

SPINFIELD SCHOOL

End of Term Newsletter 2024

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy new Year*

As we reach the end of the autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the incredible achievements of all of the children at Spinfield and to express my gratitude for your continued support. This term has been filled with some great accomplishments. Our children have continued to show dedication and enthusiasm in their studies and extracurricular activities. On top of this, we have been delighted with the fantastic range of entries in our art competition, the sporting achievements from our football teams and cross country runners and the amazing performances in the Christmas plays – what a team of superstars we have at Spinfield! As always, congratulations to our children for their achievements and for continuing to make us proud.

As parents, your support has been invaluable in making this term a success. Whether through attending school events, assisting with homework or volunteering your time, your involvement has made a significant impact. We appreciate your partnership with the Spinfield team in fostering a positive learning environment for our children.

As we look ahead to the new year, we are excited about the opportunities that await. We will continue to focus on providing the best education and experiences for our children. Please keep an eye out for upcoming events and activities in the next term. Thank you once again for your commitment and support. We look forward to embarking on another successful term with you and your children.

On behalf of the Spinfield team, warm wishes for a restful and joyful holiday season. We'll see you on Tuesday 7th January 2025! Miss Spreadbury



Happy Christmas!

Global Citizens News and special request.

Last year our Global Citizens helped us to achieve our 4th British Council International School Award.. We are very excited to tell you that Miss Spreadbury and Mrs Armstrong will be going to the Houses of Parliament on January 20th to receive the award.

This year we are working with 2 important organisations: the Fair Trade Schools organisation and the Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots organisation. Fair Trade Schools are involved in promoting awareness about the importance of Fair Trade. We already hold a FairAware School certificate and are now working towards the next level to become a FairActive School! The Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots programme works with children across the world in 65 countries. Inspired by the visionary Dr Jane Goodall, it is a global network that empowers children to tackle environmental, animal, and humanitarian challenges head-on. Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Awards recognise achievements in helping people, animals & the environment.

A FairTrade Christmas.

We would like to invite you and your family to include at least ONE Fair Trade product in your Christmas meal. It would be wonderful if you could share a photo with us of you and your family sharing a meal at Christmas time and tell us which FairTrade product or products you used. Bring your photos into school the first week back in January and we will display them altogether to show how Spinfield families are helping farmers in far away countries to get a fair price for the food they grow.

Art Competition

Once again, we were delighted and amazed with all of the fantastic entries for the annual art competition – we certainly have some very talented children!

Here are the results:

Overall winners:

KS1: Olivia C (Y2)

KS2: Eliza MG (Y6)

Drawing and Painting:

KS1: Coco (Reception)

KS2: Ariane (Y6)

Collage and Printing:

KS1: Evie (Reception)

KS2: Bella (Y4)

Models and Sculpture:

KS1: Eliza (Y1)

KS2: Abby (Y5)

Photography:

KS2: Emilia (Y4)

Textiles and Sewing:

KS1: Grace (Y2)

KS2: Elise (Y3)

H

O

U

S

E

A

R

T

The winning house was Shelley!

Parking:

We're still on a mission and working closely with our local Marlow Neighbourhood Police Team to improve safe and considerate parking. Thank you to all of the parents who do this as a matter of course – it is important that your children can come to school, leave safely and that our neighbours are not inconvenienced. Please remember not to park on corners, within 10 metres of a junction or where there is a dropped kerb. Emergency vehicles may need to pass, so please also be aware of parking on the opposite side of the road or opposite a junction, unless in a designated parking space – All of these issues restrict the view for other road users and pedestrians and can be dangerous. Finally, please be considerate to our neighbours when parking, so as to not restrict or block access to their properties. Let's all work together to make the streets safe for our children and our neighbours.

Kids Lunch

Company: The website will be open to take orders for next half term from the afternoon of Friday 20th December, the cut off for orders for the first week back will be Midday Friday 3rd January.

Attendance:

Studies show that children who attend school regularly have better life chances, get better GCSE results, are healthier and safer as teenagers and adults. Regular school attendance means coming to school everyday (unless you are ill) and being on time. Every single day matters.

School Lottery: It is not too late to enter the draw to win £3,000 in the Christmas Superdraw. Enter by 21 December. Good Luck!

Clubs Spring Term 2025:

Full information for extra-curricular clubs running next term may be found on the school website. Remember to sign up - art and sign language clubs still have spaces as do other clubs. Cross Country must be booked and paid for online via schoolcomms and parent pay. Please ensure you book and pay to secure your cross country place.

Open Morning for parents.

We are holding an Open morning for current parents on Thursday 9th January. Tours are at 09.30 and 11.00 and will be led by year 6 children.

We'd love to welcome you to come along to see Spinfield in action! There's no requirement to sign up, please just come along on the day!

Safeguarding training for volunteers:

We have scheduled the following dates for safeguarding training for volunteer helpers. Please remember that you need to have a DBS check (Paperwork can be obtained from the office) and have attended our training to be able to volunteer in school. If you would like to attend the one of the online training sessions, please email the school office and we will make sure that a Google invite is sent to you. The session lasts around 45 minutes.

14th January @ 09.15

17th January @ 13.30

5th March @ 09.15

Pilates

Find your Focus: Mat Pilates for the New Year

Tuesday 6.15pm (term time only): Starting on 14th January.

