

SPEEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
Celebrating 150 years: 15 October 1862 – 15 October 2012

Parents Newsletter

Headteacher: Mrs. Denise Nayna July 2014



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Goodbye

We have reached the end of a very busy year. I hope parents would agree with the staff and governors, that the children have worked and played hard. The teaching space was extended and just lately the school kitchen refurbishment has begun. Parents have been a great support and I would like to thank you for all your hard work.

We sadly wish a fond farewell to Year Two who move on to their next schools. I hope your families will keep in touch.

We also say goodbye to Jackie Edwards

Mrs. Edwards has been a hardworking governor of Speen CE School for 21 years, some of that time as chair. As chair of the Premises, Health and Safety committee, she has driven through building projects and refurbishments so that the school is a safe, comfortable and spacious establishment meeting the needs of pupils, staff and visitors. Mrs. Moore will miss her support for the termly health and safety audits too. We wish Jackie a happy retirement from us and know that the horses will now get more of her valuable time.

23rd – 25th June **Speenschoolfest**. Under Mrs Laughton's creative direction, the school again hosted 2 days of music, poetry and art, this year based on a stellar theme. Hannah Ball, Hughenden, St. John's Schools and Speen Pre-school were our guests this year. The marquee was sumptuously decorated for another great evening of music, good food and fun which was the PTA **Stargazing Ball**, another triumph.



3rd/ 4th July. **Gym and Dance festival**, Risborough Upper School. Y2 performed a complex gymnastic display choreographed by Mr Kempton who has taught gymnastic lessons and after-school clubs this term. There will be a Thursday after-school sport club in the autumn term.

3rd July The children were privileged to watch the High Wycombe Music Centre teacher's **woodwind concert** in school. They joined in with a song they had learned accompanied by professional musicians and were taught how each instrument was made and changed sounds, from the piccolo to the bassoon.

On the same afternoon Moira came to tell our children about the Christian families which she supports with education and health care in a remote part of Ethiopia. Their children study English and we have sent some of the reading books which are surplus to our requirements. Members of Speen Church have been visiting regularly so we hope we can send more educational materials. Janis Hearn, governor, has already produced a photograph album showing children in both our villages. It shows the many things that are similar in schools and families as well as the differences.

Mad Science Thanks to funding from Speen Festival, the children enjoyed a 'Mad Science' morning at St John's School. The children were enthralled and so 'Mad Science' came and spoke to them about the chance of a science after-school club on Wednesdays in the first half of the autumn term. Sufficient children have signed up and so it will begin 17th September.



Copies of this newsletter are sent by email to parents and governors and posted on the school website. Hard copies are available on request and also posted on the school notice board. If you would like this newsletter in another format please inform the school office.

Camo Day

The day began with Scooter training from Mrs Dow as part of the school travel plan. Please remind your children that they may not normally scoot or ride bicycles on the school grounds.



In the afternoon, mixed age teams raced against the clock over an assault course set up to celebrate 'Camo day'. Children dressed in camouflage, uniforms or mufti to support SSAFA, a forces family charity.

Speen Pre-school

10th July Thank you to Speen Pre-school for inviting the whole school to watch their sports day on Speen Playing Fields. It is always a pleasure. The children, staff and parents joined in the races with enthusiasm and were most entertaining.

Lighthouse

Many Speen children will attend Princes Risborough Lighthouse. The rector, Rev Dr David Williams and his team led a lively assembly from which the children could learn about the fun-filled activity week, 'Christmas in July'. 28th July-1st August.

Violins

11th July. Y2 gave their annual music concert for parents led by Mrs Laughton. It is planned that Y2 will continue musicianship lessons in September thanks to the government 'First access Scheme'.

Speen Fete

The PTA ran the successful Tombola and there were the usual village fete activities including the fabulous country dancing display by Mrs Lidington's class. The children were very professional and patient despite the interruptions. I have been promised that a new sound system will be ready for next year. Congratulations to all the winners of the many competitions.

15th July **Multi-skills** at Princes Risborough School postponed from 4th June. Perhaps because of the re-scheduling, only St. John's School competed at this event. The school were mixed up and put into teams with some of our children returning with 1st, 2nd and 3rd medals.



14th July was an ideal day for our first tag rugby festival against Hannah Ball and Radnage schools. Each school fielded 2 mixed teams, Y1 and Y2. Y1 came joint second with Hannah Ball School and Y2 was joint first with Radnage School. This festival followed 5 weeks of tuition from WASPS. Each session of 'Move2improve' included fitness, skills and ultimately tag rugby games.

Worship trail

Mrs Lidington's class visited the Jubilee Mosque, Kings Church and All Saints parish church in High Wycombe. The theme of the visit was about how people worship.

We travelled by coach to the mosque where the Imam explained some of the things that are important in Islam. We then walked to the King's Centre where the King's Church meets. After visiting the auditorium, their children's workers led a very active session of science, songs and games which illustrated children's worship there. After that we walked into the town to the parish church where their children's leader showed us round the 900 year old building. Throughout the trip the visit, the children were well-behaved and thoughtful, asking and answering many questions about the buildings and about the things that are important to the worshippers.



7:00pm **Meeting for parents** about New Curriculum postponed to 9th October.

Thursday 17th July pm, helper's tea.

We are so very grateful for the extra support the staff and children receive from parents and villagers. Y2 will be serving tea and cakes and YR/1 will be entertaining with songs.

Friday 18th July 1:30pm Sports day refreshments courtesy of the PTA.

22nd July 9:15am End of Year Service- St. John's Church, Lacey Green. All friends and family welcome.

Last day of Term- School finishes at 2pm

23rd July School closed for In-service training.

Looking for things to do or childcare over the Summer?

The Buckinghamshire Family Information Service can help! On our website www.bucksfamilyinfo.org we have listings for childcare, things for the family to do (camps, courses, events) and family days out. Take a look; you're bound to find something near you! We are also on Facebook, Twitter and Google+

Bucks County Show Thursday 28th August 2014

September 2014

Governors' Annual meeting for parents-

Thursday 25th September 7:30 followed by PTA AGM

Each year group has governors attached to them

Year 2- Charlotte Burton and Amanda Cleaver

Year 1-Janis Hearn and Debbie O'Brien

Year R- Julie cooper and Alistair Scott

Nursery from January 2015- Katherine Matthews and Christine Rooney

Year One and Year Two will be with Mrs Lidington. As this year, English will be taught through Read Write Inc. and the children will be grouped by ability across the school. Parents may like to view the New NC by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-primary-curriculum>

Universal Infant Free School Meals

All Reception and KS1 children will be offered a free hot meal from September. It is essential that there is adequate supervision and there are a number of vacancies for midday supervisors. Please contact the school if you know of anyone who would be willing to work over the lunchtime period. Each morning your child will be asked if they want a hot meal that day. The menus will be sent by email at the end of this term so that you can discuss the choices with your child, should you wish to do so. There will always be 2 choices, one of which will be a vegetarian option. It is expected that it will take some weeks for the systems to work smoothly.

Wednesday 3rd September. School closed to children for teacher training.

Thursday 4th September First day of Term for children

29th Sept 9:15 Harvest Festival at St. John's Church Lacey Green. Your gifts will be taken to Saunderton Lodge, the local hostel for homeless families.

Thursday 9th October Meeting for staff, governors and parents about the new National Curriculum

Friday 24th October last day before half-term holiday

Monday 3rd November Return to school

Tuesday 11th November Open Morning for prospective parents

Saturday 29th November- 3:00pm matinee performance of The Snow Queen- Theatre in the Villages

After school clubs

Mondays Y2 Gardening Club

Tuesday 16th September French

Wednesday 17th September Mad science Club

Thursday Sports club date tbc

I wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to see you in September

Denise Nayna