



Information for Parents/Carers.

**December
2016**

Spixworth Infant School

Ivy Road, Spixworth,

Norwich, NR10 3PX

Tel: 01603 898483

Email: head@spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk

: office@spixworth.norfolk.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children have had an excellent introduction to fair trade this half term, learning about places and people from around the world. We hope you enjoy the products of their work as they sell them at the Friends Christmas fayre and help them to earn money for their chosen charities. We have a very busy last few weeks of term with many exciting activities planned (see below). The children will still be taking part in their usual lessons, but with a festive twist. Please continue to support your children with phonics, reading and homework activities at home as often as you can – practise, and routine, are important all year round!

Christmas activities and events

The Friends of Spixworth School have organised their annual Christmas fayre on Friday 9th December. The Friends are currently saving towards replacing our large climbing equipment. This year each class will also have a stall selling their fair trade products to raise money for charity. Please bring along your family and friends to enjoy the event and raise money.

Our Christmas Performances are on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December. Tickets were in high demand and have been allocated as fairly as possible. We hope you enjoy the show!

On the morning of Thursday 15th December Rev Keith and members of the church will be in school supporting the children to make Christingles and then leading a Christingle service. Please provide your child with an orange on this day. Christmas lunch and class parties will take place in the afternoon.

Year 2 children will be visiting St Mary's for carol singing on Friday 16th December. The residents and children have thoroughly enjoyed this event in the past. A sign-up sheet for volunteers will be outside classrooms soon. The children and staff will end the term with songs around the Christmas tree at the end of the day on Friday 16th.

Staff, Governors, Friends and children wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

School reopens Thursday 5th January 2017

Photographs of events

As the Christmas Production is getting nearer I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of the School guidance about photographs at school events.

The Governing Body has decided that photographs and video can be taken at school events such as Christmas plays and sharing assemblies as we understand they are important events in your child's life. The taking of photos must not distract from the children's performance. If we do not recognise a person taking photographs we may ask for clarification as to who the person is. Any photos or video taken should not be placed on any social media sites. This is an attempt to safeguard your child and any other child that may appear in the photos/videos. We thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Bad weather

In the event of heavy snowfall we may have to close the school for health and safety reasons. If bad weather does occur then local radio stations will be listing schools that are closed in alphabetical order. You will also be able to check the Norfolk County Council website. If we get snow after school has started we anticipate that the school will remain open as normal.

New Event

Headteacher and Governor surgery
Wednesday 7th December 8.45am and
3pm Come and share your views

Coming into school

It has been fantastic to see the growing confidence and independence of all those children who now come into school by themselves. The children know their morning routines well and although staff are available, few children have needed support. There are many benefits to the children coming into school by themselves: the children develop responsibility; the teachers can make a swift start to learning time; the school is a safer place as staff know exactly who is in the building and where they are. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

Drinking water

We know how important it is for children to have plenty to drink throughout the day. Although children can access their water bottles at any time we also have set times for everyone to have a drink and give reminders throughout the day. If you feel your child regularly does not drink enough, please do make the teacher or teaching assistant aware so we can monitor this more closely.

Children's University Passports

Please could all children bring their passports to school on Wednesday 7th December so their progress towards graduation can be monitored. Passports should be returned by the end of the week.

Homework

The recent parent questionnaires showed that most families are happy with the homework activities provided at Spixworth Infants. A small number of families felt there was too much homework while a few others felt there should be more, particularly for the Year 2 children. We believe that a little extra practise at home makes a real difference to children's learning at school but we recognise that families enjoy lots of other things outside of school too. We aim to help you keep this balance. Reading (and phonic practise for younger children) is vital. The homework packs we use provide a range of other activities that hopefully can be enjoyed together and will foster good attitudes and habits with regard to homework. We have also recently introduced Purple Mash where children can develop a range of computing skills at home and school and from January we will be launching an online Maths program. We hope that these extras will support you in engaging your children in learning experiences at home, making homework fun and rewarding. Please do provide us with any feedback on our new online homework activities as they are launched.

Football

Congratulations to all those Y2 children who participated brilliantly in the cluster football festival.



Growth Mindset

If you have not yet taken a look, please spend a few minutes looking at the new Growth Mindset section of our website. The Growth Mindset working party are trying to help parents find out how Growth Mindset can help their children achieve their goals. We will be meeting again in January and would love your ideas or suggestions.

Friends of Spixworth

The Friends have had a particularly busy term organising, amongst other things, a disco, coffee afternoon, a photography session and Christmas cards and art work. Thank you to all those involved.

Key Spring Term Dates

School reopens Thursday 5th January 2017
Phonics meeting for parents: Friday 20th Jan 9.05am
Maths parents meeting: Tuesday 7th Feb 9.05am
Reading parents meeting: Tuesday 28th Feb 9.05am
Sharing afternoons: Thursday 26th Jan and Thursday 23rd March
Coffee morning: Wednesday 8th March
Class Assemblies: Oak: 27th Jan, Beech: 10th March; Maple: 3rd Feb; Horse Chestnut: 17th March
Cafes: Reception: 1st Feb and 16th March; Year 1: 25th Jan and 9th March; Year 2: 18th Jan and 2nd March
Parents Evenings: Monday 6th Feb 3.30 – 6pm and Wednesday 8th Feb 4 – 7pm