

The Parish Post

12th December 2022

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 2

WB 12th December

Monday 12th December

Whole School Collective Worship

KS2 Carol Concert

Tuesday 13th December

FS2 Performances

Wednesday 14th December

Whole School Collective Worship

Thursday 15th December

Christmas Celebrations

Friday 16th December

End of Term Service (in school)

End of Term 2

Term 3

WB 3rd January

Tuesday 3rd January

Training Day

Deadline for ordering hot lunches for WB Monday 9th January

Wednesday 4th January

School reopens for start of Term 3

Whole School Collective Worship

Thursday 5th January

Friday 6th January

Read all about it...



Merry Christmas and Welcome to 2023

Well Term 2 has certainly been another very busy term and it has been fantastic to be able to include some enrichment activities within our curriculum offer this year. This has included the Year 2 visit to Lincoln Castle, Year 3 visit to Flag Fen, the Year 1 Florence Nightingale Day, the Year 4 visit to The Collection Museum in Lincoln, the Year 6 visit to the War Memorial and Church and the Year 5 visit to Arthur's Meadow.

It has also been absolutely brilliant to be able to celebrate Christmas at Spalding Parish in a more traditional manner. A huge thank you to all of our parents, carers and wider family who have joined us over the last couple of weeks for the Key Stage 1 Nativity, the Key Stage 2 Carol Concert and the FS2 Christmas Celebration. We were all overwhelmed by the support at all of these events and it was fabulous to see you all there. I'm sure you will all agree that the children did a fabulous job and we are so pleased that parents and carers were able to join us for the children to be able to share their performances and celebrations as their gift to you.

As always it was an absolute honour to be part of the children's performances 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 responded, particularly given the fact we have not been able to undertake traditional performances since Christmas 2019. 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. My sincere thanks must go 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 your support with our fundraising during Term 2 including Children in Need, our Christmas Performance collections and our 'Festive Thursday'. With your support we have managed to raise over £1000 for our chosen 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.

I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very peaceful New Year. May peace and happiness reign in your home this Christmas and may your New Year be filled with blessings for you all. We have had a real positive start to the 2022-23 academic year on the whole and hope that 2023 continues to bring hope and happiness for the whole SPCEDS community.



Community Christmas Cards

Christmas is such a special time of the year, however we know it can be a very lonely time for some. As such we wanted to do something as a school to make a difference to our local community by sending Christmas wishes. Pupils in Key Stage 2 were invited to design and create Christmas cards which have then been sent locally with 'Seasons Greetings' from all at Spalding Parish.

Given the brilliant response by the pupils we have also awarded two prizes within each Year Group with the cards judged by Heather Bafico, a member of our Academy Committee and myself.

It was a very difficult job on the whole however the following pupils were awarded prizes. A huge well done to all the pupils who took part and produced a Christmas card - thank you so much for sharing good wishes at such a special time of the year and for bringing a little joy to our local community.

Year 3: Maya and Lacey Anna

Year 4: Tilly and Amelia

Year 5: Hermione and Mila

Year 6: Brianna and Eva



Good Bye, Good Luck and God Bless...

As you will no doubt be aware following my recent communications to parents and carers in Y1EWSE, Emily Wand is leaving us at the end of this term. I am sure you will join me in taking this opportunity to wish Emily all the very best for the future. As a valued member of the team she will always remain part of the Spalding Parish family.



...and Welcome!

In Term 3 we welcome Sally Slade to the teaching team within Year 3 and Lower Key Stage 2. Sally spent some time in school this week, working with both staff and pupils and we look forward to her joining the team.

As a result of this Charlotte Collins, who has been teaching in Year 3 will be moving to Year 1 to work alongside Sarah Ekins. Charlotte will be in school at the beginning of the week with Sarah continuing to be in school on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



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.

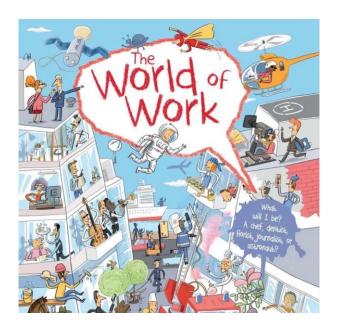
As educators, Emily and I are committed to ensuring all have the opportunity to reach their potential. This is the case within both our school community and across the Trust. As such we are extremely positive about this opportunity to support another local school, whilst also recognising the benefits 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. For the week beginning 4th January Emily will be in school all week and I will be in school part of Thursday and all day Friday. 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

Just another reminder re parking on and around the school site. Firstly parking on the school site is for staff only. With a staff of almost 80, this will ensure that staff are able to park easily and therefore be ready for the start of the school day. The only exceptions to this are visitors to the school, e.g. Trust staff, supply teachers and external agencies who can then access the visitor bays, people with a disabled badge who can then use the accessibility parking and vehicles as part of contracts with the Local Authority such as taxis bringing pupils to school.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who do try to be considerate when parking around the school site. Thank you too to our families that do walk to school or park a little further away and then walk as this does reduce the congestion around school. If I could please ask that we are considerate to the local community when we are parking as we have had a number of concerns raised, both by neighbours and school families, about the parking around the school site including the potential impact on pupil safety when walking to and from school. Thank you in anticipation.



