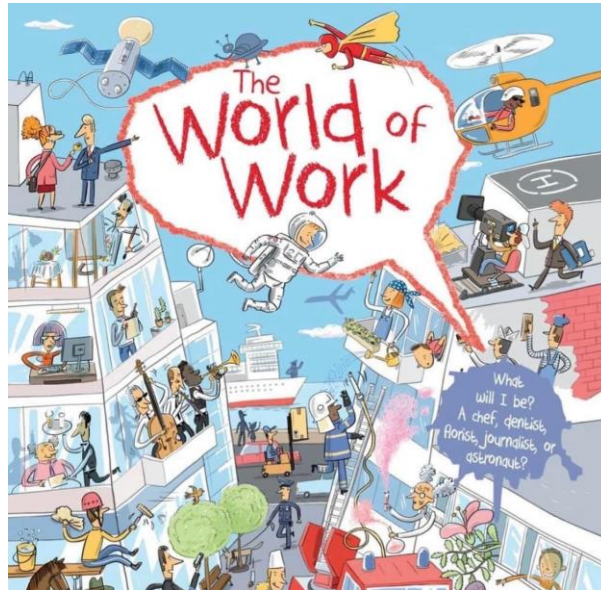
Week beginning 6th February: EH out Monday 6th, DM out at Ancaster Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th February

Thank you for your continued support.



World of Work Initiative

We are set to launch our 'World of Work' Programme on Monday 6th February. We would love to get parents involved. If you would be interested in talking to a group of children about where you work, what you do and what skills you use, please get in touch either via your child's Class Teacher or via the School Office.



Parking

Car 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 16th January attendance at Spalding Parish was as follows in terms of pupil numbers and percentages with an overall percentage of 95.42% for the week.

Good Attendance: 473 pupils (out of 557), 84.9% pupils

At Risk of Persistent Absence: 19 pupils (out of 557), 3.4% pupils

Persistent Absence: 31 pupils (out of 557), 5.6% of pupils

At Risk of Severe Absence: 19 pupils (out of 557), 3.4% pupils

Severe Absence: 15 pupils (out of 557), 2.7% pupils

During the week beginning 23rd January attendance at Spalding Parish was as follows in terms of pupil numbers and percentages with an overall percentage of 93.6% for the week.

Good Attendance: 459 pupils (out of 557), 82.4 pupils

At Risk of Persistent Absence: 10 pupils (out of 557), 1.8% pupils

Persistent Absence: 42 pupils (out of 557), 7.5% of pupils

At Risk of Severe Absence: 24 pupils (out of 557), 4.3% pupils

Severe Absence: 22 pupils (out of 557), 3.9% pupils

This means that the attendance of 15% of pupils during the week beginning 16th January and 17% of pupils during the week beginning 23rd January 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.

ABSENCE = LOST OPPORTUNITY

Did You Know...?

| If Your Child's Attendance During the School Year ... | Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately... | or They Would Have Missed Approximately... |
|---|---|--|
| was 95% | 9 Days from School | 72 Lessons |
| was 90% | 19 Days from School | 152 Lessons |
| was 85% | 28 Days from School | 244 Lessons |
| was 80% | 38 Days from School | 304 Lessons |
| was 75% | 48 Days from School | 384 Lessons |

GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL REALLY MATTERS

Did You Know...?

| In a School Year, If Your Child is Late Every Day by... | Your Child Would Have Lost Approximately... | or They Would Have Missed Approximately... |
|---|---|--|
| 5 Minutes | 3 Days from School | 24 Lessons |
| 10 Minutes | 6 Days from School | 48 Lessons |
| 15 Minutes | 9 Days from School | 72 Lessons |
| 20 Minutes | 12 Days from School | 96 Lessons |
| 30 Minutes | 18 Days from School | 144 Lessons |

PLEASE ENCOURAGE PUNCTUALITY TO MAINTAIN ATTENDANCE

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.

