

Spotlight on Spaxton C of E Primary



Friday 1st December 2024



Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community

It has been wonderful completing my KIT days and visiting the school on a weekly basis. I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting the classrooms and being back on the gate. The children are calm and settled and are showing excellent commitment to their learning. This was also observed on Wednesday when a visitor to the school commented on the positive relationships between staff and pupils and how children showed great focus and readiness for learning. A huge thank you to Mr Tucker and Mrs Elsley for leading the school during my maternity leave and as a school we look forward to continuing to work closely with Mr Tucker and his team at Stogursey.



Thank you so much for supporting the various school and PTFA fundraising activities so generously over the term. We raised a total of £107.77 for Children in Need, this included a donation from a resident in the village, Maureen Anderson, of £16.43. We have also supported the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal through the sale of poppies and other merchandise.

The final two weeks of term are looking very busy in the lead up to Christmas. Starling class are busy rehearsing for their Christmas Nativity and all three classes have selected a Christmas Carol to sing at the Carol Service on the 15th December. Please do support these important Christmas events, if you can.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful weekend and I am looking forward to welcoming you all into school on Monday morning.

Mrs Rood



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 been learning about animals who hibernate in the autumn and exploring how our natural environment looks different in the winter.

We have enjoyed learning about Guy Fawkes and why we celebrate the 5th November with fireworks. This led to some fantastic firework art where we used pastels to show bright vivid colours.

In science we have been exploring the different materials we use and see in our every day lives and sorting if they are natural or man-made.

On top of this lovely learning we have been practicing our Nativity play which we are very excited about performing!



Kingfisher Class

Kingfisher class have been working very hard this term. In English we have explored The Iron Man by Ted Hughes, writing our own Newspaper reports, including Headlines, column, picture and captions etc...

We have recently started a poem project looking at Poems that help to express our emotions, the children are loving learning poems off by heart! In Maths we have focused on understanding number, particularly our times tables. Our topic-based work has explored Kenya, its animals, people and landscapes and we are currently busy making our Christmas cards using our knowledge of pulleys and levers from D&T. We have become true scientists investigating all that is forces and magnets!

Peregrine Class

Peregrine class have been productive in all areas of the curriculum this term. The children have written amazing finding tales that have used relative clauses and speech to enhance the story. In maths, we have been focusing on the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and are currently having a boost on our times tables knowledge in order to support all areas of the maths curriculum. During the afternoons, the children are improving their sewing skills in order to make some Christmas presents for their friends and families. Also, we are continuing to develop our historical knowledge by researching the Stone Age and contrasting how people lived then to today. The class have taken great pride in their work, thinking about presentation choices and flourishing in all areas of the curriculum - I am very proud of you all.

Upcoming events/ Diary

- PTFA Christmas Movie Night – 1st December
- Christmas Tree Festival – 6th December at 3.45 in St Margaret's Church
- Starling Class Nativity – 8th December at 2.45 in St Margaret's Church
- Christmas Dinner Day – 13th December
- A Christmas Carol Theatre Trip – 14th December
- Christmas Carol Service - 15th December at 9.15 in St Margaret's Church



- Christmas Holiday – 16th December to 1st January
- Inset Day – 2nd January
- First Day for Pupils – 3rd January
- PTFA meeting – 11th January

PTFA News

An update from Ali Ingram (Chair of the PTFA)

Thank you to everyone that came to our get together back in October, it was lovely to see lots of people there and it helped raise much needed funds towards the December theatre trip. A huge thank you must go to the Spaxton community shop committee for paying a massive £573 towards the trip! Thank you also to all those who supported our Christmas Bingo last week. We raised over £800 which will be used to support future school projects.

We are looking forward to hosting our Christmas Movie night tomorrow evening in school as our last fundraiser before the Christmas holidays.

The PTFA will be holding their next meeting on January 11th straight after school and the AGM will be on February 29th. Please do come along and have your say. We are always looking for new ideas and volunteers.

Next year we are hoping to start with a disco for the children in January and then a quiz night in February. Please keep your eyes peeled for further details in the new year.

Merry Christmas and thanks for your support over the last year from the PTFA committee.

Local Governance Committee Update

Our co-chair of Governors, Suzanne Traynor has decided to step down as governor. Suzanne has shown tremendous dedication and commitment to Spaxton CofE Primary School, firstly as a parent before joining the LGC and then as co-chair of Governors for the last 4 years. Her belief in our school and her relentless drive to improve the outcomes for our children should not be underestimated. She has provided stability throughout many changes and I hope that her legacy will ensure that the children at Spaxton School continue to flourish and achieve. From the whole school community, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Suzanne for all her endeavors.



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 have slipped just below target which is unfortunate and the spell of Chicken Pox has 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%	93.6%

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.



INSET Days 2023/2024

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