

Spotlight on Spaxton C of E Primary



Friday 19th January 2024



Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community

As we reach the halfway point in this half term, the Christmas and New Year celebrations seem like a distant memory. Children have started the term extremely focused with an excellent attitude to their learning and we are seeing children make excellent progress. All classes have seen the introduction of 'Mastering Number' this term. This is a school wide approach where we spend 15 minutes a day teaching the fundamentals of mathematics. For Key Stage 2, we have also signed back up to TTRockstars and Spelling Shed – all children in Kingfisher and Peregrine have a login so please support and encourage them to access these learning platforms at home. All these initiatives complement and build on our ambitious curriculum.

Thank you to the Year 6 parents who attended the SATs meeting on Wednesday evening. On Monday 29th January, I look forward to welcoming all parents to school to share more information regarding the curriculum we offer your children at Spaxton.

This term has seen a change in the extra-curricular clubs we offer at Spaxton and I have been delighted by the uptake. We are now offering Football and Gymnastics clubs after school, along with Lego, Art, Board Games and TTRockstars clubs at lunchtimes. The Reading Ambassadors are also hoping to run a Reading club at lunchtimes in the near future. Thank you so much to the staff involved for giving up their time to provide these opportunities for the children.

It is with regret that we announce that Mrs Cudbill has decided to resign to pursue other interests. We wish to record our thanks to Mrs Cudbill for her contribution to Spaxton School and the wider Quantock Education Trust. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her every success in the future. We also said goodbye to Mrs Barnwell at the end of the Autumn term as she returned to Stogursey School.

Thank you for your continued support and please remember if you have any questions or concerns, do get in touch with the relevant member of staff.

Mrs Rood



Class news

In this newsletter the classes are sharing news about what they will be learning during the Spring term.

Starling Class

Starling Class will be focusing on the 'Windrush Generation' followed through the eyes of Floella Benjamin as she grew up during this period. We will be exploring her life using her own children's book 'Coming to England' where we will look at how life in Trinidad is different from the United Kingdom. Alongside this, we will be exploring where Trinidad is in the world and why the weather is different from where we live.

Kingfisher Class

Kingfisher Class have come back in 2024 excited and ready to learn. We have begun the new year by exploring the story of Varjak Paw - a tale of an adventurous cat to gets into lots of mischief. In maths, we are continuing to persevere with our understanding of multiplication and division as well as applying this to everyday situations. Our History work is allowing us to explore the wonderful era of the Victorians and discover how it changed so much of the world we live in today. As scientists, we are learning all about the digestive system and what happens to our food when we eat it.

Peregrine Class

Peregrine Class have made a fantastic start to the new year. This term we will be reading the book Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver. This will lead to us writing diaries, balanced arguments, and the children creating their own quest stories which I am looking forward to reading. Our maths curriculum will continue and we are very excited to be introducing Mastering Number across the school to support the children's reasoning and vocabulary. Our key units of learning for the term are Electricity, Space Race (Russia), Sculpture (linking to the artist Henry Moore), and in RE we will be looking at Saints and whether we believe them to be role models. The House Captains are keen to plan and run Easter activities for the school and our new Reading Ambassadors are going to be looking at the library and supporting the love of reading across the school.

Upcoming events/ Diary

- 26th January – PTFA Family French Breakfast
- 29th January – Parents Curriculum meeting @ 2.45pm and 5.15pm
- 2nd February – 1st Friday Family Service
- 8th February – PTFA School Disco
- 10th –18th February – Half Term
- 26th February – Parents evening @ 3.30pm – 5.30pm
- 28th February – Parents evening @ 3.30pm – 5.30pm
- 1st March - 1st Friday Family Service
- 7th March – World Book Day
- **8th March - INSET day**
- 15th March – Comic Relief
- 21st March – PTFA Easter Film Night
- 27th March – Open Afternoon @ 2.45pm



- 28th March – Last Day of Term
- 29th March – 14th April – Easter Holidays

PTFA News

An update from Ali Ingram (Chair of the PTFA)

There has been a PTFA at Spaxton school for nearly 60 years, however there is a chance it won't continue if new people don't come forward. Our AGM is on February 29th and new officers need to be appointed, all current members are friendly and supportive and very willing to help with the transition.

The PTFA is fun and a great way to get to know other parents, it's a great way of doing something amazing for your child and all children of the school. In the last year, we've raised funds for the Christmas theatre trip. This trip alone cost over £21 per child! We bought easter eggs for the annual egg hunt and we provided extras for the Christmas lunch i.e. hall hire and crackers. In previous years, we have support with other trips, classroom resources as well as funding the wooden play equipment by the field.

We've organised bingos, social nights, movie nights, ice Fridays, discos and French breakfasts to name a few, all of which raised vital funds for our special charity but just as importantly brought our school family together. Please don't let this amazing charity fold.....WE NEED YOU!

Local Governance Committee Update

We were delighted to welcome back Mrs Rood as our Headteacher in December and we look forward to supporting her & her staff, as well as challenging them!



We thank Mr Tucker for the guidance & support that he gave to our school and we wish him well back at Stogursey - the collaboration between the two schools has been a great success and we will encourage that to continue while we recognise the individuality of each school within the Quantock Education Trust.

We are very pleased that **Claire Beaumont-Wraith** has joined the Spaxton School Local Governors Committee (LGC) and we already appreciate the wealth of support that she brings with her experience in Marketing & Communications.

Our Monitoring Visits and Learning Walks this term & next will focus on:

Quality of teaching
 Early reading
 Curriculum development
 Mathematics
 Assessment
 Pupil voice
 Leadership & Governance / Monitoring & Evaluation

We are a small team that are very proactive & 'hands-on' and very visible at school so please introduce yourselves when you see us! Please also get in touch if you think you could help & support our school as a Governor.

Kind regards

Andrew Watson, Chair of Governors
Frank Cairns
Eleanor King
Claire Beaumont-Wraith

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 have slipped just below target which is unfortunate and the spell of Chicken Pox prior to Christmas to winter illnesses have not helped so it would be great if together we can get back up to target. 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%	92.3%

Free School Meals

Is your child entitled to free school meals? Please note this is different from the universal free school meals that children in Starling class receive.

Parents and carers who receive any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support (IS)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Universal Credit with an annual household income of less than £7400 after tax
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190

It is the responsibility of the parents or carers to register their entitlement and request free school meals for their children.

If you think this could be you, please go to the Somerset Council website: [Free School Meals](#) to apply.

Safeguarding

Spaxton CofE Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. If you are worried about a child, please use the SHARP reporting tool on the website: [Spaxton Sharp Reporting](#) or ring Somerset Council directly on 0300 1232224.



Safeguarding is
Everyone's
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INSET Days 2023/2024

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 \(eschools.co.uk\)](#)