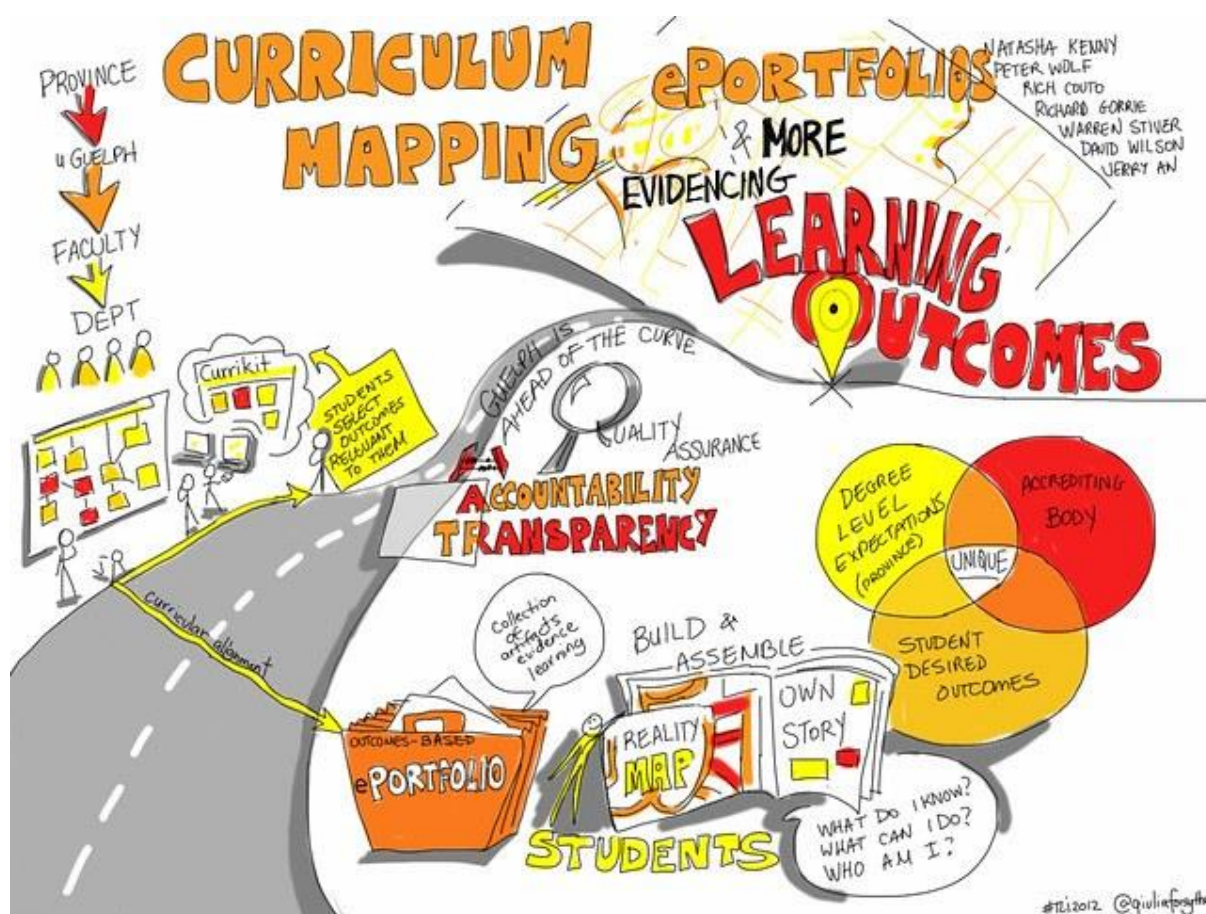
Also please remember that routine dental and medical appointments should not be made during school time. It is preferable and much more beneficial for pupils if appointments can be made either at the end of the school day or during school holidays. If you do have to make an appointment for during the 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



Lessons have also focussed on reasoning and children being able to explain their reasoning when answering questions and also looking at a range of possibilities when finding solutions, such as different ways of making amounts of money. It has also been positive to see how the children support each other, utilising learning partners and encouraging each other through independent tasks.



There is no winter without snow, no spring without sunshine, and no happiness without companions - Korean Proverb.

Are you a good friend? To enjoy friendships and be happy, you need to be a good friend yourself.



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-other-childcare-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 |

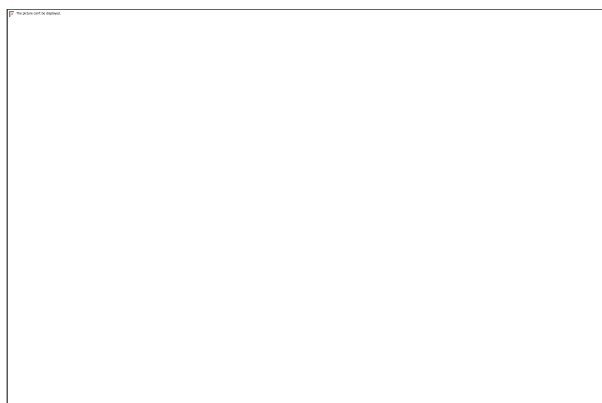
In a morning the gates will open at 8.30am on a morning to allow time to get onto site ready for doors opening at 8.35am (KS2) and close at 8.55am.

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.

