

Spotlight on Spaxton C of E Primary



Friday 24th May 2024



Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community

Another busy term has come to an end and we have seen some wonderful learning taking place across the classes.



The term started with a cricket taster day from the Somerset Cricket Foundation. The children each took part in a session from Mr Anning. There were some excellent talents on display from all the classes and I hope some of the children consider taking part in cricket sessions offered at Spaxton Cricket Club.

We are excited that Kingfisher class are taking part in the Kingfisher Award this term. The Kingfisher Award Scheme was established in 1992 by the late Poet

Laureate Ted Hughes and friends and is part of the educational outreach work carried out by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West. The scheme promotes awareness of the countryside, farming and conservation to children. We hope to give our children an invaluable opportunity to learn more about their wider environment and develop an appreciation of nature through discovery that will hopefully be fostered into adulthood. The work on this has started with a field visit to Home Farm, Curry Rivel and the children will continue to work on this in their Science lessons. They will then create a presentation which will be on show and judged on the 10th July.



A huge well done to our Year 6 pupils, who last week, completed the Key Stage 2 SATs. We were so proud of the commitment and resilience they showed during the week. When we return after the half term break, our Year 4 pupils, will complete their multiplication check and our Year 1 pupils will complete their Phonics Screen

Check. All of these are statutory assessments issued by the DfE. The whole school will also complete their end of Year assessments.

During the spring term, the school kindly welcomed a donation of a variety of bird boxes from Spaxton resident, Roger Beazley and we are delighted that over the last couple of weeks, we have seen them being used by sparrows and bluetits. Please do look out for these when you are dropping off or collecting your child/children.

In March, we opened our doors for our open afternoon. This was a huge success and as such are planning to run another open afternoon on Wednesday 17th July @ 2.45pm which you are all very much welcome to attend.

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.

We hope you all have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 3rd June.

Mrs Rood

Updates from the classes:

Starling

This half term we have been looking at technology in the past and future. We have been researching Bill Gates using different methods of research through computers, video clips, and reading. We have researched his software company, Microsoft, and his contributions to charity to make a difference in the lives of others and medical science. We have been enjoying our wonderful outdoor space by planting vegetables in our new veggie patch and creating a wildflower garden to encourage insects into our garden for us to explore. We also enjoyed a farm trip to Rodway Farm at Cannington where we learned lots about dairy farming and met the calves and lambs which was so much fun!



Kingfisher

In Kingfisher class this term we have explored Tales Told in Tents, a collection of short stories from the Middle East, in our English lessons. We have used these as inspiration so that we can write our own short stories. We have linked this to our Geography, History, Art, and RE work, focusing on the Islamic religious beliefs and Islamic patterns as well as the importance of Baghdad both now and historically. In Science, we are learning what plants need to grow well. As part of this, we are participating in the Kingfisher Award Scheme.

Peregrine

During the final term of this year, Peregrine Class has the overarching theme of Greece. We have been learning about modern-day Greece in Geography, where we have focused on how the climate affects the Greek way of life. This links to our Art unit where the children are focusing on the architecture of both modern

and ancient civilizations. We are looking at columns and structures in particular and the role of an architect in developing buildings within the country. In English, the children have been writing formal letters and newspaper reports based on the book 'The Adventures of Odysseus' by Hugh Lupton. During our maths lessons, the children have been covering shape, position, and direction, as well as continuing to develop their arithmetic skills.

Upcoming events/ Diary

- WB 27th May – Half Term
- 7th June - First Family Friday Service @ 3pm
- 19th June – Sports Day @9.30am
- 28th June – PTFA Summer Fair @3.30pm
- 5th July - First Family Friday Service @ 3pm
- 8th July – KS2 Swimming Gala @1.30pm
- 9th July – KS2 at Bristol Museum
- 10th July – Kingfisher Project picnic and awards @ 3.30pm for Kingfisher class
- WB 15th July – Year 6 Church Tower climb, Date TBC
- 24th July – Leavers’ service @ 9.15am
- 24th July – Last Day of Term
- 3rd and 4th September – Inset Days
- 5th September – First Day of the Autumn Term



PTFA News

Thank you so much to all those who supported the family Rounders evening last week. It was a lovely afternoon of rounders in the glorious sunshine. Thank you also to those who have been supporting us through the purchasing of ice lollies after-school on a Friday.

On Friday 14th June, we will be holding a 'Break the rules day' for the children in exchange for prizes for the summer fair and the on Friday 28th June we will be holding the summer fair on the school field. Everyone is very welcome, including wider family and friends. We will also be holding an end of year disco on Thursday 4th July.

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 still just below this target but there has definitely been an improvement in attendance over the last term so thank you for your support in this. You can continue to help us reach 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 (Term Average)
95%	93.6%	93.8%

From next academic year, the DfE have issued new guidance relating to attendance. If you are interested, please do follow this link: [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/123456/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_applies_from_19_August_2024.pdf) (publishing.service.gov.uk)

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 2024/2025

Tuesday 3rd September 2024

Wednesday 4th September 2024

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