



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

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

8th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

End of Term 4 Newsletter

Another busy term has come to an end, the year is certainly flying by. As we head into the Easter break, an important time in the Christian calendar, I hope that you enjoy the time away from school and are 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. We do welcome any feedback as this ensures we can further develop our partnership. Through my monitoring of Teaching and Learning and having reviewed all the children's achievement information, in recent weeks, 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 following the Easter break.

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.

Attendance

Good attendance remains key to ensuring children make the most of every learning opportunity. We have seen some excellent improvements this term—well done! Attendance and punctuality are attributes that are essential as children grow up and this is the time of their lives when they learn them. After the break, we ask that all children arrive promptly so lessons can begin smoothly. If your child is unwell or unable to attend, please remember to inform the office as early as possible.

Our current attendance in school is 95.0% which represents a 0.3% increase on the previous term. A huge well done to all for your commitment to this, you are all superstars!

To this point in the year children have been at school for 128 days in total. Our 5% absence figures represents 3,488 missed school days already this academic year, with an average of 6.4 days absence per pupil. With 70 pupils with no absence over the year so far this increases the average absence per pupil to 7.5 days which equates to a day's absence every 3-4 weeks, a concerning fact. Over the summer term we will continue to focus on reducing the absence of all pupils in school.



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Head Teacher: Diane Mulley

Well done to all of our classes who have worked really hard to improve their attendance over the course of the term. Our current leaderboard is as follows – remember our target is 97.0%!

EYFS/KS1	KS2
Y1SE/IG (up 0.4%) - 95.9%	Y4KB (up 0.2%) - 96.6%
Y1BB (up 0.3%) - 95.2%	Y3 KR (up 0.3%), Y4SH, Y6RW (up 0.4%) - 96.3%
Y2SD (up 1.2%) - 94.4%	Y5EW (up 0.2%) – 96.1%
FSDO (up 0.4%) - 93.7%	Y5SS (=) – 95.9%
Y2CH (up 0.7%) - 93.3%	Y3AR (up 0.3%) - 95.8%
Y2MC - 93.1%	Y5LB (up 0.2%) - 95.3%
FSY1CJ (up 0.2%) - 91.6%	Y6AS (up 0.6%) - 95.1%
FSAC (up 0.8%) - 91.6%	Y4TS (up 0.1%) - 95.0%
	Y6MJ (up 0.1%) - 94.7%
Whole School (up 0.3%) – 95.0%	

Back to School

A reminder that we do have a school training day at the end of the Easter break. We look forward to welcoming all the pupils back to school on Tuesday 21st April.

Bank Holiday Monday – 4th May

School will be closed on May 4th for the May Bank Holiday, we return to school on Tuesday 5th May.

Childcare Provision

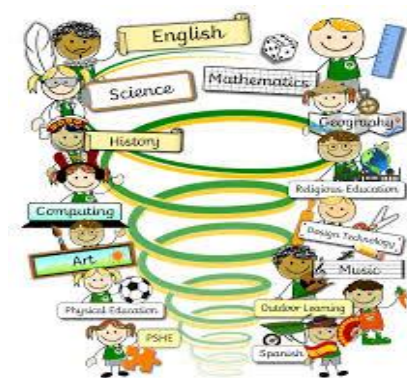
As you will know we run our childcare club, Parish Pioneers, as part of our extended provision. Our breakfast provision currently runs from 7.30am till the start of the school day with our after school provision currently starting from the end of the school day till 5.45pm. If this is something you would be interested in accessing for your child, please get in touch.

Curriculum

Across the school this term, children have been diving into exciting topics—from hands-on science experiments to creative writing and rich maths challenges. We look forward to building on this next term with learning that we know the children will enjoy.

EYFS

This term we have continued to embed our skills in the core subject areas. We have continued to develop the use of our stem sentences in order to support our communication and interactions with each other.