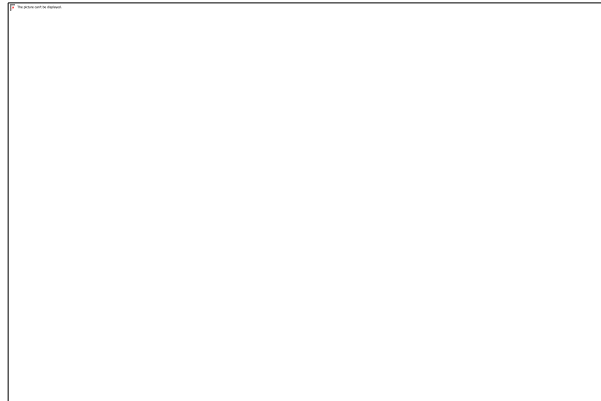


Safeguarding

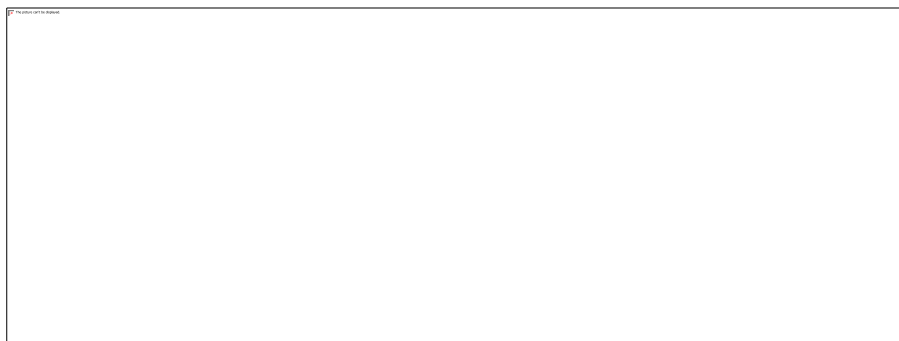
Safeguarding is an important part of our work with children and young adults so we will keep this reminder in each edition of the Parish Post. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us.

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)

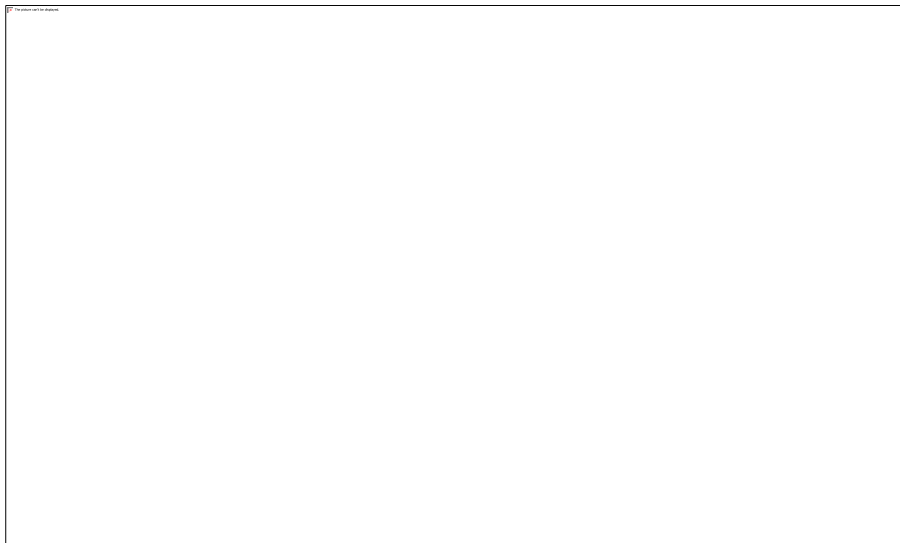


The Academy Committee has been very busy over the course of the last couple of weeks. This has included meeting to review the work undertaken by the Academy Committee during the academic year so far but also to plan further works moving forwards. Further work planned over the coming terms includes attending further school events including Collective Worship, the World of Work launch and also spending time in school talking to pupils and staff about the intended learning.

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.

Building Cyber Resilience at Home

People take physical security seriously. But digital security doesn't always get the same level of attention. Cyber crime is an ever-growing Online Safety issue: get great tips for protecting all members of the family in our Wake Up Wednesday guide.

https://nationalcollege.com/guides/12-top-tips-for-building-cyber-resilience-at-home?utm_source=social&utm_campaign=nos-wakeupwednesday#expert

