

# Spring Meadow Infant and Nursery School Weekly Update 9th October 2020



## Key Dates:

**22nd October** — Last day of first half-term

**23rd October** — Staff Professional Day: school closed

**26th—30th October** — Autumn half-term holiday

**2nd November** — Start of second half-term

**3rd November** — 9.30am/1.30pm/7pm via 'Zoom' Headteacher Presentations to Prospective Reception Parents

**6th November** — 9.30am/1.30pm via 'Zoom' Headteacher Presentations to Prospective Reception Parents

**11th November** — School Photos (Spring Meadow pupils only: see note ►)

**18th November** — Flu vaccinations for children

**1st December** — 9.30am/1.30pm/7pm via 'Zoom' Headteacher Presentations to Prospective Reception Parents

**3rd December** — 9.30am/1.30pm via 'Zoom' Headteacher Presentations to Prospective Reception Parents

**18th December** — End of Autumn Term

**4th January 2021** — Staff Professional Day: school closed

**5th January 2021** — Start of Spring Term

## School Photos: 11th November



The essential safety measures continue in school and we are delighted that our school photographers, Tempest, have adapted their systems and procedures to enable those all-important school portraits to still be taken this year. Hence, they will be spending the day with us on Wednesday 11th November. The children will go in their class bubbles to the Studio, which will be well-ventilated, to have a standing portrait taken from a 2-metre distance. Proofs will then be sent to the school to distribute and you will be able to order online (no orders/payment to be brought to school). Unfortunately, they are not able to offer family or sibling photographs this year, hopefully they will do so in 2021.

## Flu Immunisation — Wednesday 18th November

The local authority have provided us with a NHS letter that aims to dispel some of the messages that appear on social media. The letter seeks to reassure and give the facts to all parents so they can make an informed judgement before they make the final decision about this important area of their child's health and well-being. The full document is attached to this update, so please take time to read it.

## Attendance and Lateness

The Government require all schools to continue to manage pupil absence in the way we had been doing pre the school closure back in March 2020. If your child is absent from school please contact us before 9am on the first day, to inform us of the reason. We have a dedicated Absence line, so you can ring and leave a message on that at any time of the night or day! All absences are carefully logged. School term dates are available on the school website. Holidays are not allowed to be taken during school time. If you need to take your child out of school in an exceptional circumstance, please ask at the school office for the appropriate form, which is given to the Head Teacher. She can only authorise an absence from school in *extreme* circumstances. Any holidays taken during term-time will incur a penalty notice issued to both parents, by Cambridgeshire County Council.

**Punctuality** is an important life-skill to learn at an early age. Children get very upset arriving late to their class, or to morning assembly, not to mention the disruption to their learning if they miss out on the early-morning Phonics or group reading session. Please bring your child to school on time, especially in these regulated times!

## Life at Spring Meadow: FOREST SCHOOL

The autumn season is now fully upon us and we will be going outside to Forest School every week finding out about the changes around us. Autumn provides wonderful changes for the children to observe and explore: the berries and seeds appear on the bushes and fall from the trees, fungi appears on the grassy areas and under logs - nature provides amazing wonders for the children to get close to and experience.

PLEASE provide your child with suitable clothing for this activity. Wellington boots are perfect, make sure they are big enough! Children's feet have grown for certain and some are struggling to get theirs on and off! An old pair of trainers will also be fine if welly boots are not available. If your child does not have their own Forest School clothing, they cannot take part fully in the experience. The kit is a waterproof coat with a hood, trousers and wellington boots. We have recently reviewed our risk assessment in relation to bags being brought into school and in particular Forest School kit. Whilst there is no direct government guidance about this, at Spring Meadow we would like to request that *only* school bookbags are brought in daily. **Forest School kit should now be taken home on a Friday, so that it can be used and cleaned over the weekend, and brought back on a Monday.** This is to limit the points of contact and possible infection coming into school throughout the week. Thank you for your co-operation.



## Online Anxiety Workshop for Parents and Carers:

**Thursday 22nd October at 10am**

Michelle West, Early Intervention Family Worker, is organising an *Online Anxiety Workshop* for parents and carers who would like to learn more about anxiety and the causes of it, how to help as a parent, calming techniques, tools and key strategies to use to help your child. If you'd like to join the workshop (you don't have to stay for the whole time), you will need internet access on a device able to connect to Microsoft Teams — full access instructions will be given once your place is booked.

To book, contact [michelle.west@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.west@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)