



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

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

14th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

EYFS Class Groupings Update

Firstly, I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you all as parents/carers of EYFS pupils at SPCEDS to formally welcome you all to the Spalding Parish family. We have all really enjoyed getting to know both you and your children during Term 1 and are pleased you are all now part of the SPCEDS community.

Over the course of the term, I'm sure you will have all got to know the EYFS team well, Annabel Cooper (EYFS Lead/Class Teacher), Kelly Baker (Class Teacher), Emma Brown (Class Teacher), Sam Egleton (Teaching Assistant), Damian Waldron (Teaching Assistant) and most recently Vickie Andrew (Teaching Assistant). Increasing numbers of pupils meant that we did employ another teacher in readiness for the start of the academic year and Emma has been working within the EYFS team since September. We had obviously shared with you via transition the key adults for your child (based on our former model of two class groups) and had made the decision to get to know the children before we made any changes in order to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. We have now made the decision to split the children formally into three class groups – FS2AC with Annabel Cooper, FS2KB with Kelly Baker and FS2EB with Emma Brown so all will benefit from smaller class groups but also to provide a balanced numbers of boys, girls, children who speak English as an Additional Language and children who have any Special Educational Needs, abilities, etc.

Change is inevitably a little worrying for anyone although the children have been working across the three rooms for a period of time so it is unlikely to feel too different for them. A significant period of time will still be spent working as a unit. With this in mind, I would urge you to promote the next step in your child's learning journey as a very exciting and positive one. All the children have been grouped based on our knowledge of the children, their strengths and areas for development, alongside their friendship groups. I believe this is an ideal opportunity for the children to start to further develop the skills of making new relationships, independence and resilience.

Your child's Class Teacher for the rest of the Academic Year 2023-24 will be: Annabel Cooper - FS2AC.

An update from the EYFS Team also forms part of this communication so please ensure you read this on the following pages. As always if you do have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards,

Diane Mulley
Head Teacher



PART OF THE TRANSFORMATIONAL
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EYFS Term 2 Update

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

We have had a fantastic first term of the academic year and would like to say a huge thank you to parents and carers for their support during this time. It has been fantastic to get to know both you and your children over the term and we look forward to this relationship developing further over the course of the year as we build the partnership between home and school. With this in mind, please find attached some updates from the team that we hope will support in terms of provision over the coming term.

Winter Weather

Firstly, please can we thank you for your support in ensuring that items of clothing, including shoes, are named. As the colder weather approaches, children will now need to bring in hats, gloves and scarves. Please ensure that these are also named and talk to your child about keeping their belongings either in their bag or in their coat pockets.

We are also now asking that every child please bring a pair of their own named wellies into school. The children will keep these under their school peg and will be asked to change into them prior to going outside for any outdoor learning. We are hoping that this will also support them in looking after their own shoes which again must please be named. Should anyone find that this is problematic during these uncertain financial times then please do come and speak to a member of the team.

PE

A reminder that PE continues to be on a Wednesday and due to the colder weather, please could we ask that children wear track suit bottoms, white t-shirt and track suit jumper as per the uniform outlined in the documentation shared at the EYFS Information Evening. A gentle reminder that those with pierced ears should have their earrings removed for PE days.

Drop Off and Collection

We would like to say a huge thank you to you all for supporting your children to become so independent in the mornings when they are coming into school – it is amazing to see just how independent they have become in such a short space of time. One of the hardest things when you are four or five years old is not only leaving your main care giver but also then being responsible for your own belongings. We have all been so impressed with how the children have risen to this challenge and their approach to this each day.

Please could we remind you of a couple of aspects that further support the children and us in their journey to being independent and confident.

- At drop off in the mornings, please could we ask that you do not come through the gate. We appreciate that this may seem like a small thing but for any child that needs additional support coming into school, it is hard to see other parents coming through the gate. If you need to speak to an adult about an urgent matter then please wait at the gate for us. For any non-urgent matters, please see us at the end of the day.
- At collection time at the end of the day, again we would ask that parents/carers please remain at the gate. We completely understand that children forget things like water bottles etc. but it is part of developing their independence and muscle memory for them to come back into school themselves for any forgotten belongings. Should you need to speak to an adult please could we respectfully ask that you wait at the gate until all children have been dismissed. This not only ensures privacy for any conversations that we may need to have but this also allows us to get the children out safely and swiftly. It also ensures that parents not needing a conversation with us are not waiting around for a prolonged period of time.

- Finally, we cannot reiterate how important it is to not only name all of your child's belongings but to also check that the ones they bring home are their own. Although as a team we try our utmost to match children and their belongings, it is impossible when these are not named and therefore in these instances we lose valuable teaching and learning time with your children whilst we search. It is also frustrating for parents who have named their children's belongings when these belongings are taken home by other children by mistake, particularly when we have had a small number of instances when such items have not been returned. You can support your child by showing them where their belongings are named and by reminding them to hang items on their peg or keep them in their bags.

Phonics and Reading Parental Workshop

The children really are doing some wonderful work with their Phonics and Reading and now that they have had chance to settle into school life we would like to invite you all to an information workshop. The workshop will start with a talk from Annabel Cooper as EYFS, Phonics and Reading Lead within the school. I will go through what your child will experience in Phonics and some of the basics. You will then get the chance to come and watch your child being taught a Phonics lesson and then finish by spending some time with your child should you so wish in order to practice some of the skills that we have shared with you. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Thursday 30th November

Time	Where	What	With Whom
9.00am - 10.00am	Hall	Informal presentation about Phonics	Annabel Cooper
10.00am - 10.20am	Classrooms	Watch a Phonics lesson	Annabel Cooper, Kelly Baker and Emma Brown
10.20am - 11.00am	Classrooms	Chance to read with your child or complete Phonics games	Your child

Foundation Stage Christmas Celebration

Finally, we would like to take the opportunity to invite you all to our Foundation Stage Christmas Celebration to be held on Thursday 14th December at 9.30am in the school hall.

As a Church School, Christmas is a very special time in the school and the church calendar and we look forward to welcoming families and friends into school as part of our Christmas festivities this year. We know the children will also be very excited to share their performance with you all – their gift to you all at this very special time in the year.

And Finally...

As always if you do have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the EYFS team in the first instance. Members of the Senior Leadership Team will also be more than happy to support you with any concerns you may have. We are here to help however can only do that if we are aware. Thank you as always for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Annabel Cooper, Kelly Baker and Emma Brown
EYFS Class Teachers