

Spotlight on Spaxton C of E Primary



Friday 20th October 2024



Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community

As we come to the end of the first half term, I wanted to acknowledge the great start our children have made to the academic year. When I visit classrooms, I see happy and engaged children who are really enjoying their lessons and the classroom displays are stimulating and reflect the wide range of learning going on in each class. All year groups are working hard but I wanted to especially mention the reception children who have settled and are now well on the way with learning their phonics! What an amazing start! Parents and carers will all have an opportunity to see classrooms for themselves and look at children's work when they visit for parents evening next half term.

Having talked about the start of this academic year, we are already planning for the next one! This week we have welcomed prospective parents and carers to Spaxton so they can see the school in action. It was lovely to meet them and we are hopeful that we will be their school of choice for 2024! If you know friends, family or neighbours with children who will be 4 years old on or after 1st September 2024, they can apply for places here: [Apply to start school for the first time \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/apply-to-start-school-for-the-first-time)

You may also have spotted Mrs Rood in school recently. Mrs Rood is visiting school weekly as part of her 'keeping in touch' days until she returns full time from maternity leave on Monday 4th December. Mrs Rood is excited to be returning and is already getting back into the swing of things, meeting the children and spending time in classrooms.

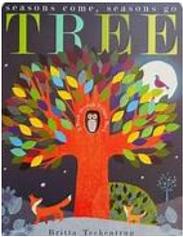
Thank you for your support this term and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a good half term break.

Mr Tucker



Class news

In this newsletter the classes are sharing news about their work, including their current class text.



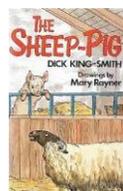
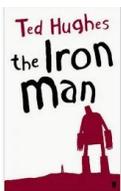
Starling Class – This half term we have really enjoyed exploring poems linked to our topic of seasonal changes. We have explored using descriptive words linked to our senses, expanding our vocabulary to explain what we see, hear, smell and feel. This has been linked to our key text of 'Tree, Seasons Come and Seasons Go' which has supported our younger readers to segment words in preparation for writing and the Key Stage 1 children to identify, read and write words with the suffix 'ing'.

Kingfisher Class- In English we began the year reading *In our Hands* by Lucy Farfort, exploring a world without colour and what life would be like without it. We learnt the importance of illustrations within a text and how to recreate them.

We then moved on to exploring the Iron Man an amazing story linked to our science topic of forces and magnets. We have explored the use of expanded noun phrases to add details to our writing and created some amazing pieces of poetry inspired by the text.

We have also been predicting what we think will happen next and putting ourselves in the characters shoes by acting out different parts of the story.

We have also enjoyed our class reader *The Sheep-Pig* by Dick King-Smith, we loved hearing about the adventures on Mr Hogget's farm.



Peregrine Class - This term we are reading *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell-Boyce. This book is about a boy called Liam who looks much older than his age! This allows him to get into lots of mischief, including test-driving a Porsche! The children have used this book in order to develop their fluency reading skills, comprehension of their reading, as well as increasing their vocabulary choices. We have used it to develop description in writing a character profile, as well as using fronted adverbials in letter writing. In our reading for pleasure time, we are reading 'The Longest Night of Charlie Noon' by Christopher Edge. He is becoming one of our favourite authors with the class reading a range of his other books as well.



Upcoming events/ Diary Dates

- Charterhouse Trip 6th – 8th November [The Charterhouse Centre \(sseoutdoors.co.uk\)](http://sseoutdoors.co.uk)
- Flu Vaccinations – 9th November
- Anti-bullying Week – week beginning 13th November [Parents and Carers \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](http://Parents and Carers (anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk))
- Vision Screening (Reception children only) – 14th November
- INSET Day – 17th November
- Parents Evenings – 21st and 22nd November
- Christmas Nativity – date to be confirmed early next term!



PTFA News

The PTFA are looking forward to seeing old and new faces on October 20th at the get together in the Pavilion, straight after school. There will be games, drinks, cake and hot dogs!



We also have some fun events coming up for you to mark in the diary: Non-uniform day on the 1st November, family Christmas Bingo at the Village Hall on 24th November and a Christmas Movie night after school on 1st December. We hope you can make it! The children are also designing Christmas Cards and Tea Towels that will be available before Christmas.

We are also hoping to hold a disco in January – time and date to be confirmed.

Local Governance Committee Update

Members of the LGC are looking forward to visiting the school next half term to spend time with leaders and see first-hand the work going on to develop reading and mathematics as well as checking on safeguarding arrangements. These visits are a key part of our role and give us an opportunity to ask questions and clarify our understanding of the impact of the school development plan. More information about the LGC can be found on the school website: [Spaxton CE Primary School - Governors \(eschools.co.uk\)](http://eschools.co.uk) If you think you would like to become a governor, please let the office know. Further information about becoming a governor for the Diocese of Bath and Wells is also available here: [Come on board - Bath and Wells Diocese](#)



Attendance



We know that good attendance leads to good outcomes for children. Children learn best if they are in school regularly and avoid gaps in their learning. We have set ourselves an ambitious target to achieve at least 95% this year. We are currently above target which is great – we just need to keep it there! You can help us do this by minimizing the number of sessions your child misses each year. No one can help being poorly and it is important to stay at home if you are sick, but other absences such as holidays or appointments should be avoided, wherever possible.

Attendance Target	Current attendance
95%	96%

INSET Days 2023/2023

Friday 17th November 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Friday 8th March 2024

All term dates and INSET days can be found on the school website: [Spaxton CE Primary School - Academic Calendar with INSETS \(eschools.co.uk\)](http://eschools.co.uk)