



# Parents Newsletter

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The statutory assessments have been completed and reported in the children's annual reports. The rich curriculum which has been provided this year by the hard working staff has not been interrupted unnecessarily. We are really pleased with the children's efforts and the results. **100%** (national 2017 64%) of Year Two children achieved the expected standard in all subjects combined at the end of Key Stage One and **100%** (national 2017 81%) of Year One children achieved the expected standard in the Phonic check. The percentage of children reaching a Good level of Development at the end of the Foundation stage was increased this year to our highest ever at 86% (national 2017 71%)

## Events this half term



Speen PTA made a major contribution to the first **Speen Village Ball**. The ball was a joint effort with Speen Preschool and the Playing Field association using the village marquee on Speen playing field. As usual it was a wonderful event and I was very pleased to catch up with former parents and governors of the school and the pupils who were waiting on, although I did not always recognise them.

The whole school was welcomed to the Speen preschool sports day on the playing field. The little

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children did very well considering it was another very hot day. Thank you, Tracey.

At the Wild West Fete on another blisteringly hot day, KS1 performed a programme of country dances. Congratulations to the children for an exquisite performance and to the children who won prizes in the competitions. There was something familiar about the winning 'wanted poster!'

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, Key Stage One enjoyed a Worship Trail in High Wycombe.

We began at the Jubilee Mosque where Imam Tanveer was able to show the children the interesting building. Adults and children alike learned about how important God is to their congregation and how they show their appreciation of the wonderful world which He created. From there the children walked across town to All Saints Parish Church. Here the children's worker Ruth explained fascinating facts about the building and what is important to their community. Afterwards the children reported how interesting they had also found this building. Highlights were the special box which is hung in the Lady Chapel, the quiet garden, the number of crosses and the 20<sup>th</sup> century window of important women. This window is a reminder of the struggle for suffrage and is coloured appropriately in white, green and purple. The church is open for visitors every day and is well worth a visit. Drop in to their café when you are out shopping.



Year Two really enjoyed serving, (and eating) the tea and cakes at the volunteer's tea party. Many thanks to the staff, who made the cakes to show their appreciation to all the parents and villagers, who give so much to make Speen CE School the great place it is for the children to begin their education.

Our third trip this term was to launch our final theme week, Transport, to the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, Quainton. The whole school enjoyed 2 train rides and learning about the steam trains and the Royal mail sorting carriages.



Back in school, the children learned more about steam power and George and Robert Stevenson. They began by studying a painting by Frith of a Victorian Railway Station packed with people of the day, which the children were able to study from an English and History perspective.

The final event in the Risborough Sports partnership was the Gym and dance festival where the cheerleading after-school club performed a fast and furious routine choreographed by Miss Barter.

As we come to the end of the year, we look back on the highlights, which must include the theme weeks and further developments in outdoor learning through the introduction of weekly Forest School sessions for all pupils. Parents were offered the opportunity to take part in one of two sessions with Mrs Hayman after school on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July, with a further session on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> for pre-school children and their parents. The benefits for the children, across the curriculum, have been tracked by Mrs Lidington in a research project. The staff are looking forward to continuing both initiatives next school year.

The afternoon of July 17<sup>th</sup> began with an It's a Knockout style Sports day, where the Y2 children devised fun games which were scored against the clock. Congratulations to Smith house who won again and thank you to the PTA for the ice-creams.

This was followed by the School Council Agape toy sale. The children were very generous with their pre-loved toys and the parents and grandparents with their extra pocket money. Thank you for raising £145.00. There were some boxes of toys left over which Mrs Walsh kindly took to Saunderton hostel. Well done, Mrs Rogers and the School Council.

Parent's generosity did not end there. On the afternoon of July 19<sup>th</sup> we hosted a Bring a Bear picnic in aid of Action Medical Research. Parents and grandparents joined us for lunch, which was followed by Paddington Bear themed crafts and travel themed activities. Donations totalled £86. Brilliant.

The week ended with a recorder concert by Year One and a violin concert by Year Two at 2:30 pm on Friday. Thank you to the teachers, Mrs Laughton and Mrs Lidington. Year two will need their own recorder to practice for Mrs Laughton's lessons in September.

The final events of the year were the July 21<sup>st</sup> Y2 family barbecue and an afternoon learning about bees and honey. Thank you to Jeni Fairey for organising this. I hope that she will feel able to run the Eco club again next year.

After-school clubs for KS1 already arranged are as follows:

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|-----------|--|
| Monday    | Clubs for Schools- Cooking Begins 17 <sup>th</sup> September |
| Tuesday   | La Jolie Ronde French  |
| Wednesday | Risborough Sport Partnership Start tbc                       |
| Thursday  | Premier Sport Tennis beg 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept.              |

For the last time I wish all the families a good summer and good luck to all those who are moving on.

Last day of term July 24<sup>th</sup> End of year service St. John's Church 9:15 am. Parents, friends and family are most welcome. Parents should bring the children on to school afterwards.

School finishes at 2:00 pm. Autumn term starts for children Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

*Best wishes and goodbye  
Denise Nayna*