



Speenhamland Primary School

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Newsletter 14th January 2022



WE ASPIRE

WE CHALLENGE

WE SUPPORT

WE ASPIRE, WE CHALLENGE, WE SUPPORT

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers

This week, at Speenhamland, the children have been engaged in learning and have been demonstrating excellent examples of our 5 school values: **respect, resilience, responsibility, resourceful and risk-taking.**

In Wisteria Class, during independent learning, they were very **resourceful**. The children investigated different ways to make their bean bags jump into the sky like rockets! After carefully considering their options, the children used the resources around them (2 planks of wood, lots of bean bags and lots of jumping children) to create a catapult! It took them a few attempts, but eventually the bean bags flew through the air.

In the Infants, they have been working hard with their poetry writing this week. They demonstrated their **risk taking** skills by attempting to include metaphors and rhyming words in their poems, which was a big challenge!

The Lower Juniors have come back to school with a **responsible** and positive attitude towards their learning. They have embraced the changes with our new guided reading scheme and showed maturity and autonomy towards the approach.

Our Upper Juniors, showed a huge amount of **resilience** this week with their mock tests. The year 5 pupils completed autumn term assessments whilst our year 6 pupils experienced their first mock SATs. The determination and perseverance the children showed in their tests was immense and I know all the teaching team were incredibly proud.

It has been lovely this week to welcome so many new children to Speenhamland as new starters. The pupils have all been very **respectful** and have welcomed new members of their class, sometimes talking to them in their home language! The acceptance and respect our children show in our diverse school community is wonderful.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Mrs J Lewry
Headteacher

Admission to Reception 2022/23 Academic Year

If you have a child with a date of birth between 01-09-17 to 31-08-18 and are due to start Speenhamland September 2022, please remember that the closing date for applications is **this Saturday**. The link to West Berkshire Council's website to apply is:

www.westberks.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Snacks

Please may we remind parents that only healthy snacks are permitted in school.

Unfortunately, we are having quite a number of children bringing in unhealthy snacks for break/lunch.

Coats

With the weather turning colder, please remember to send your child in to school with a warm coat.

Foodbank

The Foodbank have been very fortunate to receive lots of pasta donations in the run up to Christmas; so much so that they have a surplus at their warehouse.

If you are entitled to free school meals and would benefit from a donation, please email the school office and we will put in a request.

HOUSE WINNER

The Dragon's Eggs results for this week are:

1st Azul 190

2nd Laal 169

3rd Zolty 165

4th Verde 127

Congratulations Azul

Teaching Assistant Needed

Perfect role for school time hours!

Details and application form

available from Mrs Burgess (Office Manager)

jburgess@speenhamland.newburyacademytrust.org

This Week's Teacher Achievement and PSHE Awards

ACHIEVEMENT

Wisteria	Leo Cordova Valdiviezo
Cherry	Irenka Kratochvilova
Oak	Sienna Richens
Ash	Georgia Bowley
Hawthorn	Jessica Grace
Juniper	Arthur Riley
Maple	Krishna Rakshnu
Acer	Loui Basden
Redwood	Isabelle Fisher
Cedar	Jessie Murphy
Sport	Evie Mills and Harley Rogers

PSHE

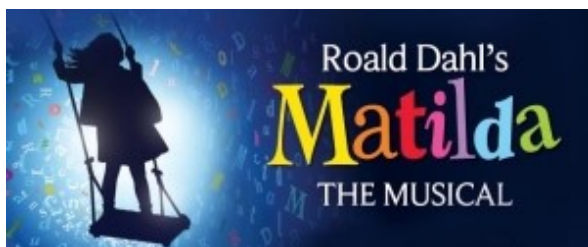
Alisha Ballard
Mehreen Rahman
Filip Stosak
Harry Davies
Oscar Smith
Myka Carlyon
Charlie Vang
Mercedes Ridd
Harley Rogers
Riley Hayes West



We have a performing arts superstar at Speenhamland!

Grace Neale has been busy attending rehearsals in preparation for her exciting role as Matilda.

She will be performing on Thursday 20th January, 7.30pm and Saturday 22nd January, 6.30pm in Rare Productions Matilda Jnr at the Corn Exchange.



Special Hot Dog Menu

Thursday 20th January

Next Thursday, is Census Day, when your school receives funding for every Reception and Infant child that has a **FREE** meal on the day.

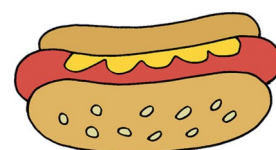
Please support your school by ordering a meal for your child next Thursday.

