



# The Parish Post

**13th 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](mailto: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**
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- **Community Corner**
- **Weekly Awards**
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## Diary Dates



### **Term 3**

#### **WB 16th January**

##### **Monday 16th January**

Whole School Collective Worship

Year 5 Swimming

Term 3 Extra-curricular clubs start

Bikeability starts for Year 5 and 6

##### **Tuesday 17th January**

Deadline for ordering hot lunches for WB Monday 23rd January

##### **Wednesday 18th January**

Whole School Collective Worship

##### **Thursday 19th January**

Y2AR Class Presentation

##### **Friday 20th January**

Y6KB Class Presentation

#### **WB 23rd January**

##### **Monday 23rd January**

Whole School Collective Worship

Year 5 Swimming

##### **Tuesday 24th January**

Deadline for ordering hot lunches for WB Monday 30th January

Year 3/4 Cross Country Festival

**Wednesday 25th January**

Whole School Collective Worship

**Thursday 26th January**

Y1CH Class Presentation

**Friday 27th January**

Y4KR Class Presentation

**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

**WB 6th February**

**Monday 6th February**

Whole School Collective Worship

Year 5 Swimming

**Tuesday 7th February**

**Wednesday 8th February**

Whole School Collective Worship

**Thursday 9th February**

Y1CCSE Class Presentation

**Friday 10th February**

End of Term 3

Whole School Church Service

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



### **From 2022 to 2023 and beyond**

Well Term 2 was certainly another very busy term, culminating in our Christmas celebrations. It was an absolute honour to be part of the children's performances, both in FS2 and Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, as we celebrated the true meaning of Christmas. I continue to be exceptionally proud of all of the children here at Spalding Parish and not least during these performances given the way they performed their parts beautifully, singing, dancing and speaking. They never cease to amaze me with their talents and I do feel very proud and extremely lucky to be part of their educational journeys.

Thank you once again to all the children and staff for their hard work in ensuring the performances went well. I would also like to say a very special thank you to you all for coming and supporting us providing the children with an audience. With your support we have managed to raise over £1000 for our chosen Christmas charities, which I'm sure you will agree is a fantastic amount of money. A huge thank you to all who donated, it is very much appreciated. May I also take this opportunity to

wish all of the Spalding Parish family health, happiness and prosperity in the new year that lies ahead. I hope all our pupils embrace this time and go forward with faith, hope and courage.



### School Support

Just a quick follow up from the Trust communication last week 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 16th January:** EH out Monday 16th, DM out Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th

**Week beginning 23rd January:** DM/EH out Monday 23rd, DM out Thursday 26th plus one day to be confirmed

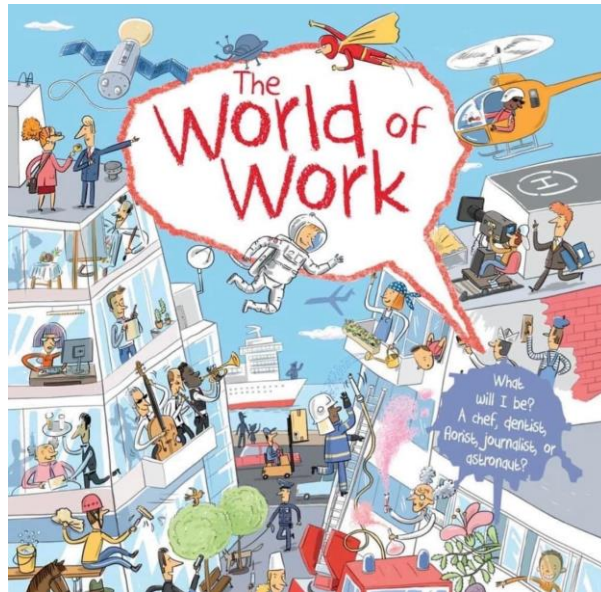
Thank you for your continued support.



### 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 9th January (our first full week at school this term) attendance at Spalding Parish was as follows in terms of pupil numbers and percentages with an overall percentage of 96.55% for the week.

**Good Attendance:** 495 pupils (out of 551), 89.8% pupils

**At Risk of Persistent Absence:** 12 pupils (out of 551), 2.2% pupils



**Persistent Absence:** 18 pupils (out of 551), 3.3% of pupils

**At Risk of Severe Absence:** 16 pupils (out of 551), 2.9% pupils

**Severe Absence:** 10 pupils (out of 551), 1.8% pupils

This means that the attendance of 10% of pupils was considered to be a concern during last week which is a significant improvement on previous weeks. 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**

**GETTING YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL ON TIME 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.

