

# Spring Meadow Newsletter

Autumn Term: September 2016

## Welcome

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope you had a great summer and managed to spend some quality time with your children.

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to attend our Year 1 and 2 welcome meetings last week and at the end of the summer term. I would like to reiterate the importance of the parent-school partnership in the interest of the children.

Well done to all the children who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge. It is really encouraging to know that so many children are reading not just at home but over the holidays. Keep it up! If you are interested in supporting the school with our drive to improve reading as a reading volunteer, please speak either with your child's class teacher or myself, Mr Cooper. Improving our children's fluency in reading is a main focus for us this year.

One of our main focuses for school improvement continues to be writing. Last year 53% of our Year 2 children achieved age-related expected or above in Writing. This figure may seem low but many schools across the country have had similar experiences. The local authority has advised schools to view last year's results in isolation and not as the start of a trend. We can celebrate that fact that all children made at least good progress in reading, writing and maths across the school. Our phonic check results improved significantly as well as our early years results.

## The Governing Body

As many of you are aware, there are three governor vacancies with our governing body. We are particularly keen to have anyone with a background in finance who are **not** parents of children in the school. If you know someone who would be interested in supporting the school in the way and would like more information on what it means to be a governor, please contact our Chair of Governors, Susanne Jessop via email on:

[sjessop@springmeadow.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:sjessop@springmeadow.cambs.sch.uk).

## SEPTEMBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 12 September – New Reception Parents' Coffee Morning (9am and 2:45pm in the Studio)

Monday 12 September - Full Governing Body

Monday 19 September – New Reception Parents' Coffee Morning (9am and 2:45pm in the Studio)

Thursday 23 September – Race Night (PSA event)

Monday 26 September – New Reception Parents' Coffee Morning (9am and 2:45pm in the Studio)

Tuesday 27 September – PSA Meeting

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## Attendance

It is so important that your children attend school regularly. Persistent absence has a serious impact on your children's achievement and social adjustment. At Spring Meadow, our overall attendance is currently 95% which is in line with the national expectation. This is a significant improvement from this time last year. However the national average is now 96%! A number of parents have requested term time leave before the holidays and since we have started back at school, which I have not authorised. I am happy to discuss individual cases. The advice from the government and the County now is that fines should be imposed to any family taking term time holidays especially if they have taken term time holidays in the past. Last week I met with parents whose child's attendance had dipped below 90%. If absence is much below this, then the education welfare office will become involved.

## Recycling Pens

Do you throw away all those felt tips, markers and biro's that run out or with missing lids that have been left off too long?

Our school is now collecting used writing implements for recycling into new products. Read more about Terracycle on their website - the link to the Writing Implements Brigade is here [The Writing Instruments Recycling Programme®](#) with a video too.

Did you know that as well as saving these all from landfill, you will also be helping engineering company Mott MacDonald to raise funds for Wateraid as their chosen charity?

There is a box at the school office for you to drop these off whenever you like.

You may have noticed a box in our reception area asking for used pens.

## Midday Meal Supervisor Position

We are currently looking to recruit midday meal supervisors to support classes at lunch times starting in October. If you are interested in the role, please look out for the notice in the window outside your child's classroom. Alternatively, speak with either Mrs Eldridge, Senior Midday Meal Supervisor or Mrs Green in the office.

## TERM DATES

### Autumn term 2016

1st September Professional Day

2nd September Professional Day  
5th September—21st October  
**24th October**  
to **Half Term**  
**28<sup>th</sup> October**  
31st October—20th December

### Spring term 2017

4th January Professional Day  
5th January—10th February  
**13th February**  
to **Half Term**  
**17th February**  
20th February—31st March

### Summer term 2017

18th April Professional Day  
19th April - 26th May  
1st May 2017 May Day  
**29th May**  
to **Half Term**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> June**  
5th June Professional Day  
6th June—21st July