

Newsletter

Celebrating Achievement and Success For All



We're working
towards Artsmark
Awarded by Arts
Council England



Speenhamland School

27 November 2020

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This week we have been looking in depth at our Art and Science curriculums at Speenhamland. Visiting lessons, and speaking with pupils it is clear that the children are excited and enthused by what they are learning. In Science the children were excited by the experiments that they have completed, and were able to share how these have helped them gain new knowledge. During the lessons that I visited in the Lower Juniors, the children were excited to find out which materials reflected light, and were beginning to make predictions ahead of testing for themselves. In the Upper Juniors, pupils were recording electrical circuit diagrams using the correct symbols and extending their understanding to explore the factors which influence the brightness of bulbs; including dependent and independent variables.

When we circulated the return to school guidance, we outlined the steps that were being taken to ensure that we were COVID secure, as well as how we would be supporting children to settle back in school, and catch up with any learning they had missed. In the next few weeks, we will be evaluating the impact of the steps that we have taken, and would like your input. This will help us to make any changes that may be necessary for the Spring term. Next week, we will be sending a link to a short survey, which I would ask every family to complete so that we can take account of views.

I know from hearing conversations in school that the children are very excited to be going to the Pantomime over the next couple of weeks. Thank you for your support with this: I think that given the past six months, the children deserve this treat. Please note that any children attending Dragon Club will be walked back to school.

Sport News

During the last couple of weeks our junior children have been taking part in some Gaelic Football events during PE lessons as part of the Berkshire Schools Sports Partnerships Virtual events. We are delighted that we were ranked third for participation with our Year 3's and also finished third in West Berkshire on performance. Well done boys and girls!

Reminder

Christmas Lunch

The dates for Christmas Lunch are as follows:

- EYFS and Infants 08-12-20
- Juniors 09-12-20

NB: This will not impact the Pantomime visit



Please ensure that you order the Christmas lunch menu on the correct day. You can, of course, still book a sandwich picnic bag on the day that isn't your child's Christmas lunch day.

Head Lice Flyer (attached)

We have had a few cases of head lice in Infants. Please find attached a flyer which I hope you will find helpful. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat appropriately if head lice are found.

Parent Governor Elections

Unfortunately, there were no nominations received for the Speenhamland Parent Governor position on the Primary School Local Governing Body. The vacancy remains open until another parent governor election is run in the future or the Board of Trustees may now appoint a parent/carer to the post.

The role of parent governor is a great opportunity to support the school; bring a parental perspective to the board and contribute to the strategy to achieve the school's vision, as well as holding the school leaders to account for the educational and financial performance of the school. There are five meetings per year lasting 2.5 hours each although additional time is expected in planning for these. A comprehensive induction and training is provided for all governors.

If you are interested or would like any further information, please do get in touch with our Clerk (clerk@newburyacademytrust.org).

Mrs E Parish
Associate Headteacher

FoSS News (Friends of Speenhamland School)

- 4th December your child can wear something festive to school (jumper/socks/hair decoration) in exchange for chocolate or craft items which will be made into hampers to be raffled virtual tickets will be on sale the following week, with the winning numbers drawn during the week beginning 14 December.
- "My Child's Art" orders have generated £142 in commission so far. There is still time to put your order in for your child's Christmas cards.
- All money raised from the events will be used to purchase extra class iPads.

Thank you for your continued support.

Brenda Smith (Chair)



Diary Dates

04-12-20	FoSS Christmas Hamper Donation Day. Pupils can wear festive clothes.
04-12-20	1 pm EYFS, Infants and Class 10 to Panto (see letter)
08-12-20	Christmas Lunch—EYFS and KS1
09-12-20	Christmas Lunch—KS2
09-12-20	2 pm Classes, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 to Panto (see letter)
w/c 14-12-20	Christmas Hamper Draw
17-12-20	Pupils leave at 12 noon for Christmas Holiday
18-12-20	INSET Day
04-01-21	INSET Day
05-01-21	Pupils return

