

Spotlight on Spaxton C of E Primary



Friday 25th November 2024



Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community

As we approach the end of the first half term, I have been reflecting on the successes of this academic year so far. At the start of the year, we implemented a new maths curriculum and a new writing curriculum and already we are seeing the impact these are having on children's outcomes. I have also seen some wonderful learning taking place in our wider curriculum offer with Kingfisher enjoying a visit from Etheldreda Saxon which immersed the children in Anglo-Saxon life. Starling class have also enjoyed a visit from AJ, who is a practicing Hindu, where the children had the opportunity to have a Q&A session with him. Starling have also drawn maps of Spaxton which they then used to navigate their way around the village which saw them visit the village shop and St Margaret's Church. They have also collected blackberries from the hedgerows and using them with the apples from our orchard to make apple and blackberry crumble.

Sporting Success

During October, Mrs Standing (who loves to run outside of school), started a running club every Thursday lunchtime. This has then inspired 9 of our key stage 2 children to take part in a cross country tournament held out Brymore School. A huge well done to all the children who participated in the event, with a special mention to Aemilia (2nd Y5 girls), Hattie (4th Y6 girls) and Orlando (4th Y6 boys).



On Tuesday, we were invited to play Nether Stowey Primary School in a Y5/6 football match. We welcomed this opportunity and the children were excited to play. Well done to the whole team, with a special mention to the goal scorers, Milo and Paul, who secured a 3-2 win in our first match of the year. A great team effort!

A special thank you to the parents and carers who have taken time out of their days to transport their children to these events.

Bridgwater Carnival

We have been delighted to contribute to the wider efforts of Bridgwater carnival this year. Mrs Standing, along with contributions from children across the school, have made an excellent contribution to the mask trail that will take place in Bridgwater Town centre over the ½ term holidays. I wonder where you will find ours?



Key Stage 2 have also enjoyed a visit from 2 local artists, Sally and Rhiannon, who have taught the children how to make lanterns out of willow. Again, this is linked to Bridgwater carnival fireworks and children are welcome to take part in the

lantern parade ahead of the firework display. The artists commented on the exceptional behaviour and attitudes of the children and were really impressed with how well they supported one another.



On top of this, we have also seen 11 children complete their 'Bikeability' training, which now has taught them how to ride their bicycle safely on the road. We held our annual harvest festival, which included the most overwhelming collection of food for the Bridgwater foodbank. Thank you so much to our families for their wonderful generosity.

After half term, we will be welcoming Mrs Yap to our staff team. She will be taking over from Miss Holden in Breakfast Club starting from Monday 4th November. Miss Holden will continue to be Starling class' teaching assistant.

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

PTFA News

Thank you to Andreia who ran our Autumn sweet stall on Thursday evening. We will be holding another sweet stall on Friday 29th November after school.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Buy your Tickets From:
Mark Langston
 07956 810867

GRAND PRIZE
£200 Amazon Voucher
 winners announced at the Christmas Bingo.
 Spaxton Village Hall
 23 November 2024

£1 a Ticket £5 a book
 All profit goes to Spaxton School
 PTFA: charity 310203

The Christmas period is going to be a busy and exciting time for fundraising. On Thursday 7th November, there will be a non-uniform day in school in exchange for prizes for our Christmas Bingo. The Christmas Bingo will be taking place at Spaxton Village Hall on Saturday 23rd November. This promises to be a lot of fun for the whole community, with some great prizes to be won! In addition, we have a Christmas Raffle, the draw for which will be at the Bingo. We would like to say a huge thank you to the many local businesses that have supported us with both the Bingo and Raffle prizes! Also thank you to the many people that are selling and buying all the raffle tickets as we speak! Please ensure you return any sold tickets with money to the school office, along with any unsold tickets.

There will also be a school Christmas film night on Friday 6th December, straight after school. Please keep an eye out for

information in the new term for sign up for this event.

It has been brilliant to have new parents joining our PTFA meetings and volunteering their time in various ways. Any efforts are very much appreciated, thank you. Our next meeting is on Thursday 5th October, 6pm at School. All parents and friends of the PTFA are very much welcome to attend. See you then!

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 this so thank you for your support with ensuring children come to school. You can help us to stay above our target 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%	96.8%

In order to recognize excellent attendance, this academic year we have introduced:

- Weekly emails on a Friday afternoon to those whose child has attended school 100% that week
- Children who have a 100% attendance for the week, gets entered into a raffle at the end of the term to win a £10 book voucher.
- Weekly Attendance certificates for the class with the best attendance.

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.



Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Rood

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Skews

Safeguarding Link Governor: Frank Cairns

INSET Days 2024/2025

Friday 22nd November 2024

Monday 6th January 2025

Friday 14th March 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025

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

Upcoming events/ Diary

Date	Event
28 th Oct – 1 st Nov	HALF TERM
7 th Nov	PTFA Non-Uniform Day
8 th Nov	Spaxton's 'WOW' Day
11 th Nov	Anti-Bullying Week – Choose Respect
15 th Nov	Toddler Outdoor Learning Session
15 th Nov	Children In Need
22 nd Nov	INSET
23 rd Nov	PTFA Bingo

6 th Dec	Christingle Service
6 th Dec	PTFA Movie Night
10 th Dec	Starling Class Nativity @ 2pm
11 th Dec	Performance to Spaxton WI
11 th /12 th Dec	KS2 Cross Country @ BCA (TBC)
12 th Dec	Whole School Panto Visit to McMillan Theatre
17 th Dec	Christmas Lunch Day
18 th Dec	Open afternoon for parents @ 2.45pm
19 th Dec	Christmas Carol Service @ 2.30pm
20 th Dec	Last day of term – class parties
23 rd Dec – 3 rd Jan 2025	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
6 th Jan	INSET
7 th Jan	Pupils return