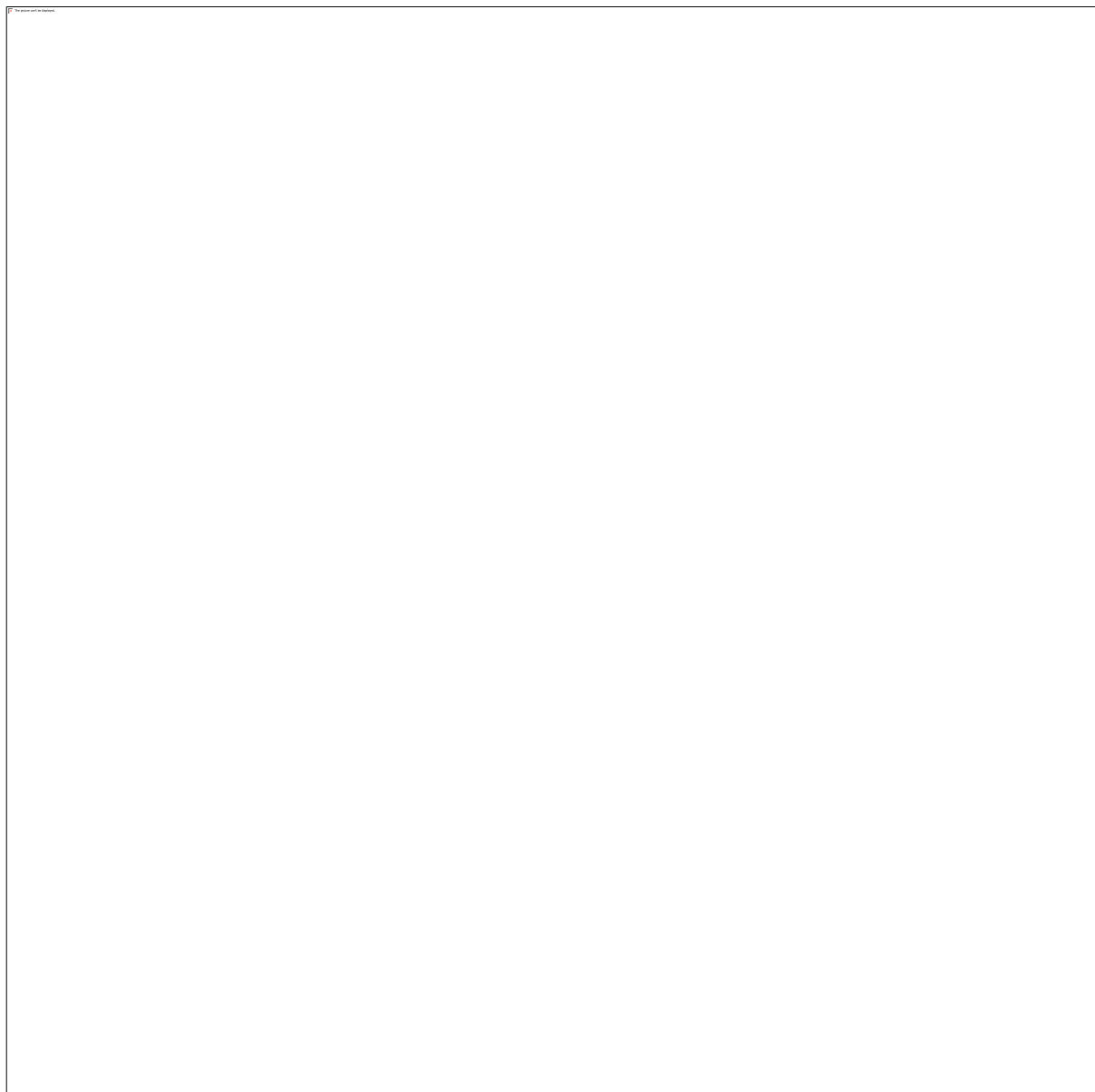
Community Corner



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: Frank, Kosi, Velizar, Dylan and Denis (FS2AC), Hristiyan and Poppy (FS2KB)

Year 1: Lera and Joshua (Y1CH), Albert and Rose (Y1CCSE), Alisa and Ibrahim (Y1PB)

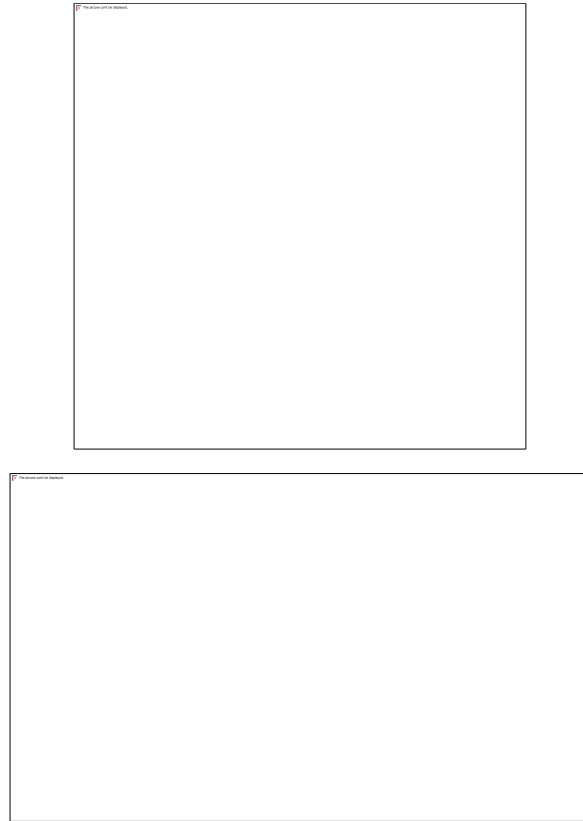
Year 2: Stiyana and Ariel (Y2AR), Madison and Lacie (Y2DO), Charlotte and Jasper (Y2SD)

