

Spotlight on Spaxton C of E Primary



Friday 20th December 2024



Message from our Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community,

As the final day of the Autumn term draws to a close, the school is definitely filled with festive spirit. The past two weeks have been a wonderful opportunity for us to remember the birth of Jesus and our Christian roots as a school.

Christmas at the Toy Shop

Starling class' nativity last week was a lovely retelling of the nativity story through 'Christmas at the Toy Shop'. A big well done to all the children in Starling for their narration, acting and delightful singing. I am always amazed by the confidence these children have to stand in front of us all. A big thank you must also go to Mrs Ball and Miss Holden for their efforts in the lead up to the play.



Aladdin at the McMillan Theatre

On Thursday 12th December, all the children and teaching staff were treated to an afternoon at the panto. They got to watch Aladdin at the McMillan Theatre in Bridgwater which I am told was fantastic. It was made extra-special because after their return, every member of staff came to tell me how fantastic the children's behaviour was so well done Spaxton - I am very proud of you. A big thank you must go to the PTFA and Parish council who funded the entire experience.



On Tuesday, we enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch together in the village hall, including crackers and festive music. This is always such a joyful occasion with all children and staff together and then our festive celebrations were concluded on Thursday with our annual Carol Service. It was wonderful to see the church full of children, staff, governors and family members.

This term we have welcomed Mrs Yap and Mrs Chevis to our staff team. Mrs Yap is our Breakfast Club Supervisor and Mrs Chevis joins Shirley as a Midday Supervisor serving the children's meals. It is wonderful to have them join the school.

During the term, we have said goodbye to Melissa Burland as a Midday Supervision but it was lovely for her to come to our Christmas lunch so we could say a proper goodbye. Today, also marks the end of Mrs Clarke's time at Spaxton School. She is moving onto a new school from January who are very lucky to be gaining such conscientious and caring teacher. Mrs Clarke will be greatly missed and we wish her all the very best in her new job.

Finally, on behalf of all of the staff and governors at Spaxton, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Kind regards,

Mrs Rood

PTFA News

Thank you so much for the continued support of the PTFA and their fundraising efforts.

This term we have held our Bingo and raffle, which was a huge success. Thank you to those who attended on the evening and those who sold and bought tickets for the raffle. The profits raised from this event are going to be spent replacing some of the older play equipment.

We have also held our movie night, had sweet stalls and had our drinks and festive treats at the Open Afternoon this week. Thank you again to all who support us so generously and the volunteers who make it possible.

Advance notice – we will be holding a disco on Friday 29th January. Please keep an eye out for information in the new term.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th January, 6pm at School. All parents and friends of the PTFA are very much welcome to attend. See you then!



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
95%	96.4%

Our first ever attendance raffle has been drawn and the winner for the Autumn term was **Vinnie** in Year 6. He has won a £10 book voucher. Well done Vinnie! I wonder who will win next term?

We have also celebrated individuals who have had 98% or above for the Autumn term. This has meant they have had a maximum of one day off. They were awarded with a certificate and a sweet treat. Well done to:

- Samuel, Oliver, Reuben and Dixie from Starling,
- Willow, Jack and Libby from Kingfisher,
- Milo, Anna, Aemilia, Ciara and Eleanor from Peregrine.

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

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 \(eschools.co.uk\)](http://Spaxton CE Primary School - Academic Calendar with INSETS (eschools.co.uk))

Upcoming events/ Diary

Date	Event
23 rd Dec – 3 rd Jan 2025	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
6 th Jan	INSET
7 th Jan	Pupils return
16 th Jan	PTFA meeting @ 6pm
22 nd Jan	Rec/Year 1 Phonics meeting for parents @ 3.30pm
31 st Jan	PTFA School Disco – further details to follow
6 th Feb	PTFA AGM
14 th Feb	PTFA Sweet Stall
17 th Feb – 21 st Feb	Half Term
3 rd Mar	Parent Consultation Meetings
4 th Mar	Y5/6 Rugby 7s tournament
5 th Mar	Parent Consultation Meetings
10 th Mar	Kingfisher Residential to Kilve
14 th Mar	INSET
1 st Apr	Parents Open Afternoon at 2.45pm
2 nd Apr	Y5/6 Dodgeball tournament
4 th April	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

COPING AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be tough. That's why it's important to know there's always someone you can talk to.

 0300 123 3393 Helpline mind.org.uk	 Text SHOUT to 85258 24/7 text service giveusashout.org	 116 123 24/7 Helpline samaritans.org
 Fighting for young people's mental health Text YM to 85258 24/7 text service youngminds.org.uk	 0800 58 58 58 Helpline for men thecalzone.net	 0800 068 4141 Under 35s Helpline papyrus-uk.org