The delicious menu will be as follows:

Jumbo BBQ Hot Dog
Quorn BBQ Hot Dog
Served with Potato wedges
Peas or Baked beans
or

Packed lunch bag or Cheese Jacket potato

Chocolate Muffin
Fresh Fruit
Yoghurt Pot



Thank you for your support!

Attendance

This week's attendance is 96.06%, which is great for our first full week back.

Keep up the good work!

CHILDREN'S AMAZING WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2021/22 Autumn Progress, Achievement, Sportsmanship and Wow Bars

Class	Achievement	Progress	Sportsmanship	WOW
Wisteria	Noah Callow	Oscar Terry-Stanswood	Sahasra Pillaram	Jimmy Bodin-House
Cherry	Alanna Heller	Madhushreya Sreeram	Emily Opanowicz	Ayansh Ranjan
Oak	Harper Graham	Referee Rahman	Clara Brown	Isabelle Sandel
Ash	Harry Davies	Nishika Nuni	Leah Fairchild	Mia Compton
Hawthorn	Damian Davies	Evie Mills	Brandon Bowley	Kiaan Solanky
Juniper	Matei-Gabriel Olteanu	Freddie Newton	Evie Garnish	Aleigha-Mae Terry
Maple	Kai Ratcliffe	Jack Collins	Skyla Johnson	Henry West
Redwood	Chloe Rubery	Oscar Wilkes	Logan Harding	Kaleb Smith
Cedar	Libby McCugh	Liam Blake	Brittany Cordova	Oscar Lord
Acer	Oliver Johnsen	Poppy Josling	Keira Carlyon	Isaac Sproule



This week the children in Wisteria Class have started exploring their topic of Space and in History they learnt about Stephen Hawking and his work on black holes. They investigated the concept of a black hole using a large parachute, football (Black hole) and tennis ball (planet), noticing how the planet is pulled into the black hole, like a magnet!

As the light started to brighten, the residents shook and nervously pulled the curtains open to remind themselves of the latest disaster in the streets of London. Civilians were shell-shocked to see the debris: parts of wooden cars scattered the roads and pavements, jewellery boxes burnt and the gems no longer shining as the smoke covered the sky, picture frames shattered and ripped. Once tall, proud homes and bakeries now in a state of rubble and covered in a blanket of smoke. The pungent and intoxicating linger of gas burns the nostrils of residents leaving them dizzy, distraught and nauseous.

The small village in the countryside was in the middle of a lush forest underneath the beautiful lapis sky. The rolling hills sloped gracefully to a crystal clear river. The day was so quiet and idyllic you could hear grass swaying, wind whistling and the river washing against the shore. Methodically organised flower beds shone with a plethora of colours below the thatched ceilings. Fences were lined across the village to stop animals ruining the peace.

A setting description from Loui in Acer Class



Autumn Term 2021 -2022



It has been a busy half term for our dedicated School Councillors, who have strived all term to make Speenhamland a better place for everyone. They have attended meetings regularly and maintained their diligence and determination. Even when bubble restrictions prevented whole school council meetings, they met in smaller bubbles.

Through this newsletter, we wanted to report on our focuses throughout the term, the changes that have been made and the impact.

We started the year by looking at our school values, the 5Rs: Respect, Resourceful, Risk Takers, Resilience and Responsibility and decided on an area to focus on.

School Councillors wanted to look at respect and decided firstly they needed to understand what it meant. They concluded that 'Respect is caring enough to consider how words and actions impact others'. They discussed the theme of respect with their class and considered what respect looked like at Speenhamland. Their feedback included many positives - how friendly, caring and nurturing the Speenhamland community is. However, all classes felt improvements could be made such as:

- Taking care of ours and others' property
- Calling out in class
- Moving around the building quietly

Councillors led the way and demonstrated what was expected through being a positive role model. Afterwards, the children reported that now everyone would pick a coat, or bag up off the floor, line up quietly and each class produced their own charter to enhance the learning of all.

The flurry of excitement escalated to respect for our environment culminating in a litter pick class challenge which was won by Acer class, with a collective whole school 11kg of rubbish removed from the site. The children are very proud of how the site now looks, and keep the ethos alive of, 'If we don't drop it, we don't need to pick it up.'

Our Anti Bullying week, resulted in questionnaires to all classes about how children feel about safety in school, kindness and bullying. School Councillors reported that lunch times could sometimes be difficult as there was not always things to do. They communicated from their classes the activities the children would like to do and supported myself in a bid for some additional sports premium funding for some lunch time equipment. This has now been purchased and is ready to use in the Spring Term.

The school councillors will continue with some issues raised in the Anti-Bullying questionnaires in the Spring Term and I know with their dedication and determination we will continue to make Speenhamland a place of excellence.

