

SPEEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to you all, in particular to the new families joining us this Spring term at Speen CE School. We hope your children will thrive with us and be very happy during their time spent here.

The purpose of our termly newsletters is to keep you informed about what we have been doing to plan the school's future strategic direction and how we are helping to determine the school's aims. This year, with a successful OFSTED inspection behind us, we are taking the opportunity to review some of the school's medium and longer-term objectives within our meetings. I think that over the period leading up to the OFSTED Inspector's visit last year a lot of the Governing Body's energies and attention were necessarily focused on the shorter-term requirements to ensure that we were "OFSTED-ready". Now we have the chance to review and reflect on where we want the school to be in two, three, maybe five years' time – and then to develop and put in place the plans that will enable us to move forward with the resources to enable us to achieve our objectives, and with monitoring measures in place to make sure that we stay on track. As we plan, and then when we take action, we will consult with you at regular intervals: parents and carers are essential to an effective process of identifying needs and priorities, implementing plans, and checking that they are doing what we had intended.

In particular, the response to the recent very well attended parent's forum for KS1 was very much appreciated by staff and governors and the robust discussions and suggestions from parents enabled a greater understanding of how you can help your child further their learning. The additional information contained in Mrs Moore's Monday reminders has proved very helpful from the feedback we have received. The teachers are submitting information about the content of the week's curriculum and there is A BIG QUESTION to prompt some deeper thinking and to develop the children's speech and vocabulary.

As you are no doubt aware the new Assessments Without Levels have replaced the way the teaching staff monitor your child's academic progress through the school. The governors are very mindful of the huge challenge this has brought to Mrs Nayna and her staff to deliver within the remit and they have our strongest support. We understand that parents have been pleased so far with the progress reports discussed at recent parents' meetings.

The Finance committee have signed off plans to decorate the whole school, which will take place during the summer holidays with a fresh new look for September. In order to facilitate the needs of all the children in Nursery and Reception class too, we are also funding the construction of partitioning doors within Mrs Hayman's class. New security blinds will also be installed across the school.

Further funding has procured more laptops for the children this term enabling them all to have more time to use the specified RMeasimaths programmes. We are also searching for another experienced full time teaching assistant to bolster the support to Mrs Hayman, Mrs Brewer and Mrs Lidington.

We have been very encouraged with the responses to the online survey for our Wrap around Care project. The working group has met several times and are reviewing the options available to us at this small school through existing sports partnerships and external providers. It is most likely to be launched at the beginning of the Autumn term and we invite you to attend our next parent forum on **Thursday 28th April from 7pm** where this topic can be discussed along with How to help your child.

Copies of all of our meeting minutes are available to view on request through the office.

Our full governor profiles and list of duties can be viewed via our website link

<http://www.speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk/meet-our-governors/>

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and I hope you have found it informative. We welcome suggestions for its content and any questions you may have arising from it.

With very best wishes
On behalf of Speen School Governors,

Eamonn Barrett
Chairman