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 academic year so far (up to and including week beginning 5th December) attendance at Spalding Parish is as follows in terms of pupil numbers and percentages with an overall percentage for Term 1 and Term 2 of 94.5%.

Good Attendance: 331 pupils (out of 551), 60.1% pupils

At Risk of Persistent Absence: 121 pupils (out of 551), 22.0% pupils

Persistent Absence: 94 pupils (out of 551), 17.1% of pupils

At Risk of Severe Absence: 5 pupils (out of 551), 0.9% pupils

Severe Absence: 0 pupils (out of 551), 0.0% pupils

This means that the attendance of 18% of pupils was considered to be a concern during Terms 1 and 2. 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.

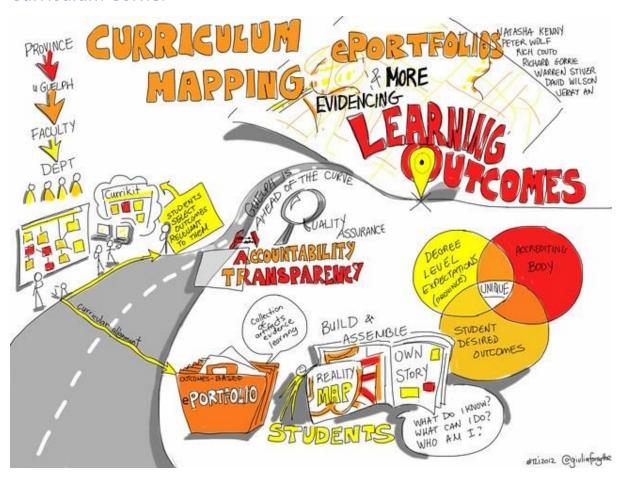
Also please remember that routine dental and medical appointments should not be made during school time. It is preferable and much more beneficial for pupils if appointments can be made either at the end of the school day or during school holidays. If you do have to make an appointment for during the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



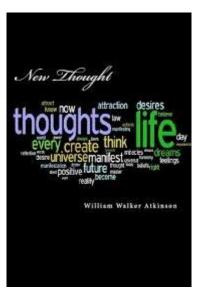
The focus at this point in the term has continued to focus on Christmas, the Christmas presentations and our Christmas celebrations, although it must be said that the children have also continued to work really hard on all aspects of the curriculum.

Staff have been very busy preparing for our Christmas celebrations whilst also starting to think about Term 3. A specific focus for staff has been the Reading curriculum and staff have been busy considering our newly developed Reading Spines and identifying key texts to support the learning during the year ahead.

Texts have been chosen for a number of reasons with the Reading Spines highlighting books we would recommend as a school for each Year Group in order to broaden the children's reading experience and also to develop a love of Reading across a range of genre.

If you have not yet received a copy of the Reading Spines for your child's Year Group, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Class Teacher or the School Office.

Let's Pause for Thought...



Let's Pause for Thought...

Let's pause to think about Christmas and all that that means at this very special time of the year. Trust CEO Jackie W-D sends her Christmas message to staff, pupils and the wider LAAT community; you can catch it here:

https://thelaat.co.uk/christmas-message-from-jackie-waters-dewhurst-ceo-of-laat-2/



General Updates



COVID-19 Guidance

Whilst we are hopefully looking forward to an uninterrupted school year, it is clear that COVID-19 remains with us. However, the current guidance remains very much the same as it was prior to the summer break. 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

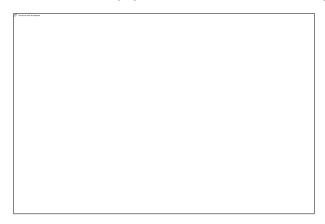
In a morning the gates will open at 8.30am on a morning to allow time to get onto site ready for doors opening at 8.35am (KS2) and close at 8.55am.

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.



