

Spotlight on Spaxton C of E Primary



Friday 14th February 2025



Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community,

As we reach the end of the first half of the Spring term, I sit here wondering where the last 6 weeks have gone. The children continue to show great commitment to their learning and are making fantastic progress towards their personal goals. They should feel very proud of their efforts and all they have achieved so far this academic year.

On Friday 7th February, children and staff enjoyed dressing up in clothing linked to numbers as part of the NSPCC's Number Day and as a result we have been able to donate £49.50 to the NSPCC.

Next half term, we are looking forward to welcoming you into school to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss their progress. We have a new online booking system this term so please see the letter sent out earlier this week to make your appointment. We will also be celebrating World Book Day where children are invited to come dressed as their favourite book character. The Reading Ambassadors are also running a competition for pupils to design a new front cover for their favourite book and we hope to enjoy some buddy reading during the day.

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.

Kind regards,

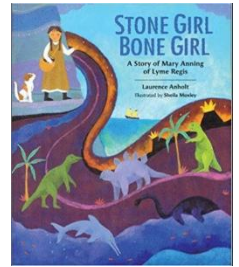
Mrs Rood



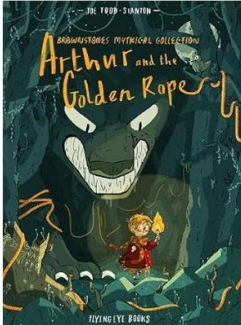
Updates from the classes

Starling Class

In Starling Class, the children have been learning about Mary Anning and why she is an important woman in history. In English, the children looked at the story of Mary Anning through the text *Stone Girl, Bone Girl*. They discovered what fossils are, where they can be found, and which creature Mary and her brother famously discovered. They children also enjoyed making their own fossils using salt dough! In science, the children have been exploring mini beasts, understanding what makes an insect an insect, and making micro habitats.



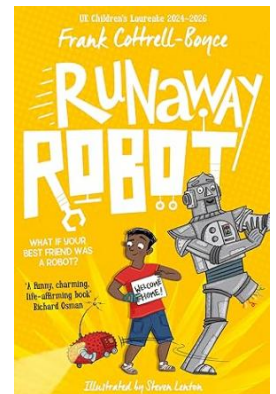
Kingfisher Class



In English, the children have enjoyed exploring the book *Arthur and the Golden Rope* by Joe Todd-Stanton. We have used this as a stimulus to create our own persuasive adverts and comic strips. In Maths, the children have been expanding their knowledge of larger numbers up to 10,000. In Geography, the children have continued to deepen their understanding of rivers with a focus on the River Parrett and the impact of flooding in our local area. As scientists, they have focused on light, sound, and electricity, discovering how light and sound travel, the use of electricity, and then used this knowledge to link to their D&T by creating simple circuits and switches.

Peregrine Class

Peregrine class have had a very busy half term. In English lessons, the children have been reading *Runaway Robot* by Frank Cottrell Boyce (the current children's laureate). Through this text, we have developed the children's grammar knowledge of active and passive voice, formal language, standard English, as well as the correct use of colons and semi-colons. The children have used this as a stimulus to write journals, formal letters, and persuasive pieces. In Maths, we have continued to develop the children's multiplication and division skills as well strengthening their understanding of decimal numbers. In the wider curriculum, the children have been finding about evolution and how Darwin and Wallace are key scientists in this field. In Art, the children have become sculptors inspired by the work of Danny Osborne, whilst in Computing, they have been creating their own games using their knowledge of coding.



PTFA News

An update from Emily Clare (PTFA Chair)

30 children had great fun dancing the night away at the school disco, to start the school spring term and fundraising for the PTFA. A wonderful £142.50 was made, thanks to all involved!

We also had a well attended Annual General Meeting where we reflected on the successes of the past year, appointed our new PTFA Secretary Laura Fidler and thanked our outgoing Secretary Jenny Cook for all her hard work these past 4 years!

The PTFA have lots more exciting plans afoot for 2025 and want to raise as much money as possible, in particular, to pay for a new Trim Trail for the school. Plans include an exciting 'Challenge 25' event for the children, a Sky Dive (PTFA parents and teaching staff), Valentines and World Book Day Sweet Stalls and dress up and a Summer Fair to remember – the highlight of which will be colour run!

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, when well enough to do so. 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 (year average)	Current attendance (termly average)
95%	96.9%	97.8%

This half term we have had some amazing attendance with this final week achieving 100% attendance for all 5 days. This is outstanding - thank you for your support and commitment to your children's learning.

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 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 \(eschools.co.uk\)](https://www.eschools.co.uk/spaxton-ce-primary-school)

Upcoming events/ Diary

Date	Event
17 th Feb – 21 st Feb	Half Term
24 th Feb	Pupils return to school
3 rd Mar	Parent Consultation Meetings
4 th Mar	Y5/6 Rugby 7s tournament
5 th Mar	Parent Consultation Meetings
6 th Mar	World Book Day
10 th Mar – 11 th Mar	Kingfisher Residential to Kilve
12 th Mar	SATS meeting for Year 6 parents @ 3.30pm
14 th Mar	INSET
1 st Apr	Parents Open Afternoon at 2.45pm
2 nd Apr	Y5/6 Dodgeball tournament
3 rd Apr	Animal encounter workshops
4 th Apr	Last Day of Spring Term
7 th Apr – 21 st Apr	Easter Holidays
22 nd Apr	Pupils return to school
5 th May	Bank Holiday
12 th May – 15 th May	Y6 SATS tests

