

# Spotlight on Spaxton C of E Primary



**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024**



## Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community

This half term has seen a focus on presentation of work in children's books, including handwriting. It has been fantastic to see the children step up to the challenge and see the improvements in their books. This is all part of our work on raising expectations across the school and it has been wonderful to give out certificates to children who have been demonstrating excellent examples of this.

This term has seen the appointment of our Ethos Ambassadors (school council). These were 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. One of the first events they are organising is a fundraising event for Comic Relief on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March. The ambassadors would like children to come to school dressed in something red (£1 donation), bring in a joke to share in class and hold a cake sale at breaktime. If you are able to donate some cakes for the cake sale, that would be wonderful and greatly appreciated.

Our Ethos Ambassadors are:

Starling – Isiah and Libby

Kingfisher - Tommy, Jessica, Eleanor and Anna

Peregrine – Norah, Orlando, Carla and Monty



As part of our PSHE, Starling class have started an oral health initiative. This involves them brushing their teeth after lunch every day for 2 minutes. Well done to Starling class who have embraced this opportunity and are persevering with the minty toothpaste!



Thank you to everyone who attended Parents' evening last week, we hope that you found these informative. If you were unable to attend, please do get in touch with the class teacher to arrange an appointment at a mutually agreeable time.

I am delighted to inform you that as from today, Mrs Smith, has official become our permanent office manager. She will be working Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 3.30pm (Thursday 8.30am – 2.30pm), so if you require anything from the office, she will be available to help. Also, after the Easter Holiday, we will be welcoming back Mrs Clarke from her maternity leave. She will return to teach Peregrine class on Wednesday – Friday.

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 Spring term.

#### **Starling Class**

This half term our focus will be on jobs and how people can help us.

This will include us learning about the Great Fire of London discovering how the fire started, why it spread so quickly, how it was recorded and how this began the job of a firefighter. We will also be learning a song to help us to remember the key facts from this significant event in history.

We will also be exploring the changes in our environment that Spring brings and hopefully planting seeds in our brand new vegetable patch we have created in Starling Class garden.

#### **Kingfisher Class**

In Kingfisher we are continuing our learning journey this half term exploring explanation texts within our English, looking at the features we can use to write a great explanation. Introduction, paragraphs, summary and the use of technical words. We have linked this to our Science work, focusing on teeth and our digestive systems. Leading up to Easter we are going to be learning about living things and their habitats, classifying them into the correct categories. In maths we have learnt all about Fractions, the denominator and numerator and how we can convert mixed numbers into fractions.

Geography we are going on a journey to Qatar, comparing it with our lives here in Spaxton. For French we are learning to tell the story of Little Red Riding Hood.

#### **Peregrine Class**

In our English lessons, Peregrine class are looking at the structure and features of Quest stories. The children will be learning to write their own versions, remembering to include the grammar and punctuation that we have been learning this year. In maths, we are continuing to look at fractions, decimals and percentages and

the equivalence between the three types. Alongside, we will continue our practise of arithmetic skills through a range of questions, activities and games.

There are other highlights during this term: designing and making an electronic steady hand game, investigating light and how we see reflections, learning about the Iron Age in History and databases in Computing.

The children are also continuing with their leadership roles across the school. Our house captains will be helping to arrange and sort our Easter activities, as well as the reading ambassadors will be running World Book Day on the 7<sup>th</sup> March. We know that they are taking their roles very seriously and look forward to seeing the younger children enjoying these events.

### Upcoming events/ Diary

- 7<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> March - INSET day
- 15<sup>th</sup> March – Comic Relief
- 21<sup>st</sup> March – PTFA Easter Film Night @ 3.30pm
- 26<sup>th</sup> March – Open Afternoon @ 2.45pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> March – Last Day of Term
- 29<sup>th</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Holidays
- 15<sup>th</sup> April – First Day of Summer Term
- 16<sup>th</sup> April – PTFA meeting @ 6pm
- 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May – Y6 SATs Week
- 25<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Half Term
- 19<sup>th</sup> June – Sports Day (TBC)
- 24<sup>th</sup> June – KS2 Swimming Gala @ Quantock Lodge
- 28<sup>th</sup> June – PTFA Summer Fair
- 24<sup>th</sup> July – Last Day of the School Year



### PTFA News

An update from Ali Ingram (Chair of the PTFA)

Thank you for supporting our recent disco, thanks must go to Dan and Nat for being our fab DJ's.

We have a movie night on March 21st straight from school and a quiz in the village hall on March 8th, please do support if you're able.

We will of course be providing Easter eggs again this year for the annual egg hunt and we've recently provided garden and growing supplies to Starling class.

The AGM was held on 29<sup>th</sup> February, and it was wonderful welcome some new faces. I have agreed to stay as chair until July, at which point a new chair will need to be appointed. Gemma and Jenny have also remained in the positions of treasurer and secretary.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm in school.

## Local Governance Committee Update

As local governors we continue to support Mrs Rood and her staff, as well as challenging them to ensure the very best outcomes for all of our children!



We are fully committed to our very important role and we have three core functions:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding our Head Teacher to account for the educational performance of our school & our children, and the performance management of the staff.
- Overseeing the financial performance of our school and making sure its money is well spent.

### We carry out these functions in a variety of ways throughout the year:

We attend 6 Local Governor Committee (LGC) meetings each year - where we focus on the core functions, as well as Financial, Personnel and Premises matters. These meetings are always well attended! The Head Teacher provides a very detailed report each term and welcomes challenge from the governors. All governors make regular visits into school, throughout the year, to monitor our School Development Plan (which is the strategic plan for the school). Written reports of these visits are then circulated to all governors. Governors are expected to attend training courses to develop their knowledge and skills. Governors also attend many school events throughout the year. These visits enable us to participate fully in the life of the school!

We welcome any questions from children, staff, parents and the community and we can always be contacted by email, through the Clerk to the Governors, by emailing Helen Roper at [HRoper@Quantockedtrust.co.uk](mailto:HRoper@Quantockedtrust.co.uk)

We are all frequently in & around school so please say hello and please consider joining us!

Andrew, Frank, Eleanor & Claire

## 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 but hopefully as we move into Spring, winter illnesses will reduce and hopefully we will be able to get back 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%	92.5%

## 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

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## INSET Days 2024/2025

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

All term dates and INSET days can be found on the school website: [Spaxton CE Primary School - Academic Calendar with INSETS \(eschools.co.uk\)](#)