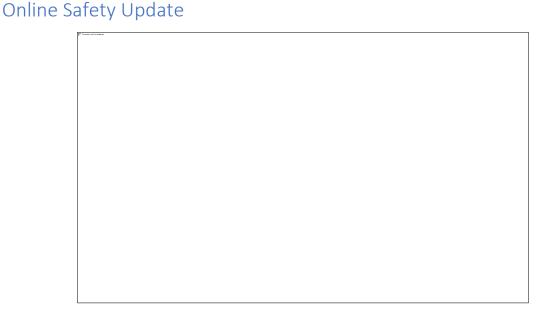
Safeguarding

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.

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Academy (Commit	tee Update (previously L	ocal Counc	il)
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Heather Bafico	o - Member	of the Academy (Committee		
the last two we how hard ever they have simp	eeks. From by single chile oly blown m	FS2 to KS1 and KS2	2, every performation ool has worked o	ance has been eon producing the	lebration in school over exceptional! It is clear ese performances and and want to thank
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	(F	Trade on the Property			



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.

Setting Up Apps, Games and Software

'Tis the season to... ...stay safe online! If your children are getting any new games, apps or software our Wake Up Wednesday guide has tips to minimise Online Safety risks - helping you to ensure the only Christmas surprises are nice ones.

https://nationalcollege.com/guides/setting-up-apps?utm_source=social&utm_campaign=nos-wakeupwednesday-christmas

Lommunity Corner					
The system will be deployed.					

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.

You will know that in previous issues we have promoted the Spalding Parish Church Choir at St Mary and St Nicolas and as such we we wanted to share with you the Carol Service that is being held at St Mary and St Nicolas on Sunday evening at 6.30pm.

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/eekly 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: Honey (FS2AC), Sofia and David (FS2KB)

Year 1: Armandas (Y1CH), Harry (Y1EWSE), Willow (Y1PB)

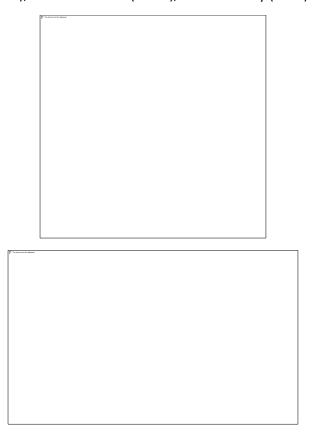
Year 2: Ariel (Y2AR), Liam (Y2DO), Natalia and Aleksandra (Y2SD)

Year 3: Harmony Rose(Y3CC), Milana (Y3EP), Liepa (Y3SH)

Year 4: Ranell and Roberta (Y4IN), Rassels (Y4KR), Rory (Y4LS)

Year 5: William and Leo (Y5RW), Petal and Livia (Y5TS)

Year 6: Tyler and Alex (Y6AS), Faith and Zvisha (Y6EW), Josh and Ruby (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.

28th November - 2nd December

FS2: FS2AC (96.1%) - FS2AC are our best attender in FS2 this week, well done!

KS1: Y1CH (97.6%) – Y1CH are the winners in KS1 this week, fantastic!

LKS2: Y4LS (98.9%) – Highest in LKS2 and highest in school for Y4LS this week, superb!

UKS2: Y5TS (97.3%) – Y5RW are the winners in UKS2 with another strong %, brilliant!

School: 94.7% - A slight rise again this week however still some work to do if we are going to reach the Government target of 97.0%.

5th - 9th December

FS2: FS2AC (92.3%) - FS2KB are our best attender in FS2 this week, brilliant job!

KS1: Y1CH (96.9%) – Y1CH are the winners in KS1 again this week and highest in school, amazing work!

LKS2: Y4LS (93.9%) – Highest in LKS2 again for Y4LS this week, fantastic!

UKS2: Y5TS (91.5%) – Y5TS are the winners in UKS2 again this week, well done!

School: 88.6% - Quite a significant decline this week. We need to really focus on attendance to reach 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 **S**upporters.

Last weeks winners were **Supportive Supporters** with **1285 points** - well done.

This weeks winners are **Exciting Experts** with **973 points** - well done.



Foundation Stage

What an amazing couple of weeks of learning we have had. The progress in our reading and writing has been extremely impressive so please keep supporting at home.

We have also had some surprise visitors arrive in our classroom. Can you ask your child about who they are and what sounds they make?

