



Spaxton CE VC Primary School Newsletter

Left – Matisse Class enjoying
Dengineering Day

October 2016

PROTECT, TRUST, HAVE HOPE, PERSEVERE, SHOW COURAGE AND REJOICE...

SPAXTON NEWS BITES

What a start to the new year!

Thoughts of a Headteacher - Mr. Blackmore

Since I came to post, last September, an awful lot has happened to the school.

Not only has the structure of the classes changed but so have the teaching staff, with many different faces compared to a year ago. We grappled with new SATs tests and, as a result, now know infinitely more than twelve months ago. For the staff, this feels like an exciting place to teach and for the pupils to learn.

Class sizes, for core subjects in the morning, remain low; there is a whole-school, streamed phonics/spelling system – providing focused spelling or phonics teaching in order to meet the children's needs. The school morning has been adjusted to ensure that the 4-class structure enables all children the opportunity to make accelerated progress. They are full and busy mornings and it is working fantastically! As are the children!

In the afternoons: intervention is delivered to help pupils close the attainment gap, increased sporting opportunities and differentiated wider

curriculum subjects make for a productive and high quality day. Pupil books are looking good and their attitude to learning much improved.

We know how we have needed to improve and we are doing so...

Our KS2 writing results were above the national average but we know we need to work on maths reasoning and reading. In response to this, we have re-designed our internal guided reading and the home-book system as well as replacing Number Club with a clear focus on times tables needed at each year group level.

In essence, the quality of our provision is continually improving and the focus on individual and groups of children is clear.

We are genuinely excited about the 'offer' that we, as a school, are generating. We hope that you will continue to work with us to continue delivering the very best for the children of Spaxton School.



Save the Children®

Save the Children - 'Dengineers'

To launch our half term's work on 'Protect,' one of our vision values, we raised money for Save the Children in the form of a 'Dengineers Day.' Many thanks for all of your donations. We raised just over £30 – well done!



A word from the Editor...

My name is Fynn and I am the new editor of the monthly newsletter – we hope you like our first edition! I have especially enjoyed the Dengineering Day and am looking forward to producing the next newsletter.

Curriculum Focus

In this section we will look at a different aspect of the National Curriculum.

Counting

EYFS - Counts objects to 10, and beginning to count beyond 10.

Y1 - Count to and across 100, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, or from any given number.

Y2 - Count in steps of 2, 3, and 5 from 0, and in tens from any number, forward and backward

Y3 - Count from 0 in multiples of 4, 8, 50 and 100.

Y4 - Count in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000.

Y5 - Count forwards or backwards in steps of powers of 10 for any given number up to 1 000 000.

Y6 – Read, write, order and compare numbers up to 10 000 000 and determine the value of each digit.

KS3 (Secondary) - Understand and use place value for decimals, measures and whole numbers of any size.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Education is the movement from darkness to light.

Allan Bloom

Fun Run enjoyed by all!

By the *News Team's* Amber Walker

It was lovely to see so many people participating in the Family Fun Run on Friday 23rd September. From the eldest in school to the youngest; pre-schoolers and even adults took part! We would like to say a special thank you to the PTFA for organizing the event and the refreshments on the day. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and for a great cause: our school!



REMINDERS



Cycling Helmets

I have had comments from our school community regarding children wearing cycling helmets when riding to school. It is out of concern that I make this reminder in the wish that all children are kept safe on their way to and from school.



Parent Consultation Evening

These will be happening for all parents during the week beginning 17th October. The appointment needs to be made with your child's core lesson (Maths and English) teacher. Please see classrooms for sign-up sheets and letter home for further information.

PROTECT

'Protect' Art Gallery

To bring our half term's work on 'Protect' to a close, we are showcasing our work in the form of an art gallery. This will take place on the last Wednesday of the half term – 19th October, in the school hall. The gallery will be declared open at 2.30pm and will close at 5.00pm. All members of our community are invited to drop in and see what we have been doing...

Meet Mr. Haddell!



Hello – I'm Seren Walker and I interviewed Mr Haddell with the help of Robert Willcocks.

Q. What would you do if you were not a teacher?

A. I would do something outside – like a gardener...

Q. What's your favourite thing to teach?

A. I really enjoy teaching little children to write.

Q. What was your favourite thing to do when you were at school?

A. I enjoyed writing but I was actually quite good at maths!

Thank you Mr Haddell for your time.



Oct/Nov Calendar

17th Oct – Football league match – Nether Stowey (away)
 19th Oct – Protect Art Gallery (2.30-5.00)
 21st Oct – Last Day of half term
 31st Oct – First day back of Aut 2
 14-16 Nov – years 3 and 4 Kilve
 15th Nov – Governors Meeting
 26th Nov – Christmas Fayre

Street Dance Fun! By the News Team's Juan Barrington

Hi, my name is Juan, and I am going to tell you about Street Dance (Wednesdays 3.15-4.15pm)

It is really FUN!!!

What we did was warm up and then we walked 3 steps, went down and up. Then we did a Karate move which went 'boom' to side up with sound effects.

The Dance Teacher was really funny. I would do it if I was you! I loved it. So keep on Dancing! It makes your body feel nice, it is so good. You should never give up. If sport is not your thing, how about trying Street Dance, it is good for you!

PTFA Newsletter

October 2016

Hello from the PTFA!

For all new-comers, the Parents Teachers and Friends association for Spaxton School is a small group of people who organise events and fundraisers throughout the school year to raise vital funds for the school.

If you are able to join us at one of our meetings that would be fantastic as new assistance is always greatly appreciated.

During your children's time at Spaxton they will continually be affected by monies raised by the PTFA. Last term we funded a bus to take Class 1 to the Brewhouse, story sacks, I pads and IT equipment and IT infrastructure have all been purchased through fund raising.

Hopefully you will have already experienced the Fun-Run which helped to raise in excess of £400, which is fantastic!

Thursday October 6th saw our 'Welcome Breakfast.' We sold pastries, fruit, milkshakes and hot drinks in the school hall and, again, raised vital money for the school.

It was a lovely social occasion for parents and children prior to the school day.

Planned future events:

- November 26th is our Christmas Fayre in the village hall from 2pm
- December 2nd is our Prize Bingo, again in the village hall from 7.15pm

Join us if you are able for our next meeting at The Lamb inn 8pm on the 19th Oct



Ways to stay in contact

To find out more about fund raising activities, sign up to our Facebook page at 'Spaxton

School Parents & Friends'. This is a closed group, administered by the Committee, join up today!