Year 3: Rosie and Harper (Y3CC), Fabian and Milana (Y3EP), Phoebe and Amy (Y3SH)

Year 4: Nessie and Florence (Y4IN), Sandra and Anna-Belle (Y4KR), Denisa and Mikey (Y4LS)

Year 5: Tiegan and Sophie (Y5RW), Renars and Maksims (Y5TS)

Year 6: Dimitar and Nik (Y6AS), Kristian and Annabelle (Y6EW), George and Joshua (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.

16th January - 20th January

FS2: FS2AC (94.2%) - FS2AC are our best attender in FS2 this week, well done!

KS1: Y2SD (99.1%) – Y2SD are the winners in KS1 this week, fantastic!

LKS2: Y4LS (98.5%) – Highest in LKS2 for Y4LS again this week, superb!

UKS2: Y5RW (99.4%) – Y5RW are the best attenders in UKS2 and across school with a strong %, brilliant!

School: 95.4% - A slight dip this week compared to last week. Still some work to do to hit the Government target of 97.0%.

23rd January - 27th January

FS2: FS2KB (89.0%) - FS2KB are our best attender in FS2 this week.

KS1: Y2SD (96.5%) – Y2SD are the winners in KS1 again this week, amazing work!

LKS2: Y4LS (98.5%) – Highest in LKS2 again for Y4LS this week and also highest in school, fantastic!

UKS2: Y5RW and Y6KB (97.0%) – Y5RW and Y6KB share the honours s in UKS2 this week!

School: 93.6% - Another decline this week. We do need to keep working hard to meet the Government target of 97.0%. Let's see if we can improve our attendance figures next week.

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

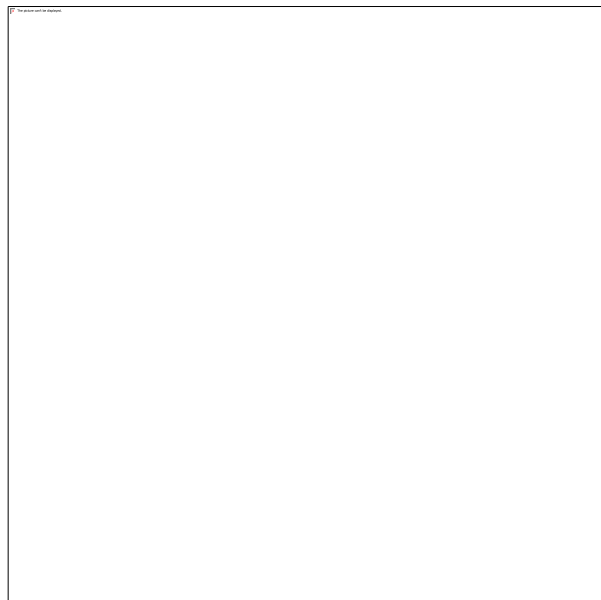
Exciting Experts

Dynamic Dynamos

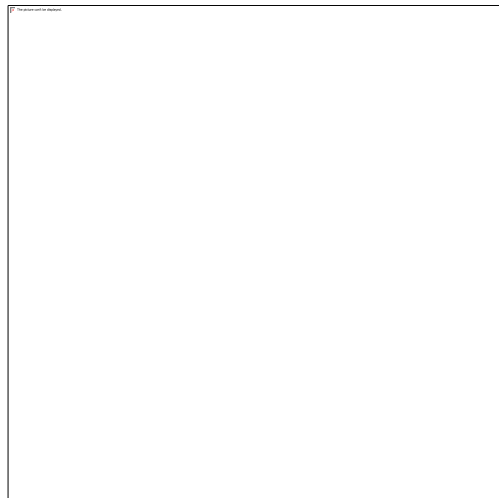
Supportive Supporters.

The winners for Week 3 are **Exciting Experts** with **678 points** - well done.

The winners for Week 3 are **Supportive Supporters** with **693 points** - well done.