Spinfield School Hall, Marlow

All levels

This class is designed for those who would like to connect their mind and body awareness to develop strength and stability from the inside out. It is an excellent class for beginners but those experienced will also benefit from revisiting the key principles of their Pilates practice. The one hour class takes you through exercises to address skeletal alignment, posture, flexibility and core stability which are crucial to our healthy wellbeing and injury prevention.

Contact Claire @ clairehindleypilates.com or visit the website to book straight on!

N

e

W

S

A message from the Chair, Julia Miles-Griffiths. We wanted to say a huge thank you for all your support this term. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed their time, effort and skills to make the fireworks evening and the Christmas fair such huge successes. It was lovely to see the school community come together to make such lovely and enjoyable events.

Both events raised an amazing £6,000, so thank you again for supporting us.

We are looking forward to continuing to support the school with future projects. Our next big investment will be installing a range of resources to support Outdoor Adventurous Activities which will enable teachers to bring physical activity into the wider curriculum, through a range of subjects from Maths and English to French and Humanities.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their PA funded Christmas lunch yesterday, a perfect way to end the school term! Many thanks to Made by Mark for a superb lunch.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas from the PA Team .

PA NEWS

Governor News

Dear Parents and Carers

We have decided to include a governors' update to you in the end of term school newsletter. This replaces the governor report to parents and carers and hopefully is a more succinct and digestible document.

OUR SCHOOL

Spinfield continues to perform exceptionally well underpinned by our amazing staff, wonderful children, dedicated Parents' Association and highly supportive community.

Our school is over subscribed which is incredibly important to maximise our ever-tightening funds and an excellent position considering many primary schools in the area are not at capacity. Every child attracts £3,665 of funding each year. Primary schools in the area are in direct competition and our performance, effective marketing and excellent open days have delivered this essential position.

Academic results continue to be upper decile, significantly better than national and county results. We provide a very broad and rich curriculum with the aim of nurturing the joy of learning to help children succeed, not just in education, but in life. We nurture and develop the whole child by being part of a community that works on academic, social and emotional development. We have fun while learning because that enhances the learning process. These are the hallmarks of Spinfield.

FINANCES

In the six years I have been a governor, every year the budget has become tighter. In my early years, we managed to fully resource the school and carry a small surplus. This has always been significantly supported by the incredible work and contribution of the Parents' Association.

This year, the tightening trend has continued and we are working hard to end the financial year with no deficit. We have learned over recent years, a deficit results in the Local Authority demanding a reduction in staffing which would obviously have a significant negative impact on our children. After Christmas we will be planning

for the academic year 2025/2026 and the trends clearly indicate that we will have a very demanding challenge.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION (PA)

The Parents Association makes an incredible and essential contribution to our school. Maidlin Spence and Beth Kirkness did an incredible job and we are so very grateful. We are delighted that Julia Miles-Griffiths and Shaun Leach have stepped in to continue the great work.

The constitution for the PA is to provide and assist in the provision of such facilities or items for the education and welfare of the children at the school not normally provided by statutory funds. I'm sure that you'll see from the table below the incredible contribution the PA have made to our school over the last year – it brings incredible benefit to our children.

Forest school	Five new interactive whiteboards	Leases, licenses and subscriptions	Teacher iPads	VR day	Entrance sign-in system	Hand dryers x 8	Wellness hub window stickers
Glockenspeils	Dan the skipping man	Science day	Whole school Olympics Day	Adventure Day	British Sign Language Course (September)	WOW days/trips	Outdoor equipment for EYFS
Multi-use outdoor play building for EYFS	Playground storage	Playground sports/play equipment	Ice cream van	Year 6 contribution	Stationery supplies	186 Atlases	Pond maintenance
Christmas lunch	Spinfield football kit	Spinfield tshirts	Tombolas	Wellness Hub restock and Classroom boxes	Pens for pen licenses	Maths resources	Maths Workshop
Toys for EYFS outdoor learning	Forest School Clay and tarpaulin	30 sets of headphones and adaptors	PA stamp for PA donated items	KS2 set text books (158 books)	Keyboards	Times tables poppits	Monster phonics books
		Wooden obstacle course	Midday supervisor	Norden Farm trip	Art supplies		

The Christmas fair was a great success despite the dreadful weather! It was a brilliant example of the incredible PA and all its fabulous helpers and the excellent support and enthusiasm of our entire school community.

MOVE TO AN ACADEMY

Our Academy project team has robustly delivered our initial objectives - we have established detailed selection criteria for evaluating a move to a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) and we have engaged in in-depth discussions with the CEOs of seven selected MATs all within a half hour drive. From careful analysis we have identified the MATs which we could enter due diligence with.

Marlow Education Trust with Kevin Ford as the new CEO, is making encouraging progress and we have an ongoing dialogue with them. Due diligence will be carried out with two potential MATs and it is a very important, detailed and time-consuming process. We have had significant changes in the governing board this academic year outlined below and we have decided to delay entering due diligence for six months.

GOVERNING BOARD

This term, I was very sad to see three governors resign - Tom Ronan, Frank Schoofs and Richard McCandless. They all made a great contribution for which I am very grateful.

We have been very fortunate that David Hollywood, previously a governor for many years and Chair of Resources and Chairman, has agreed to return as Chair of Resources and Bob Houghton and Rob Heerdegen have joined as new governors.

There are still vacancies on the governing board so, if you or anyone you know is interested in what is a most rewarding role, please contact me.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My email address is: chairofgovernors@spinfieldschool.co.uk

My best wishes to you for a very happy Christmas and a happy and successful 2025!

Keith Spence
Chair of Governors