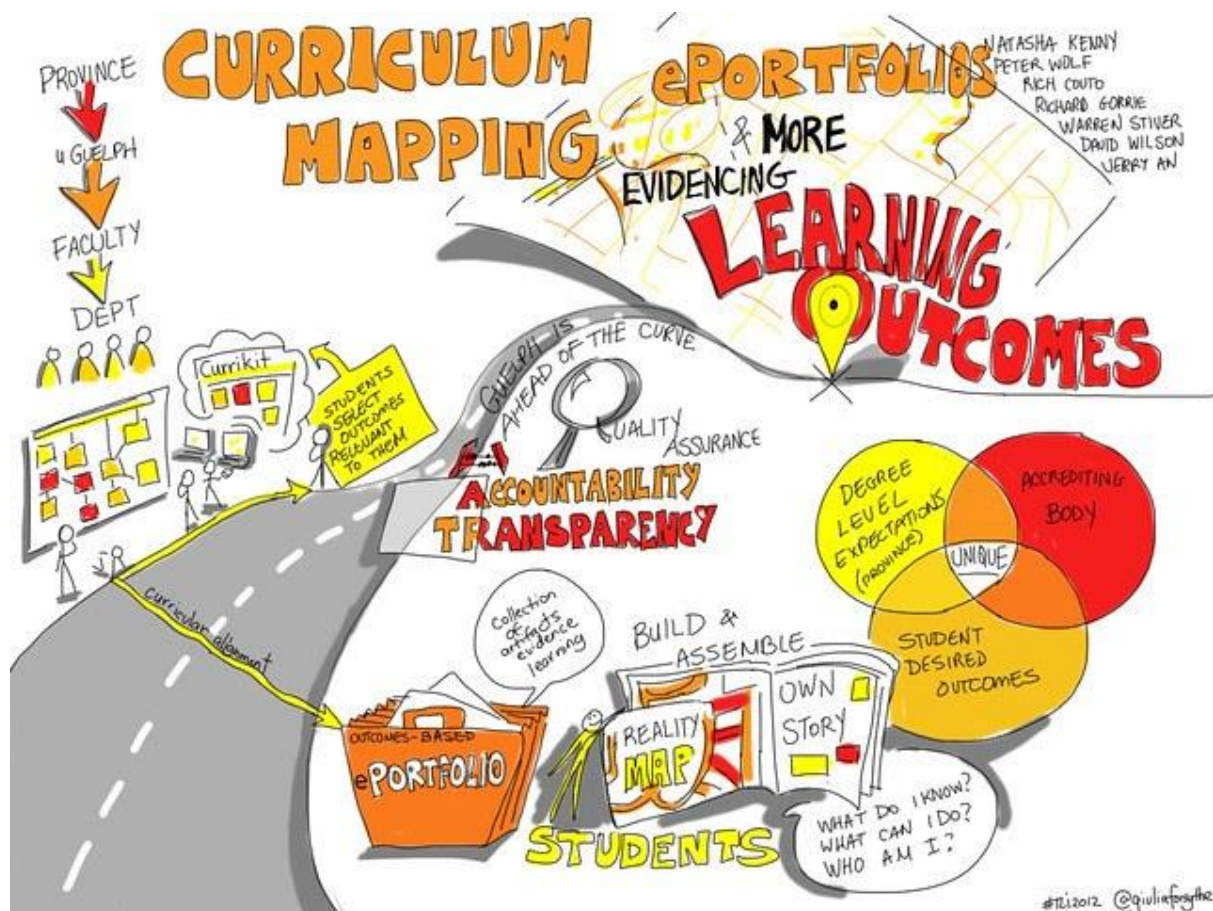
Also please remember that routine dental and medical appointments should not be made during school time. It is preferable and much more beneficial for pupils if appointments can be made either at the end of the school day or during school holidays. If you do have to make an appointment for during the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



It has been a very busy couple of weeks back at Spalding Parish and it has been amazing to see just how settled the children have been since their return to school. Over the course of this period I have been fortunate to visit classrooms and be part of the children's learning and it is fair to say that there has been lots going on.