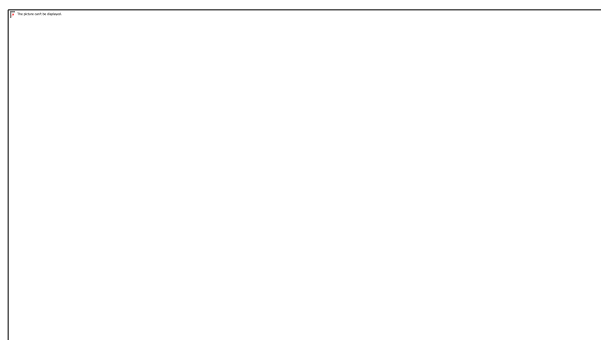
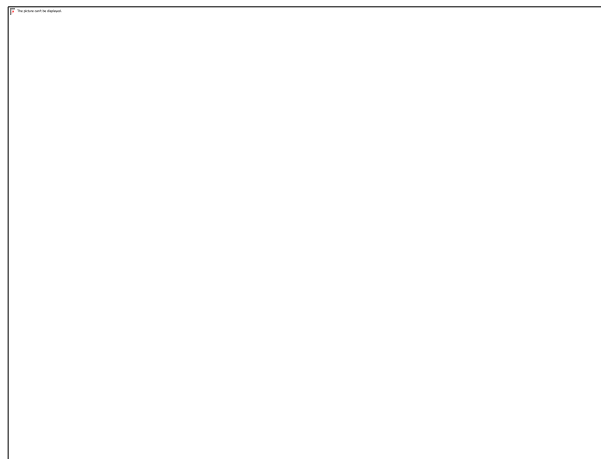


Phase Learning Journeys



Foundation Stage

This week we have been really developing our enquiry skills. Outside we have used the guttering and different sized balls to make a huge marble run. It was really tricky at times to make sure that the ball didn't fall off, that it kept moving and that the guttering fitted together just right. We not only had to use our problem solving skills but also our Oracy skills especially when we disagreed.



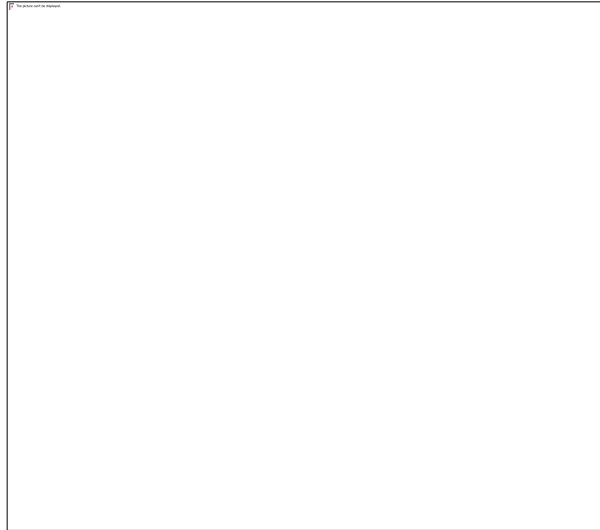
Key Stage 1

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

Year 1

In Year 1 in English we have been thinking about writing instructions and we have all had a go at creating instructions for a marmalade sandwich. We are now learning about letter writing and are investigating a letter that was delivered to our classroom on Monday morning. The letter was for Paddington from Aunt Lucy.

In Art we have been looking at pictures of landscapes and we have begun to learn how to add white to a colour to make it lighter and also what happens if we add a little black!! We have been looking at a landscape painting of London by Claude Monet and we have picked out the different colours we can see in the painting to make a collage. We have also been creating art on the ipads in Computing as we have been learning how to use the Paintz app.

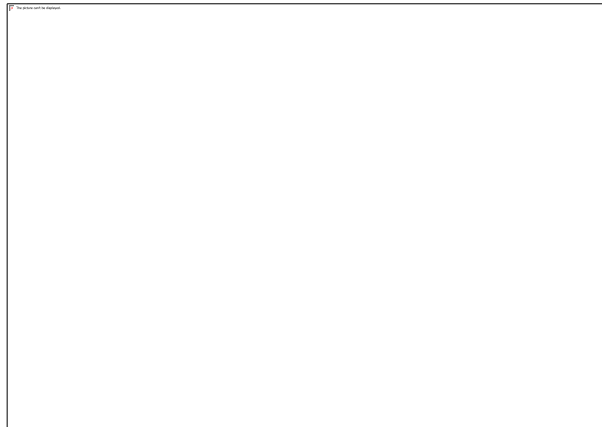
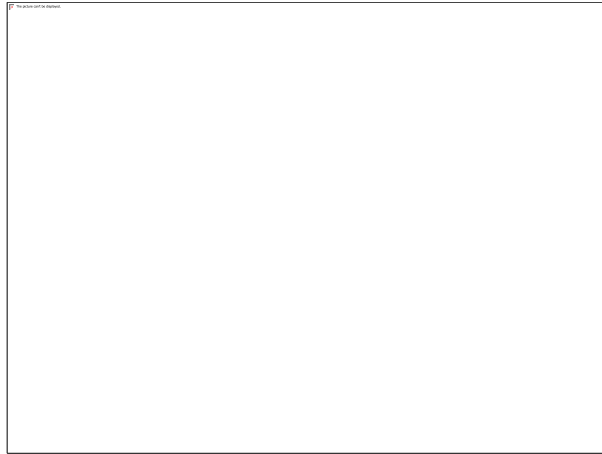


