

Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

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'And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.'

Hebrews 10:10

22nd April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Start of Term 5 Newsletter

As we head into the final two terms of the academic year it is clear the year is certainly flying by. I hope you have all enjoyed the Easter break, an important time in the Christian calendar, and were able to take the opportunity to spend some quality time with your families.

Thank you to all who attended the recent Parent Consultation Evenings, I hope you found them both informative and useful. Please do complete the return slip, if you have not already done so, at the end of your child's report, all feedback is welcomed to ensure we can further develop our partnership. Through my monitoring of Teaching and Learning and having read all the children's reports, in the 10 days running up to the Parent Consultation Evenings, it is clear that all of our children have been working really hard. This is also evident in the progress within all Year Groups. I hope this continues as we return to school.

Thank you also to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete the Parent Questionnaire. Feedback from parents and carers is very important to us as it really helps us to reflect on and review our provision in school. We are just in the process of analysing the information and will then share this with stakeholders re identified next steps.

Bank Holiday Monday – 6th May

Please note, school will be closed on May 6th for the May Bank Holiday, we start school that week on Tuesday 7th May.

Fund Raising

Thank you all very much for your continued generosity in supporting our fundraising events so far this year. Most recently we supported a number of events including fundraising for Red Nose Day With your help we really are making a difference to others.

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

Online Safety

Our work around Online Safety and particularly social media continued during Terms 3 and 4, following our whole school support of Internet Safety Day. May I also take this opportunity to remind everyone that, as a school, we continue to work hard to teach the children how to use social media both responsibly and respectfully. Your support in demonstrating this to your child is greatly appreciated. Should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to come in to school to discuss them.

Recently, within Lincolnshire, there has been an increase in children accessing inappropriate content online and also seen an increase in inappropriate use of social media. Please see below guidance from Community Safety Service regarding ways that parents/carers can support specifically in relation to online safety.

Inappropriate Content Online Advice for Parents from Community Safety Service

Over the last few months, we have seen an increase in the number of schools reporting that students, while at home, have accessed content which is not always appropriate, some of which has been quite scary or upsetting. We have also had a report of worrying trends on TikTok encouraging nudity from its users. This can have legal implications for our children and young people that they often aren't aware of.

While there is no perfect way to eliminate this risk, we feel that there are things parents and carers can do to support their children online, reduce the risk or manage it after the fact. Remember to keep lines of Communication open with your children and young people. Just like we ask them how their day was at school and what they got up to it is equally important to have this conversation about their Online lives. If you can keep technology out of the bedrooms and private spaces this is also an effective tool in safeguarding our children.

Here are some more practical steps parents and carers can follow:

- *Contact their Internet Service Provider (ISP): Companies that provide broadband such as BT, Sky and Virgin, offer free protection for parents and carers. They can filter your internet connection directly, without having to install anything. Guide on how to use this can be found here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/broadband-mobile/>*
- *YouTube is a fantastic resource, but not all the content is appropriate for children and not all YouTube channels are made for young audiences. YouTube has an app just for children – YouTube Kids – but many people don't realise that the main YouTube app has a restricted mode. Check out more about how it works here: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/youtube-app/>*
- *Parental Controls for Devices - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>*
- *Games consoles have features that can limit what games they can play based on the age ratings and can even turn off certain features to allow gaming to be a little safer. To learn more about these features visit <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/>*
- *Games are also rated based on the content; not how difficult they are. 18 rated games can have very graphic violence, adult language and themes, sexual content, and horror elements. Learn a bit more about appropriate games by visiting <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/> or visit this site for more about game ratings <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/peqi-games-ratings-explained>*
- *Social Media privacy guide - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/>*

Tik Tok Family Pairing <https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-us/tiktok-introduces-family-pairing> Family pairing allows adults to link their accounts to their teenagers account so you can customise their safety settings such as content, privacy and well being settings.

It's important to remember that no filters or controls are 100% effective so make sure your child knows that they can, and should, talk to someone if they see or hear anything upsetting online so we can offer them some reassurance. This information from Thinkuknow might be useful <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Im-worried-my-primary-aged-child-might-see-something-inappropriate-online/>

As stated previously, we are always more than happy to host an online safety event for parents/carers if there is any interest. Please speak to your child's Class Teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team if you are interested.

Parish Post

As part of our provision in school we regularly review our procedures and systems. This includes things like the Parish Post so we can ensure parents and carers are receiving the most relevant information about school and the information they feel would be useful. If there is anything further that you would like to see included in the Parish Post, please either speak to your child's class teacher or email via feedback@spaldingparish.laat.co.uk. The intention of the Parish Post is to share information with you about school and as such we would like to include, if feasible, aspects that are prevalent for parents and carers.

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, particularly given the promise of improved weather ahead.

We continue to receive a small number of complaints from local neighbours where driveways are being blocked as a result of parking. We are all a community and it is important that we work together for the benefit of all. If you could please bear our neighbours in mind when parking, this would be very much appreciated.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA East Midlands Health Protection team) has identified an increase in confirmed or suspected cases of whooping cough (pertussis) in school age children across the East Midlands region. With this in mind we would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness regarding vaccination and symptoms of whooping cough to be aware of.

Symptoms

Whooping cough is caused by infection with pertussis bacteria. For most school-age patients, symptoms will resolve over a number of weeks, while for some, coughing can persist for a few months.

The symptoms of pertussis include:

- a cough lasting several weeks following initial cold-like symptoms
- prolonged bouts of coughing ('paroxysms')
- post-coughing retching or vomiting
- a 'whoop' sound on breathing in
- rib pain

Find more information about pertussis on the NHS website:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/>

Polling Day – Thursday 2nd May

As you will know, there are local elections taking place on Thursday 2nd May and our school hall will be used as a Polling Station as it has done for many years previously. We will still be open for the children to attend school but will lock the internal hall doors for the day so that nobody can enter the school building. The visitors in school who co-ordinate the election will also not have access to the site beyond the hall.

Lunches

On that day children will not be able to eat lunches in the hall so the kitchen will not be cooking hot lunches. They will however be making sandwiches so that children can still order a school lunch. The online ordering system on ParentPay has the option for you to choose a sandwich meal for your child should you wish to order one; all children will then eat their lunches in their classrooms.

The cut off time for ordering meals for that week will be Tuesday 23rd April.

Bagels

Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer bagels that morning due to the hall being out of use to us. They will start again the following day.

Sun Safety

Over the weekend we have seen the arrival of a little sunshine and warmer weather, with this in mind could we please ask that you send your child into school prepared for the weather. If you could please ensure your child has a hat to keep the sun off their head during the times of the day when they are outside and a drinks bottle in school each day filled with fresh water to ensure your child stays hydrated in the warmer weather.

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

Imagine there is a bank account that credits your account each morning with £86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening the bank deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw out every penny, of course? Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME.

Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off as lost, whatever of this you have failed to invest to a good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft. Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no drawing against "tomorrow." You must live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success! Make the most of today.

To realise the value of:

ONE YEAR, ask a student who had to re-sit an exam.

ONE MONTH, ask a football manager before the end of the season.

ONE WEEK, ask the leaders of political parties in the run-up to the election.

ONE HOUR, ask parents waiting to meet their child after their first day at school.

ONE MINUTE, ask anybody who has just missed a train.

ONE SECOND, ask someone who just avoided an accident.

ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who won a silver medal at the Olympics.

Treasure every moment you have! Treasure it more when you share it with someone special. Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why it's called the present. As we head into Term 5 I hope all our pupils make the most of the time and opportunities given to them.

Kind Regards,



Diane Mulley
Head Teacher