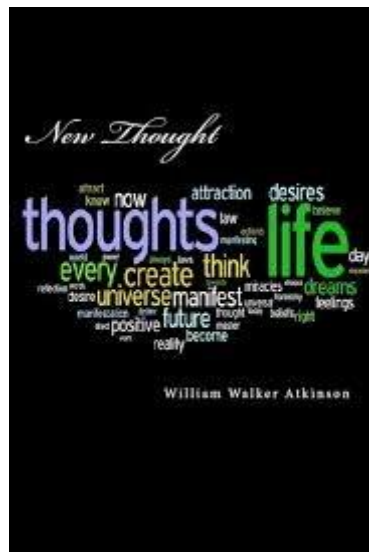
Within Foundation Stage and Year 1 there continues to be a clear focus on Phonics, supporting the children as they develop both their phonic knowledge and their reading skills. Across Key Stage 1 the focus for Writing is very much on Writing for a Purpose. In Year 1 the children have started to think about Paddington Bear as a stimulus for their writing, developing fact files for Paddington utilising all that they have learnt and know about him. Within Year 2, the children have had a real focus on descriptive language and linking this to their senses in term of what they can see, hear, touch, smell and taste. The children has used photos of different places in the world as a stimulus

and described them using their senses. There really were some fantastic ideas for vocabulary and I look forward to the pupils using this newly acquired knowledge in their future writing.

Next time the focus will be on Key Stage 2 and their current learning focus. I know from visiting Year 6 over the course of the last fortnight as part of their Design Technology work that there are very exciting things happening within Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and look forward to sharing this with you all.



Let's Pause for Thought...



### Let's Pause for Thought...

Last week in Collective Worship we took a moment to pause for thought, reflecting on the year gone by and the year that lies ahead. The children were keen to share their thoughts including some of their resolutions for the year ahead.

***What the new year brings to you, will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year - Vern McLellan***

What will you do to impact and improve your new year?



## 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.**

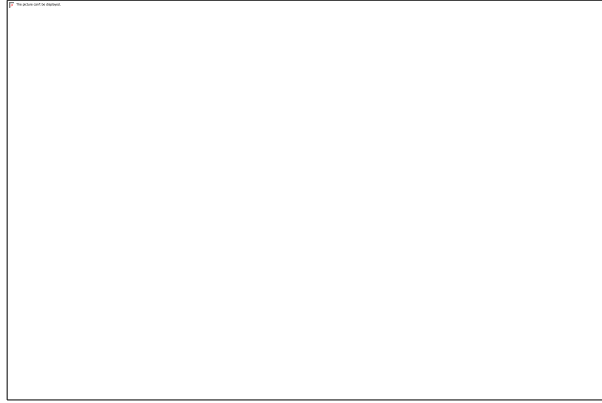


### **Safeguarding**

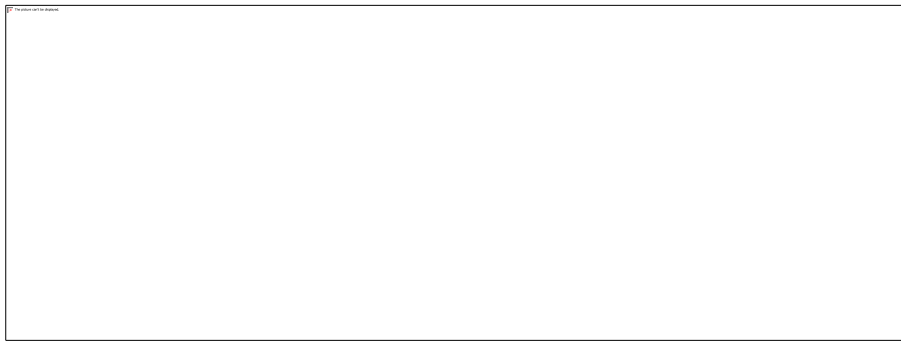
Safeguarding is an important part of our work with children and young adults so we will keep this reminder in each edition of the Parish Post. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of us.

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.



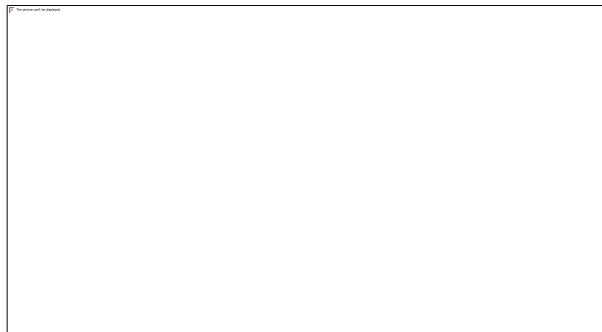
## Academy Committee Update (previously Local Council)