Year 2

Year 2 have been looking at different styles used by artists to create landscapes. They have been developing their own sketching techniques, using different pencils to create texture and shade and the next step will be mixing colours with paint, working up to creating their own piece of landscape art.

We also went on a walk to the town centre as part of our History unit. We had pictures of Spalding Market Place and Sheep Market from the 1950's and were able to compare with how the town looks today. We looked at the shapes and designs of the buildings which had not changed too much, however most of what the buildings were used for has changed. It was interesting to see that the South Holland Centre did not exist in the 1950's and there was a completely different building in its place. The Sheep Market in the 1950's also looked very different – we did not see any sheep on our walk this week!

In Science we have been looking at habitats and food chains – we went into the school garden to explore micro habitats and hunt for mini beasts. We found snails and insects in the fantastic bug hotel, a bird's nest, worms, spiders and wood lice. We plan to repeat the activity in the spring to see if we can find any different creatures.



Lower Key Stage 2

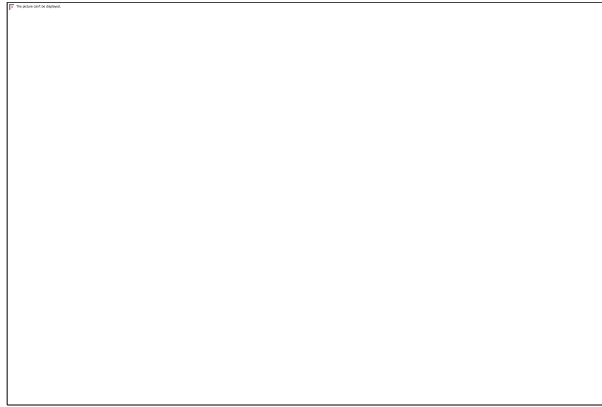
This week in Lower Key Stage 2 our focus is on Year 3 and their learning over the last few weeks.

Year 3

Year 3 have written a persuasive letter, as if from Duncan, to coax one of the crayons from “The Day the Crayons Quit” back into the box. We have concentrated on including expanded noun phrases, repetition and lots of flattery to let our crayon know how much they are missed!

We have learned several strategies for multiplying and dividing, using matchsticks, lolly sticks, counters and Base Ten blocks. We have worked in pairs to develop our explanations of Mathematical processes.

We are exploring the Hindu religion in RE lessons; we learned about the importance of symbols in the Hindu Creation story. Boudica has fired our imagination in History: we watched a clip about her rebellion and were sad that she was ultimately unsuccessful. To link with this topic, we have been reading “Escape from Pompeii” in Guided Reading, which has given us an insight into how people lived in the town before the eruption of Vesuvius. The story is very dramatic; we look forward to the next instalment!



Upper Key Stage 2

Year 5 and Year 6 and their learning over the last couple of weeks is the focus of the Parish Post this week.

Year 5

Science

We are learning about forces at the minute in Year 5. Carrying out lots of experiments to help us understand how the impact of forces, like gravitational pull, effects everything, (even on other planets)! We are thinking like scientists and planning investigations, thinking about what equipment we might need, developing our understanding of different variables, planning how we might record our observations and then discussing how we can evaluate and conclude our learning.