Our focus this term has been based on our geographical understanding. We have looked at different places on the map and compared these including those with contrasting locations. We have celebrated our similarities and differences and even had some of our parents come into school to share their world of work with us!

Year 1

Year 1 have had a fabulous term! We have been learning to use our Fred Fingers to spell words in Phonics and our reading is getting better every day. In English, we had a letter from Paddington and we had to help him write some good instructions to make a marmalade sandwich. Then we learned how to write a short story and describe things using similes. We have been inspired by The Proudest Blue, which is a story by Ibtihaj Muhammed.

We are expanding our knowledge of numbers too, as we are now learning our numbers up to 50 in Maths. We have been so good at identifying the tens and ones that make up a number.

In Art we have enjoyed looking at different landscapes and thinking about what we can see in the foreground, middle ground and background. We have been learning some different painting skills including colour mixing and adding white and black to change the shade of colours. We are now ready to use these skills to paint landscape similar to the House of Parliament by Monet.

We have been looking at lots of different artists across Art and Computing and also learning how to make a digital painting using all the tools on the Paint app.

Finally, in Science we have been learning all about plants. We are learning like botanists, and we now know all about the different parts of a plant and how they function. We have looked at how some trees change throughout the year and how some stay the same. Looking at different plants has been really fun as it has challenged us to look carefully and make detailed observations. We can't wait to continue in in the next term!

Year 2

This term in Year 2 has been very busy and great fun. We have been learning about germination and the plant life cycle in Science. We enjoyed planting sunflower seeds to inspire us. These have now germinated and shoots have started to appear. We will send these home with the children for you to plant out in the garden when they are ready. We would love to see photos of these when they bloom!

In Maths we have been practising our 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We have been having a competition between the three classes to see who can earn the most coins on Times Tables Rock Stars. We have earned thousands of coins between us.

In DT we have practised chopping skills. We chopped and tasted different fruit and vegetables and decided which ones we liked. We then made a healthy snack pot which we tasted and evaluated.

In Geography we have learned to use an atlas to help us find out about the world. We have learned about the continents and oceans of the world.

What a busy term, we are looking forward to more fun in the summer term.

Year 3

This term in Year 3, we have been busy exploring a wide range of exciting topics across the curriculum. In Geography, our focus has been on mountains and volcanoes—how they are formed, what they are made of, and the role tectonic plates play in shaping our planet. The children were fascinated by the dramatic forces beneath the Earth's surface, and we linked this learning to our reading sessions, where they practised key comprehension skills using related texts. In Science, we turned our attention to light, investigating how it enables us to see and how shadows are created. This scientific understanding fed beautifully into our English lessons, where the children used their knowledge to produce detailed non-chronological reports.

In DT, we explored processed foods and healthy eating, leading to the design, creation, and evaluation of our own healthy sandwiches—tasting them was definitely a highlight of the term! In French, we expanded our vocabulary by learning the names of different fruits and practised expressing our likes and dislikes. Meanwhile, in RE, we have been reflecting thoughtfully on what makes a good life, considering values, choices, and the things that are important to us. It has certainly been a term full of learning, creativity, and curiosity.



Year 4

What a great term Year 4 have had! We have thoroughly enjoyed linking our Science big question, “*How can we change sound?*”, with our English learning, where the children wrote brilliant non-chronological reports about sound. These were enriched by a range of practical scientific investigations, including exploring vibrations using drums, rice, coat hangers and string, as well as investigating low and high pitch by creating our own elastic band guitars.

We also enjoyed a visit to the town library, where the children took part in Harry Potter themed activities, listened to stories and explored all that the library has to offer. We wrote our own stories based on our focus reading book 'Charlotte's Web' and have been able to share these with Y2.

In Design and Technology, we explored the history of the wrap, tasted a range of ingredients, learnt about the food groups they belong to, and designed our own healthy wraps, which we then made and thoroughly enjoyed eating!