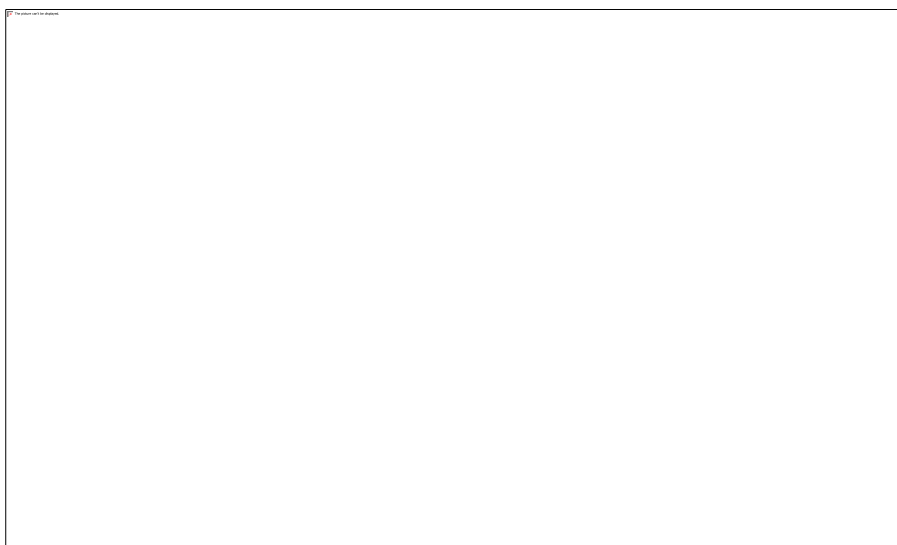
### **Emma Rains - Chair of the Academy Committee**

I hope you have all settled back into the new term. This week I wanted to update you on a recent Academy Committee meeting which focussed on planning activities and priorities for the Committee over the academic year. We have linked our areas of focus to school's development plan so that we can focus and support the school on its journey of improvement.

One such way will be our involvement in the upcoming 'World of Work' event for Key Stage 2 pupils. This will be a fantastic and interactive careers event at the start of February which will support the school's vision and ethos of encouraging the children to flourish and fulfil their potential. 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.

This is even more pertinent at this time of year, when electronic items and new technology are likely to be a popular gift, I would ask you to reflect again on the safe use of the internet. 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.

### **Stay Safe on New Devices**

Happy New Year! There are some timely reminders for children and young people about the basics of Online Safety in our first Wake Up Wednesday guide of 2023. Let's start the year how we intend to go through it - safely!

[https://nationalcollege.com/guides/new-devices-2023?utm\\_source=social&utm\\_campaign=nos-wakeupwednesday-newdevices](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/new-devices-2023?utm_source=social&utm_campaign=nos-wakeupwednesday-newdevices)