Key Stage 1

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

Year 1

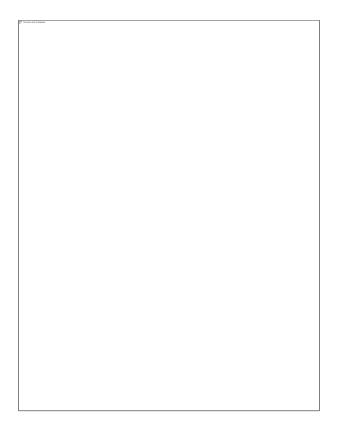
Year One have been very busy preparing for Christmas. We loved learning the songs and dances for our performances of Bethlehem Bake Off, in fact some of us are still singing the songs now!

Since our performances we have been working on our Design Technology project of making a picture with a moving part. We used our learning to make Christmas cards for our families. We hope you are impressed when you receive them! We have also been working on our fine motor skills, practising our pencil control and cutting skills with a range of Christmas crafts.

We have also worked very hard on our writing. We enjoyed watching the film of The Snowman and had a go at writing our own versions of the stories. We had some lovely work produced across Year One.

Year 2

This week in Y2 we have been having lots of fun finishing of our free standing castles in DT. We have then tested them to see if they would be strong enough to withstand an attack by enemy soldiers by throwing balls at the castles. The adults in Y2 were extremely proud that nearly all of the castles were still standing after having three balls thrown at them. We have also enjoyed our Festive Thursday, where we did a range of Christmas games and craft activities.



Lower Key Stage 2

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

Year 3

This week Year 3 have been working on their poems based on The Ning Nang Ning by Spike Milligan. We have loved making up nonsense words to write our own silly poems and are excited to publish them ready for them to be displayed in Spalding Library after Christmas. Keep an eye on the next edition of the Parish Post to see some of them!

To listen to Spike Milligan read his poem please click here https://childrens.poetryarchive.org/poem/on-the-ning-nang-nong/

Year 4

In Geography over the last few weeks we have been considering how to improve the view outside our window. We went on a walk around the outside school to look for local 'grot' spots. We then wrote questions to the local Wombles group. We look forward to getting their response.

In Science we thought about how we can protect our environment and created posters to give people ideas such as turning off lights when leaving a room.

Over the course of this term with have explored different types of Christmas gift boxes. We used this to design and create our own. We hope you like them.

All of Year 4 would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

This Christmas term has been a very busy one for us in year 5. First, we had our wonderful church service that the children had worked super hard on to make sure everything was perfect for parents to see in the evening. We had our final swimming lesson that ended with a great big party provided by the brilliant swimming instructors! In DT we had all been working for a few days on our bird houses made in a framed structure style. Everyone worked together very well for this to happen, and we got to use hardware like saws and vices to complete these.

In English we have made some letters to the local council concerning the events in Spalding town centre and gave the local council some pointers for what to do next. Geography took us on a field trip to the beautiful Arnold's Meadows where the children got to see nature up close and personal, and they all wrote down and drew what they had seen. This helped us with our science as we have been researching about animal and plant life cycles and reproduction, which we have been planting narcissus flowers and have classroom experiments with succulents waiting for us when we come back!

Overall, it has been a wonderful but very hectic term, and everyone is feeling the Christmas spirit around the school, and we are all looking forward to a few weeks rest!

Year 6

On Friday 2nd December, Year 6 visited Debbie and her team at the Spalding Baptist Church to take part in 'Christmas Unwrapped.' They were greeted warmly at the door and given a fantastic morning or fun activities linked to Christmas. Last year this had to be completed virtually, so it was even more special to be back at the Baptist Church.

The children took part in decorating biscuits, which was a real favourite by all. There were some fantastic designs, which we hope made it home in one piece. We then moved through into the church where Debbie and the team led us through a variety of activities including: a short drama about Mary and Joseph being visited by Angel Gabriel; questions about traditions and the Christmas Story; a Christmas card jigsaw puzzle game; the story of the Shepherds and a Christmas Rap. Each game and activity was linked to representing God and why we celebrate Christmas. The Y6s were amazed to find out lots of Christmas trivia in the quiz: 48 weeks before Christmas, shops buy Christmas cards.

Y6 enjoyed watching: <u>Christmas Chord - Spoken Truth (spoken-truth.com)</u> and exploring why Jesus is so special.

'The Baptist Church was amazing because we had the chance to participate in different activities.' Emma Y6EW

'We would like to go back again and enjoy the Baptist Church coming into school every Tuesday.' Lily-Mae Y6KB 'It was great fun and we learnt some interesting facts as well as exploring the real meaning of Christmas.' George Y6KB 'We got to rap and some of us went up on the stage. My favourite part was decorating the biscuits.' **Ruby Y6AS** They are already looking forward to Easter unwrapped next year.

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 - <u>Y3@spaldingparish.laat,co.uk</u> or <u>Y4@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk</u>

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