

Spotlight on Spaxton C of E Primary



Monday 4th March 2024

Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community

The start of any new academic year is always busy and this year has been no exception. The children have come straight back to school after the holidays and have settled quickly to their new learning with some in new classes. I must congratulate the children on their excellent attitudes to learning.

This term we are focusing on the value of generosity. Our collective worship on a Tuesday always focuses on this value and this term we have been thinking about how we can be generous to each other through our actions, words and by giving people our time. Today, we thought about God's generosity through the creation story and how we can be 'Earthkeepers'.

This term has seen the appointment of positions of responsibility across the school. Our Ethos Ambassadors (school council) have been voted for by the children and are the voice of the school for all their peers. They will meet with myself regularly to discuss events they wish to hold and how they want to improve the school.

Our Ethos Ambassadors:

Starling – Neve and Dawson

Kingfisher – Bailey and Hilary

Peregrine – Karla, Paul, Ciara and Finlay

Our House Captains have also been chosen, they are:

Ashford – Jakob and Harriet

Durleigh – Hattie and Elis

Hawkridge – Orlando and Norah



Congratulations to all those who have been given positions of responsibility.

Thank you so much to the parents and Governors who attended our 'Spruce Up' on Saturday. It is amazing what a few extra hands and a couple of hours can achieve.

I am delighted to inform you that as from today, Steve Dickinson, will be starting as our caretaker. He will be in school daily from 3.30pm until 5.30pm so if you do see him around please say hello.

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 Autumn Term.

Starling Class

This half term, as we welcome new pupils to Starling Class, our focus is on giving the children a strong start, with phonics learning at the heart of everything we do. This early acceleration will pay dividends in the years to come. We will be exploring where we live, both in terms of our planet and our local community. The children will be making simple maps of our village, identifying local landmarks, and using these to go on a treasure hunt. This will tie in with our English book, *Errol's Garden*, which highlights the importance of community and the benefits of working together.

Kingfisher Class

Kingfisher Class has made an amazing start to the new academic year. The children have returned keen to learn and excited about our new areas of study. In English, we are exploring traditional tales, examining their key features before adding an unexpected twist. Our Science and History units have also been a real hit, with the children eager to learn about the Anglo-Saxon invasion and how fossils are formed! We are looking forward to all the exciting lessons ahead.

Peregrine Class

It has been a fantastic start to the new academic year for Peregrine Class. All the children have settled into their learning routines well, demonstrating exceptional behaviour and respect towards the wider school community. This half term, we will be studying *Corey's Rock* by Sita Brahmachari, focusing on the use of language from both the reader's and the writer's perspectives. In Maths, we will concentrate on fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, applying these skills in other areas of the curriculum. As scientists, we will be honing our investigative skills, exploring a range of materials, thermal insulators, and reversible and irreversible changes. As geographers, we will be learning about how coasts are formed and the impact of erosion on our coastlines. In R.E., we will be delving into the religion of Sikhism. We are also looking forward to finishing the half term by baking scones with a variety of flavours—who will be our 'Great Spaxton Baker'?

PTFA News

An update from Emily Clare (Chair of the PTFA)

A big thank you to those who were able to attend the Autumn Welcome Back Social, as well as contribute their time through donating cakes and volunteering at the event. The weather didn't stop the fun and it was lovely for everyone to catch up after the summer break, as well as welcome families with children who have joined Spaxton Primary this year! A wonderful £93.96 was raised for the school.

Thank you to the PTFA volunteers who have sold many ice creams either side of the school holidays and for all the adults who have parted with their 50ps! All the money quickly adds up and the children are no doubt happy with their ice creams too!



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Buy your Tickets From:
Mark Langston
07956 810867

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

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

The Christmas period is going to be a busy and exciting time for fundraising. On Saturday 23rd November, the Christmas Bingo will be taking place at Spaxton Village Hall. 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!

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 24th October, 6pm at School. All parents and friends of the PTFA are very much welcome to attend. See you then!

Local Governance Committee Update

We are already three weeks into the Autumn Term, but I'd like to welcome you all back to another exciting year at Spaxton School!

I hope you've all had a restful and enjoyable summer break and are ready to dive into this new term with fresh energy and enthusiasm.



On behalf of the governing body, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all our children, staff, and parents - especially to those who have joined us at Spaxton for the first time. You are now part of a special community, and we all look forward to supporting you through your amazing journey here. This year holds many opportunities, both academically and personally, and we're confident that, with the collective efforts of our amazing staff, children & families, we can continue to build on our successes and aim even higher.

As governors we are here to support our school in every way possible, and we're committed to helping ensure the very best outcome for every one of our children - so we will continue to support, and challenge, Mrs Rood and her staff throughout the year.

I am also delighted to introduce you all to our newest governor, Steve Clare, who has recently joined our board. He brings with him a wealth of experience and new perspectives that will undoubtedly contribute to the

ongoing success and development of Spaxton School. We are very pleased to have him on board and we look forward to the positive impact that he will have.

On behalf of myself, Frank, Eleanor, Claire & Steve - let's make this year at Spaxton one of growth, achievement and, most importantly, happiness. Here's to a fantastic school year ahead - thank you!

Andrew Watson
Chair of Governors, Spaxton CofE Primary School

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.
- Weekly Attendance certificates for the class with the best attendance.

Our attendance policy has been updated in line with statutory guidance. This can be found on our school website, [here](#). I have also attached some guidance from the council regarding penalty notices.

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
2 nd Oct	Open Afternoon for September 2025 intake (4pm)
4 th Oct	Harvest Festival (2.45pm in the church)
8 th Oct	Open morning for September 2025 intake (9.30am)
9 th – 11 th Oct	Bikeability
10 th Oct	Pupil School Photos
11 th Oct	Toddler Outdoor Learning Session
16 th Oct	Open Afternoon for September 2025 intake (1.30pm)
16 th Oct	Parents Evening (Peregrine Class Only) – 1.30pm-3.30pm
16 th Oct	Parents Evening (All Classes) – 3.30pm-5.30pm
17 th Oct	Community Open Morning – 10am-11.30am
21 st Oct	Parents Evening (Starling & Kingfisher Classes Only) – 3.30pm-5.30pm
25 th Oct	Carnival Lantern Workshops (KS2 only)
28 th Oct – 1 st Nov	HALF TERM
7 th Nov	PTFA Non-Uniform Day
8 th Nov	Spirituality 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
12 th Dec	Whole School Panto Visit to McMillan Theatre
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