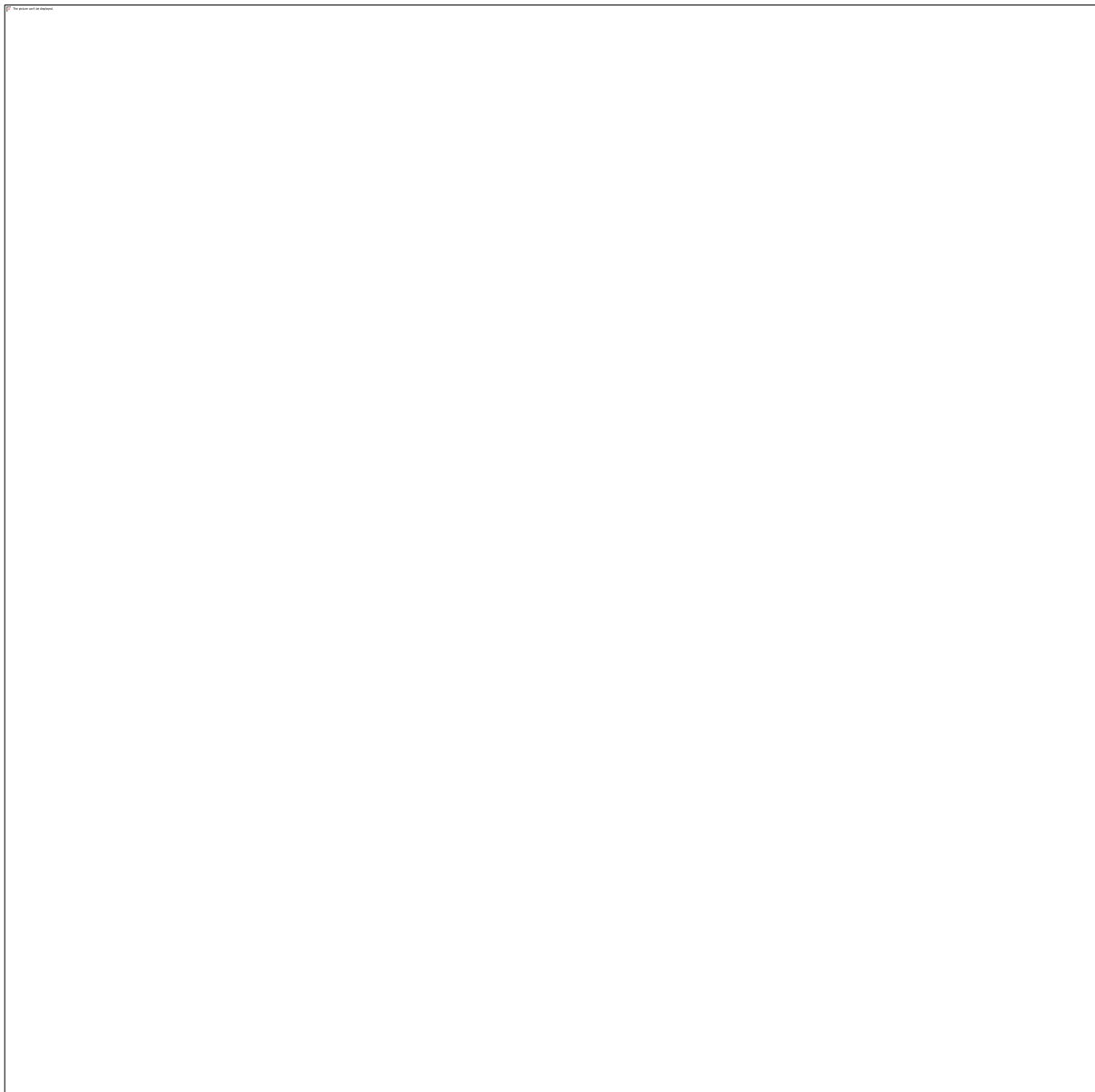
## Community Corner



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:** Boris (FS2AC), Benas (FS2KB)

**Year 1:** Monika and Riley (Y1CH), Oscar (Y1EWSE), Ethan (Y1PB)

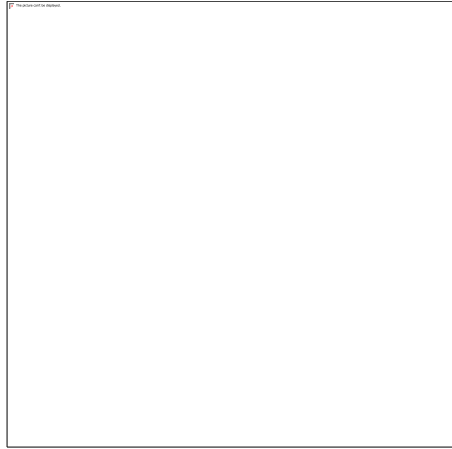
**Year 2:** David(Y2AR), Rihanna (Y2DO), Elena and Oliver (Y2SD)

**Year 3:** Antonia(Y3CC), (Y3EP), Emmy (Y3SH)

**Year 4:** Stefani (Y4IN), Amelia and Leila-Jayne (Y4KR), Kotryna and Carolina (Y4LS)

**Year 5:** Lily and Tobi (Y5RW), Maksims and Jaydan (Y5TS)

**Year 6:** Jess and Sophie(Y6AS), Paige and Maria (Y6EW), Faith and Liam (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.

### **4th January - 6th January**

**FS2:** FS2KB (95.2%) - FS2KB are our best attender in FS2 this week, well done!

**KS1:** Y2DO~ (99.3%) – Y2DP are the winners in KS1 this week and across school, fantastic!

**LKS2:** Y4LS (98.7%) – Highest in LKS2 for Y4LS this week, superb!

**UKS2:** Y6EW and Y6KB (98.0%) – Y6KB and Y6EW share the honours in UKS2 with a strong %, brilliant!

**School:** 96.1% - A positive rise this week compared to pre Christmas figures and nearly there in terms of the Government target of 97.0%.

## 9th January - 13th January

**FS2:** FS2KB (95.8%) - FS2KB are our best attender in FS2 again this week, brilliant job!

**KS1:** Y1PB (98.6%) – Y1PB are the winners in KS1 this week, amazing work!

**LKS2:** Y4LS (99.6%) – Highest in LKS2 again for Y4LS this week, fantastic!

**UKS2:** Y5TS (100.0%) – Y5TS are the winners in UKS2 again this week and across school with a perfect score, a huge well done!

**School:** 96.6% - Another small rise this week, well done. Another push and we could well be on track 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

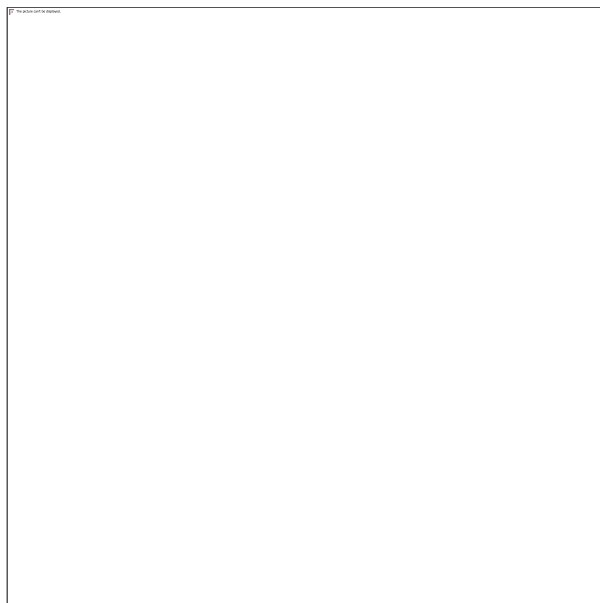
Challenging Challengers

Exciting Experts

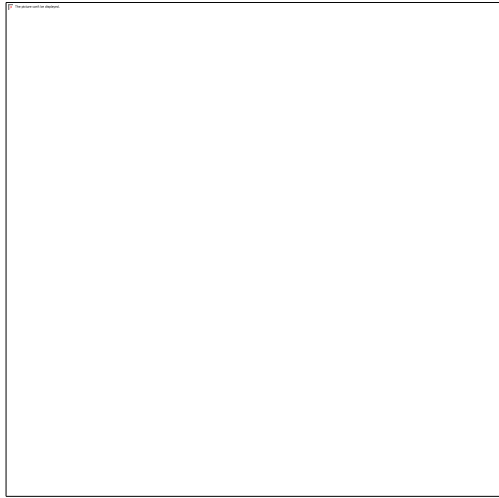
Dynamic Dynamos

Supportive Supporters.

The winners for Week 1 and Week 2 are **Dynamic Dynamos** with **642 points** - well done.

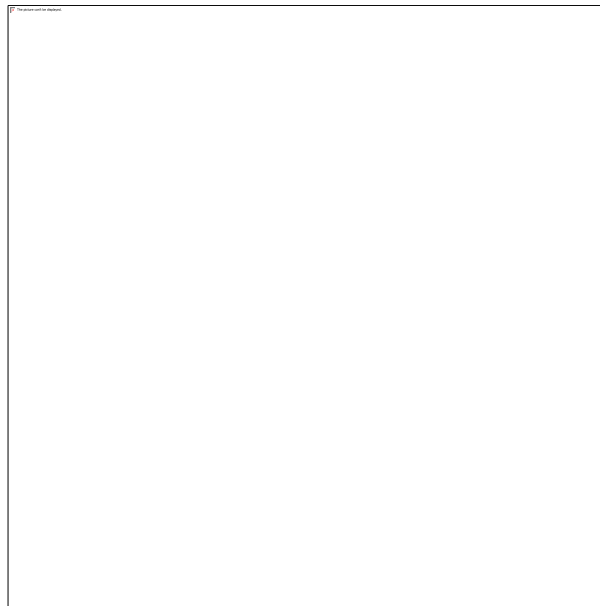


## Phase Learning Journeys



### **Foundation Stage**

This term we are developing our understanding of geographical features. Our Monster Phonics friends played a trick on us over Christmas and hid within the school grounds. We were given close up photographs of the KS1 playground to analyse and find the Monsters and their words. This then unlocked a map of the EYFS outdoor area which we had to interpret to find some hidden treasure! This term we are definitely explorers.



### **Key Stage 1**

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

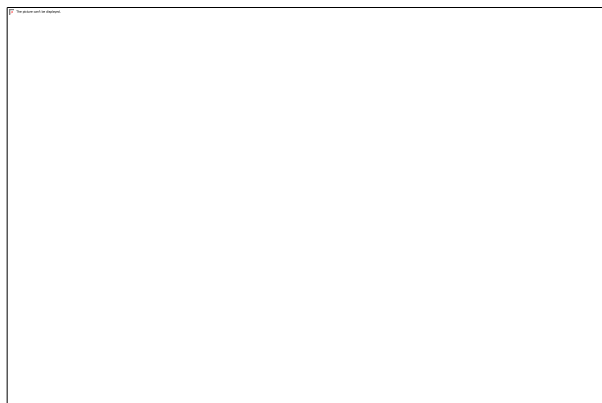
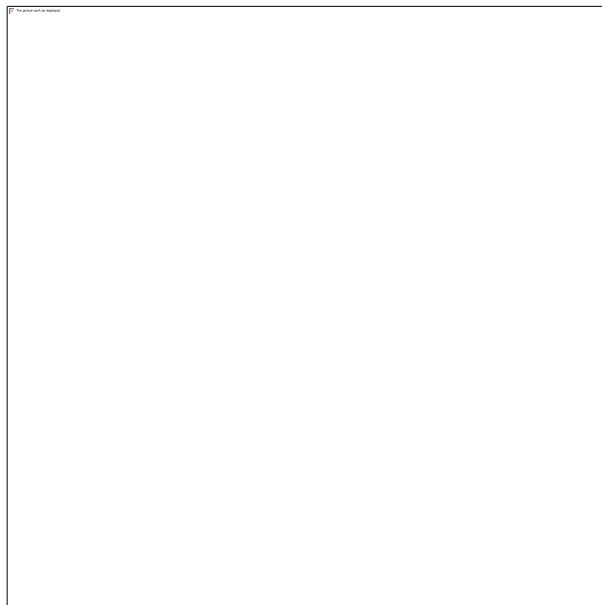
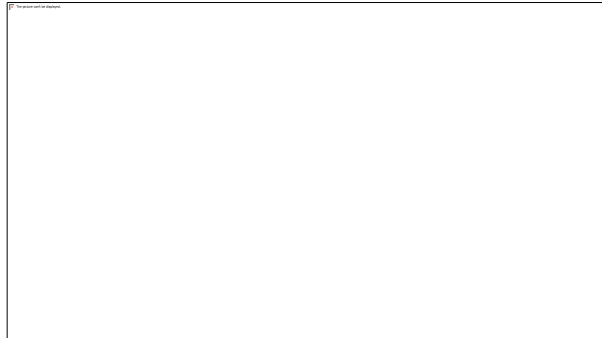
### **Year 1**

Year One have had a fantastic start to 2023. We found a suitcase, some wellies and a marmalade sandwich left in our classrooms, which led us to believe Paddington Bear had visited. We read his story and created some fact files about him from what we read. We are now writing some instructions for him on how to make his favourite food, marmalade sandwiches!

In Science this term we are learning about plants. We have learned the names of some common plants and have some great ideas already about the parts of a plant.

In History we are learning about The Great Fire of London. We have looked at maps of London from the Roman times until the present day and have seen how the city has changed over time. We have thought about how people know about what happened, as it was beyond living memory. We have looked at Samuel Pepys diary to find out what happened.

In RE this term we are learning about the Islam faith. Did you know Muslims have 99 names for Allah? We are learning lots of new vocabulary, so do ask us what we have learned.



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 returned to school full of enthusiasm for learning! This term we are looking at multiplication and division in Maths and have been using the “Build it, draw it, write it” approach. Ask us what this means!

In English we have started learning how to write a persuasive letter and are using “The day the crayons quit” as our inspiration. We have had lively discussions about when we might try to persuade someone to do something and what language we would use.

In French we have just started learning about “Les Instruments” and we will be learning about - and understanding - Hinduism in RE lessons. The focus for History this term is The Romans in Britain: we were amazed at how long ago they invaded and full of ideas about why they might have done so. We’ve also learned about Roman soldiers and why they were a formidable fighting force. We are also reading a non-fiction text about Pompeii which has given us more information about how the Romans lived and worked. We are looking forward to finding out more!

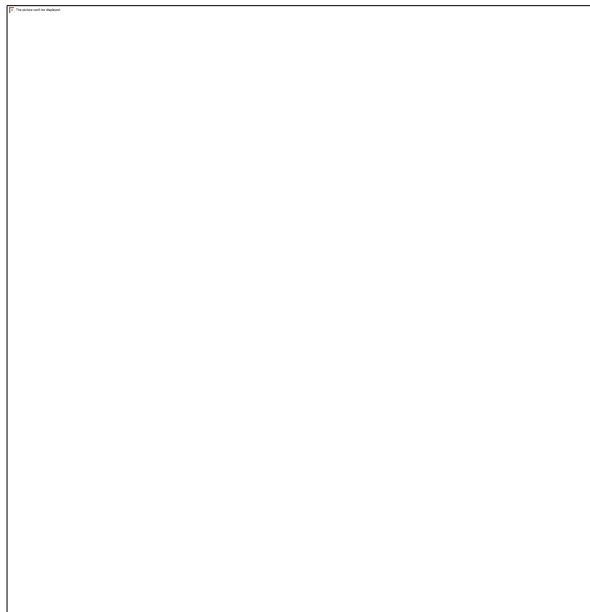
### **Year 4**

We have had a great week in Year 4 – in Maths we are continuing our learning with multiplication and division. This week we have been looking at multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100.

In Science, we have begun our topic on looking at electrical circuits and how they work. We had a fun lesson building our own simple circuits!

In English we are looking at persuasive writing and are currently working on producing adverts to encourage people to donate to the Agape Care Food Bank, we are excited to help make a difference as well as grow as learners.

This term we will also be starting our topic in History on Early Civilisations. We will be focusing on and comparing Ancient Sumar, the Indus Valley and the Shang Dynasty – we are excited to learn about interesting inventions and how our past influences us today!



## **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**

In Year 6, we have started the new year as we mean to go on! Embracing our Learning Powers and being 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'.

In groups, in DT, we planned and designed moving carousels. During the first three days back, we worked to build electrical circuits with motors, switches and cells to create a mechanism that made our carousels move. Using recycled materials, we created our carousel design, which were amazing! Children from Year 2 and Year 3, and Mr Robinson, popped to see our products and support our evaluations.

'Unique!'



'Amazing!'

'Creative!'

'Colourful!'

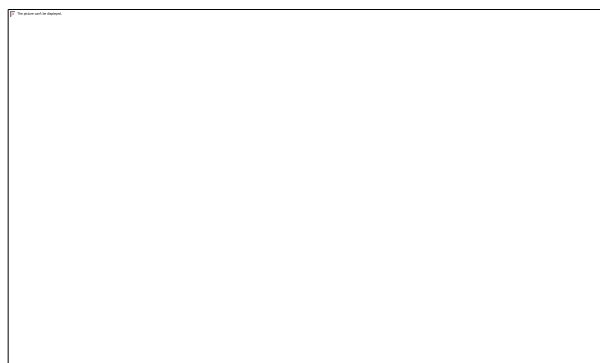
We were all able to make some useful next steps to support our work in the future.

In Maths, we have been enjoying our learning through using manipulatives to multiply and divide fractions. Starting with apples at the start of the week and then sweets to find fractions of amounts.

We have been great learning partners, checking in and supporting each other with top tips if needed and explaining the steps we have been able to take. We have developed our reasoning in Maths by using our Oracy skills to find the 'odd one out' in a list of fraction division calculations and 'can we use the same method?'

In Reading, we have used a very challenging extract of text from 'Mountains of the Mind' to explore our first impressions of Polar Explorers. We are experts at using strategies to understand new vocabulary, use it context and share our views on a text during our oracy sessions. We have debated statements such as 'Polar Explorers were cowards' by using the text to back up our views. Then we have developed an outstanding list of impressions of our own from 'bold', 'risk-takers', 'adventurers', 'nature lovers', 'aristocratic' to 'fastidious'.

Watch this space to find out about our learning in History: How civilised was Viking Yorvik and Baghdad in 900AD?



## 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](mailto:feedback@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk) or the Year Group emails.

EYFS - [FS2@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk](mailto:FS2@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk)

Key Stage 1 - [Y1@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk](mailto:Y1@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk) or [Y2@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk](mailto:Y2@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk)

Lower Key Stage 2 - [Y3@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk](mailto:Y3@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk) or [Y4@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk](mailto:Y4@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk)

Upper Key Stage 2 - [Y5@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk](mailto:Y5@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk) or [Y6@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk](mailto:Y6@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk)