

Parents Newsletter

Headteacher: Mrs. Denise Nayna

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NEWS

PTA Annual General Meeting –Congratulations to Zoe Cartell on her election to chair the PTA. All parents are members of the PTA and the staff and governors are very grateful for the support parents give the school which benefits the children enormously.

Friday 27th September Macmillan Cancer

Care Charlotte Hull was supported by Prayerworks at the annual coffee morning which raised £130 for this very worthwhile charity. Thanks go to all who contributed. Year 2 enjoyed handing round the cakes!

Harvest Festival at St. John's Church, Lacey Green. Saunderton Lodge was very grateful for the gifts we sent over after the church service. I know that since then further donations have been made and are always welcomed throughout the year.

The Whole school trip to the **Royal Albert Hall** for a musical concert was a great success, if a little loud. Music for Youth provided a programme of contrasts introduced by Barny Harwood. Youth ensembles from schools and colleges performed a broad repertoire of classical and modern pieces. This was followed by a visit to the Science museum. The children's behaviour was exemplary.



Leaving the Royal Albert Hall to visit the Science museum

Book Week

Speen School had an action packed Book Week. Thank you to Mrs O'Brien, one of our Parent Governors, for reading us one of her favourite stories.....? Early morning story was well attended and the children perfected their dinosaur moves!

There were some amazing new front covers designed for favourite books. These are still on display in the hall, a particular well done to Sarah Morris, Caleb Rees and Holly Forkgen for winning the book cover competition for their year group. Thank you to Mrs Hearn who had a truly difficult job to do as our judge this year.

Thank you also to all those who supported the Speen School Book fair- a total of **£493** was taken and a percentage of these takings will be used to buy new books for the classroom.

Governors At the recent governor's meeting we welcomed Christine Rooney who will act for the incumbent until a new appointment is made at St. John's Church. Christine lives in Speen and has experience of teaching infants.

October is Walk to School Month but being a 'Healthy School' we like to encourage walking to school throughout the year. Look out for notices from our Travel Planners.

English Curriculum. Parents were given the opportunity last year to hear how the new English Scheme, Read Write Inc would be taught. The exceptional results of the KS1 Sats and the Y1 Phonic check this year confirm the efficacy of this scheme. All the classroom staff have undergone extensive offsite training and we are pleased that the current Year Two have reached a level such that we are able to introduce the next stage of the scheme, 'Literacy and Language' This has been possible not only because of excellent quality first teaching but also because additional support has been given to those children who have needed it in order to 'keep up' with their peers. For some children this will be needed for a long period, for others, just a shorter time to 'fill the gaps'. This small group and one-to-one tuition is not an indication that a child has Special Educational Needs (SEN); rather that continual assessment has identified a need for support now so they will not need it in the future.

Thursday 24th October, YR and siblings have been invited to **Speen Pre-school Harvest Festival** at the chapel. Mrs. Hayman would be very grateful for parental support to supervise the children walking there and back.

Friday 8th November, School Photographs.

8:45a.m Please note new date.

Theatre in the Villages. This year we are hosting Diary of a Nobody Saturday 9th November 8:00pm. Tickets are £10 for adults and £8 for students/under16, available from the school.

Open morning

Speen CE School is open for prospective parents and their children to visit between **9:30 and 11:30** on **Tuesday 12th November**. If this date is not convenient then parents can make an appointment to see round the school at another time.

Parents' evening Tuesday 12th November.

If this date is not suitable please make alternative arrangements with your child's class teacher. Details to follow.

Children in Need 15th November Details of activities planned, after half term.

Applying for a school place

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/education/schools/admissions-and-moving-school/admission-to-primary-schools/parents-guide-to-primary-school-admission/>

If your child was born **between 1 September 2009 - 31 August 2010 inclusive**, you will need to apply for a school place for September 2014 even if you have also applied for a nursery place. You can apply online **from 30 October 2013**. The closing date for applications is **15 January 2014** The dates are the same for current Year 2 parents to apply for a place in a Junior/Combined school for Year 3. St. John's School will be holding open days.

Building work

The building work is well underway and I know the contractors are trying very hard to work around the children's playtimes. There should be no deliveries at the start or end of the school day but please supervise your children when collecting from after-school clubs.



Attendance policy

Amendments to the 2006 regulations came into force from 1st September this year. They state that a headteacher may no longer grant leave of absence in term time except in very exceptional cases.

Fever advice sheet

Please see the latest NHS guidelines for when you are concerned about your child's health.

PE and School Sport

KS1 have had 2 sessions of Basketball coaching from Princes Risborough School and will also be having the opportunity to join a lunchtime cup stacking Club. Later in the term they will have Floor hockey coaching in readiness for a Princes Risborough Liaison group Festival on 21st January 2014.

Street dance and Karate lessons will continue until the end of November.

After school clubs after the half-term break

Gardening Club – will take a break until Spring. Thank you Mrs Buxton and children the planting looks wonderful.

Let's Get Cooking – Mondays – start date: 04 November after school Mrs Morris and Mrs Scott will be running this wonderful after school activity. Details in your child's bookbag today.

French-Tuesdays

Club now full

Film Club - Wednesdays - start date: 06 November after school. This is open to Year One and Year Two only. Please return the letter sent home last week if you wish your child to join.

Thursday Sport Club

Premier Sport Gymnastics 7th November for 5 weeks ends 5th December. The school will be using its sport funding to pay for each child who signs up. Parents should complete the application forms when they are sent out next week and return them to Mrs. Moore in the office. Please do not register on-line.

More dates

School closes for Half term Friday 25th October and reopens at 8:40a.m. Monday 4th November.

PTA Christmas Fair Saturday 7th December

Speen Pre-school Nativity 12th December

Christmas play 17th December

Christmas party 19th December

Nativity Service St. John's church 20th December

Friday 20th December, **last day of term.**

Energize

Year Two will have the opportunity to perform at the Wycombe Swan Theatre 27th-29th March 2014. More details will be available soon.