In Maths, the children have become confident fraction experts, whilst in PE they have developed their skills in both tag rugby and gymnastics. We are very much looking forward to our learning after Easter. Well done, Year 4!

Year 5

Year 5 have been very busy during Term 4. In Maths we have finished our learning for fractions and have now moved on to learning about fractions, decimals and percentages and their connections.

English has seen us writing a story with a wish and a biography for Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock which linked well with our Science learning about the Solar System. Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the National Space Centre to consolidate their learning.

In Computing we have been using databases to search and find information to answer questions about passengers on the Titanic and Geography has seen us looking at 'What makes Europe Wonderful'. We have looked at rivers, mountain ranges, volcanoes, the different ways of travelling to Europe, the topography of a country and we finished with a piece of work to showcase why a chosen European country should be visited.

In PE we have been learning how to serve a ball and work with a partner to keep a rally going in tennis and we have been swimming where we took part in water safety lessons, checked what distance we could swim and topped it all off with a fun session. We are looking forward to seeing what learning will take place in Term 5.

Year 6

Our English curriculum has burst into life this year thanks to our new writing framework, which has transformed each unit into a journey of discovery and creativity. We kick things off with captivating hook lessons that immerse pupils in new texts, igniting curiosity and setting the stage for powerful writing. From crafting imaginative fiction inspired by our rich reading spine to producing purposeful non-fiction rooted in our science learning, pupils are discovering how writing can inform, entertain, persuade and inspire.

Throughout the year, we continue to explore a wide range of purposes and audiences, unpicking what makes great writing truly impactful and how authors shape a reader's experience. And the excitement doesn't stop there—we can't wait to experiment with video stimuli next term and channel our inner historians as we delve into the past through writing later in the year!



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

Hot Lunches

Our new menus for Term 5 are now available – all the usual favourites. Please remember to book meals by midnight on a Tuesday night for the following week.

Illness

As you may be aware we have experienced quite a lot of illness in recent weeks, including some impact of our staff team. We hope they will be back with us following the term break.

On our return in Term 5, should your child be unwell and be suffering from symptoms of sickness and diarrhoea please do not send them back to school until 48 hours after their last bout. Any sickness or diarrhoea should be dealt with in this way following the guidance from the NHS and will ensure the spreading of these conditions is reduced. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Online Safety

Our work around Online Safety and particularly social media continued during Terms 3 and 4. May we 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 re ways that parents/carers can support specifically in relation to online safety.



Inappropriate Content Online Advice for Parents

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:

- Parental Controls for Devices - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/smartphones-and-other-devices/>
- Social Media privacy guide - <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/social-media/>
- 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/>
- 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. Visit <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming-whats-appropriate-for-your-child/> to learn more about appropriate games or visit this site for more about game ratings <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/pegi-games-ratings-explained>

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.

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.

Safeguarding Concerns

Thank you to everyone who has been proactive in sharing concerns or seeking guidance. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we are grateful for the trust you place in us. Our team is always available should you need advice, reassurance, or support.

Spalding Parish Site

As you will know ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all when on the school site is high priority for us all and something that we really hope that all stakeholders will support. If we could all please ensure that we are modelling positive behaviour to our pupils while on the site. Please remember that we do have little people and it is important that they see positive interactions and positive language whilst on site.

Also a reminder that the school site is a dog free site – this includes all dogs whether they are walking or being carried (the only exception being guide dogs). We know that both adults and children can be scared and intimidated by dogs and not always know how to react to them. We feel it is important that the school site is a safe place for all children and would welcome your cooperation with this matter.

Smoking and vaping is also prohibited on the school premises and will be challenged if seen. Again this is to ensure the health and safety of our whole school community.

Sporting Events



Our children have continued to represent the school over the past few weeks, with teams participating in Hockey and Netball events. Thank you to all who have taken part. Remember if you would like to represent our school in such events it is essential that you follow the expectations within school. Thank you to the children who represented themselves and school very well and to parents/carers for their continued support. A big thank you to the staff for their time in both coaching and attending the events.

Starting School in September 2026?

If you have not yet applied for a September 2026 place you can still apply by clicking the following link - [Click Here](#). If you already have a child in school, you still need to register their sibling in this way as applications must go through the official channels.

We are aware that choosing a school for your child is one of the biggest decisions that you can make as a parent and we want to ensure that every answer to a question/query is given and every opportunity to explore the school is exercised. Should you still wish to visit, please contact the school office to make an appointment.

Start and End of Day Routines

A huge thank you to all of our parent body for ensuring their children are in school on time and ready to learn following recent pleas, it is very much appreciated. If I could just ask that, at both the start and end of day, you supervise your children before dropping off and after collecting. Whilst there are staff around at these times, they do have a class responsibility and will be very focussed on welcoming children at the start of the day and ensuring all pupils are handed over to parents at the end of the day.

If I could also ask you to keep all children, including school age and pre-school children, off the school equipment at the beginning at the end of the school day. Such equipment has restrictions in terms of numbers of children and weight and as such use should be supervised. As a school we feel it is very important to provide resources for the children to use within school and have worked hard to fundraise in order to be able to finance such resources. However such items are very expensive and do therefore need to be respected and looked after to ensure longevity. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Sun Safety

Over the last few weeks 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.



Uniform

We look forward to welcoming the pupils back to school, after the term break. Please can we remind families that after the holiday all pupils should return in full, correct school uniform. We have seen an increase in the number of pupils not wearing full uniform and this does impact the sense of belonging and pride. If you could please ensure that children are wearing appropriate uniform, including white or purple polo shirts, white or purple sweatshirt or cardigan, grey trousers or skirt and black school shoes. If you need any support with uniform items, please do reach out—we are always happy to help. We will be monitoring uniform and may ask for your support where necessary.

Similarly our policy for pupils to wear PE kit for identified PE days remains. This does need to be school PE kit as per policy. This does allow us to really make the most of learning time however it is important that this is not abused or this may need to be reviewed. **Please ensure PE kit is only worn on PE days – trainers for example should not be worn on other days.** Please ensure pupils are not wearing earrings on PE days – earrings on other days should only be studs please. Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Vision and Values

Our Church school vision underpins all the work we do in school, inspiring us to be the best we can be.

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

Inclusive - Our inclusive community honours each person and ensures they know they are valued and valuable. Spalding Parish is a family where all members of our school community care for each other. This is evident through the level of support that is both given and received.

Fulfilling - Through challenge and support, staff work extremely hard to ensure that children reach their full potential and set high standards, both of pupils behaviour and in the work they produce. We recognise that it is important, not only for our pupils to reach their academic potential, but for them to be given the opportunity to develop their talents in art, music and sport; allowing all to flourish and experience 'life in all its fullness'.

Flourishing - Working together we strive to make a difference for all pupils, for our whole school community and for the wider world. We value all learners and aim to ensure every member of our school community can flourish as this is 'life in all its fullness'. Our curriculum aims to give hope and prepare children for the future in which they can fully participate as responsible and confident citizens.



It is important to us that we work in partnership with all our parents to ensure the best for all the children in our care. Together we can ensure that the children have a rewarding, fulfilling learning journey, flourishing during their time at Spalding Parish, discovering new things and making the most out of all the opportunities offered.

Next term's value is Trust. *"Trust, by definition, is our unconditional belief that we can rely on someone."* This is lived out in school by through our unconditional positive regard approach and the support staff provide for pupils. Remember to check in with your child re their understanding of our vision and values.

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.

Thank you once again for your continued support and for the encouragement you offer your children and our staff each day. As always, please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns with the school office in the first instance and one of us will be in touch.

We look forward to welcoming the pupils into school next term and also seeing you all.

Kind Regards,

Diane Mulley
Interim Executive Headteacher

Emily Hill
Interim Head of School