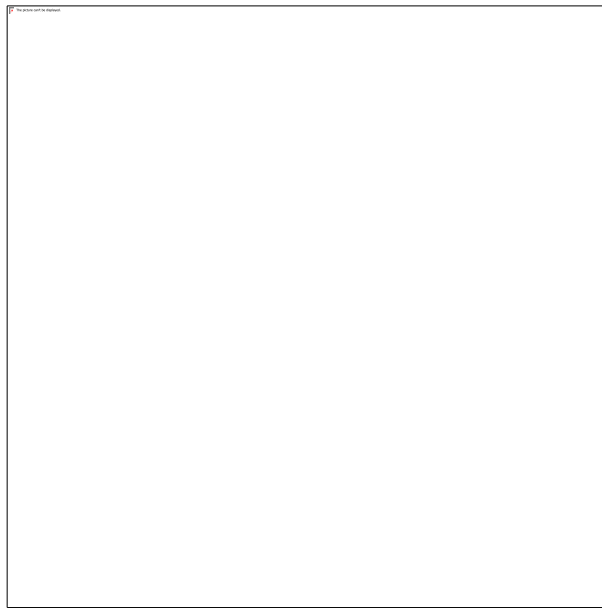
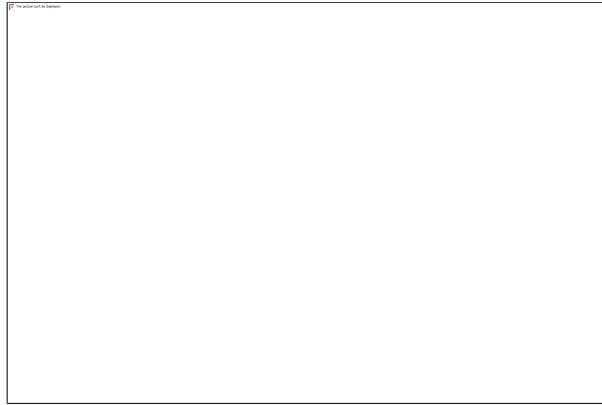
Maths

We have recently moved onto learning about fractions, we have spent some time re-capping our learning from Year 4 using our Build it, Draw it, Write it structure! And are now building on the skills we already know to push our learning on further, so we become masters of the fabulous fraction!

History and English

In History we have started to learn about the Ancient Greeks, we have explored mythology, social class, Geography, ways of life, the Olympics and much more! To make sure we have fully immersed ourselves in this topic, we have linked our History to English and reading as well. We are learning how to 'write to persuade' in English, so are currently writing leaflets that will persuade tourists to visit the captivating land of Ancient Athens, really encouraging the children to think like Historians. See if your child can persuade you to visit!

For our class story, we are reading 'Who Let the Gods Out' by Maz Evans. This book presents Greek mythology in a very comical way, and the children are enjoying each chapter more and more!



Year 6

Year 6 have been working hard to hone their artistic skills in Art. We have looked at different landscapes painted by Glynne James, who is an artist from Lincolnshire. We have used our metacognition skills to reflect on our Year 5 learning to show our understanding of tone and texture and what they mean.

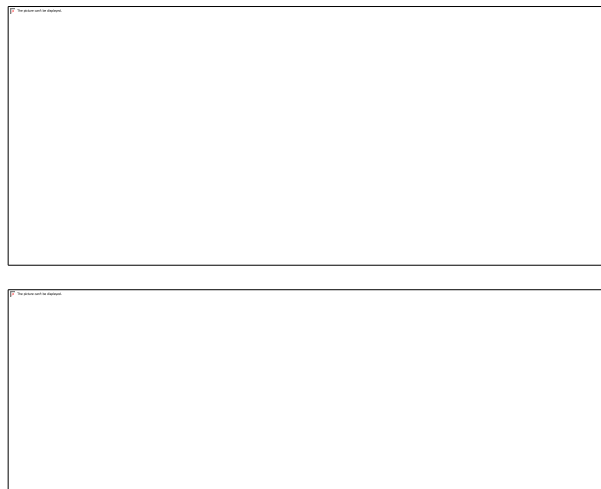
To show our understanding of tone, we used pencil crayons and wax crayons, instead of paint, to colour different scales to show different colour tones. We learnt how to colour lightly and then colour gradually darker to give the effect of toning from white through to black. We had to make sure that we coloured in the same direction to ensure that we got the full effect. We then experimented with different textures, going outside to make some rubbings from bricks, wood, fences, concrete etc to show different textures and what effect it could have.

We have then moved on to using different mediums. We chose a picture and stuck it in our book, then copied it, just using pencil. We had to make sure that we got tones, textures and shadows correct. Mrs Hendry drew a tree for us before we started and we all agreed that trees didn't look like that! The next drawing was of the same chosen picture, but we used pencil crayons. It was very time consuming, but the effect was amazing. We all managed to reproduce the picture we had chosen.

Science has been fun this week too. We have been looking at Electricity and we learnt the symbols for the different components so that we could draw circuits accurately. We then built a circuit and decided on a question to investigate such as – If we add another battery, will the bulb shine brighter? We carried out the investigation, checked our results and came to a conclusion. We found out that:-

- Adding extra batteries causes the bulb to shine brighter
- Adding another bulb means the power is shared, so the bulbs do not shine as bright
- If we swap the coloured wires over, the bulbs still shines

We are looking forward to learning more about how we can harness electricity over the next few weeks.



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 feedback@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk or the Year Group emails.

EYFS - FS2@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk

Key Stage 1 - Y1@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk or Y2@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk

Lower Key Stage 2 - Y3@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk or Y4@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk

Upper Key Stage 2 - Y5@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk or Y6@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk