

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2025

SPINFIELD SCHOOL



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of this term, once again, I want to take a moment to reflect on the fantastic achievements of our children. They have worked incredibly hard and should be immensely proud of their efforts. I hope that you'll be able to find some time to read this newsletter which celebrates life at Spinfield and provides important information and updates.

This term has been filled with exciting opportunities, from thrilling sporting fixtures to our delightful house poetry competition. A special mention goes to our spectacular talent show, which truly showcased the remarkable talents within our community!

Gareth Southgate wisely said, "The most important thing is we keep getting better." And this statement really reflects the joy of learning and the continuous growth we encourage in our children.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable spring break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on 23rd April, refreshed and ready for new adventures!

Miss Spreadbury



The Kids Lunch Company website has been updated with the menu for the first half of the summer term, allowing parents to create accounts and place orders starting Wednesday 23rd April. <https://kidslunch.co.uk/>
From the beginning of the summer term, parents must order for ALL children who want a lunch – including children in EYFS and Key Stage One.

With the new system, you will now be able to:

- Create an account to manage orders easily
- Modify or cancel orders as needed
- Apply meal credits (paid lunches) toward future meals
- Avoid past-date orders with an integrated calendar
- Ensure orders meet the midday cut off for the following week

For the first week of lunches, from Wednesday 23rd April to Friday, April 25th, the cut off will be midday on Friday, April 18th. Please ensure that you complete the set up for your child/ren if you would like them to have school meals. There will not be any spare food available so if you have not placed an order you will be required to send a packed lunch in to school for your child/ren.

Please be aware the cut off for all orders is midday on the previous Friday for lunches for following week.

Thank you for your continued support.
Jay & The Kids Lunch Team



School Lunches

It has been a busy Spring term for PE and Sport at Spinfield. The **House Cross Country Competition** went ahead in glorious sunshine with **Shelley** coming out on top this year!

The **Cross Country team** have also finished their season strongly in the Thames Valley Running League. In the final relay, the 40 strong squad all represented the school brilliantly this year, contributing to a **THIRD PLACE** overall league finish for the Year 3/4 Girls, a **SECOND PLACE** league finish for the Year 5/6 Girls and **FIRST PLACE** for the Year 3/4 Boys!

On the football pitches, all three teams have been busy this term. The **U11 Girls** had a great finish to their season with a triumphant 2-1 win against Frieth School and the **U11 Boys** finished strongly with a comprehensive win against Carrington School. The **U10s** narrowly lost in the second round of the cup.

We held our first **X Games** fixture of 2025 with eager KS2 children enjoying invasion games and capture the flag. The X Games are designed to give all children access to and enjoyment of school sport.

Finally, as we look ahead to the Summer term, we eagerly await the installation of new orienteering markers to bring Outdoor Adventurous Activities to Spinfield. We are also looking ahead to:

- the Marlow Hockey Tournament
- Marlow Liaison Tag Rugby event
- Year 1s AJD Football competition
- Marlow Liaison Athletics competition
- The Spinfield Sports Day!

Thank you for all of your continued commitment to PE, Sport and staying active! We can't wait to share with you news, participation and success in the Summer term!

Inter House Cross Country:

Cross Country Club Race

1st Henry P Y4

2nd Robyn Y3

3rd Henry J Y4

4th Rory Y5

Inter-House Cross Country Years 5 and 6

1st Digby Y6

2nd Finn Y5

3rd Aiden Y5

4th Taylor Y5

Year 3 and 4

1st Henry J Y4

2nd George Y3

3rd Alex Corke Y4

4th James T Y3 and Matilda Y4



Inter house Poetry

On Wednesday 26th March, we enjoyed a morning of poetry recital and performance. The truly magical thing was that EVERY single child performed a poem, whether it be an individual, group, house or class entry!

Our four judges enjoyed each performance and commented on the clarity of the recitals and the confidence that the children showed when performing.

Congratulations to the following children:

Key Stage One:

1st Tildy Y2

2nd Boo Y1

3rd Isla Y1

Key Stage Two:

1st: Reza Y3

2nd Kleo Y4

3rd Charlotte Y3

House Places:

1st Shelley

2nd Eliot

3rd Tierney

4th Hobart

Overall individual winner across both key stages: **Tommy Y5**



Interhouse Competitions & Sport Update

At Spinfield School, we are committed to fostering a culture where wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. We recognise that emotional and mental health are fundamental to children's learning and development, as well as to the happiness and resilience of our whole school community.

To strengthen our approach, we have taken several key steps:

Dedicated Wellbeing Leadership – A governor has been allocated the specific responsibility for wellbeing. They will work directly with our Senior Mental Health Lead, Mrs Clarke, in ensuring it remains a priority at a strategic level.

Embedding the Zones of Regulation – This framework is now an integral part of school life, helping children to recognise and manage their emotions effectively. Daily check-ins support their emotional needs and development.

The Wellbeing Hub – We continue to encourage all children to make use of this space as a place for reflection, self-regulation, and support.

A Whole-School Wellbeing Policy – We are in the process of creating a wellbeing policy that encompasses all stakeholders, reinforcing our collective commitment to emotional health. Once this has been ratified, it will be available on our school website.

Staff Wellbeing Survey – To support our team, we are conducting a staff wellbeing survey to gain valuable insights and ensure that everyone feels heard and supported.

National Wellbeing Week (May) – A variety of activities are being planned to celebrate National Wellbeing Week, promoting self-care, mindfulness, and positive mental health. If you have a skill in wellbeing-related activities such as yoga, tai chi, or mindfulness and would like to lead a lunchtime session, please get in touch via year5@spinfieldschool.co.uk.

One key area of wellbeing we are keen to develop further is kindness. As we head into the Easter break, we invite you to take part in our Easter Kindness Challenge (attached to this email). This is a wonderful opportunity to engage as a family and spread positivity within our community.

Thank you for your continued support in making Spinfield School a place where wellbeing thrives.



We are very excited and proud to announce Spinfield has been awarded the Healthy Schools Award!

This is down to the hard work of Mrs Beilby who has been supported by our Governor Jane Marr. *This award demonstrates that our school is embedding and improving provision against the four core health themes of Healthy Schools.*

- PSHE (Personal, social, health and economic education)
- SEMH (Social, emotional and mental health)
- Physical Activity
- Healthy Eating

We have been working towards this award for the last 2 years. It is a national award, awarded by The Health and Wellbeing Service, Leeds City Council, working in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council.

Some aspects we were already on top of and other aspects we have put improvements in place.

What kind of developments have contributed to the award?

PSHE (Personal, social, health and economic education)

Gaining first hand feedback from year 4 and year 6 pupils by taking part in the Bucks Health and Wellbeing Survey, which gives data comparing us to other schools.

The importance of self reflection embedded in PSHE lessons.
British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, tolerance, and respect) are discussed with children across all lessons.
No smoking / vaping signage at school entrances.

SEMH (Social, emotional and mental health)

The Wellbeing Hub

Zones of Regulation, now fully embedded in all year groups enabling a common language for how pupils feel and a toolkit of skills they can use to self regulate.
We now have a specific Mental Health lead (Mrs Clarke), fully trained by Thrive.

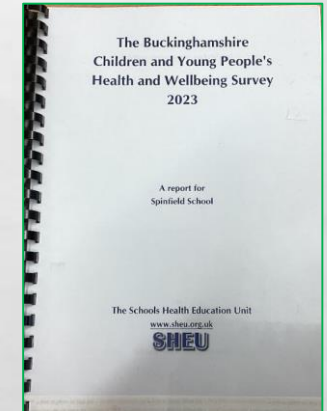
We now have a mental health governor. Our consistent and continual education of the children on emotions and mental health.

Physical Activity

The playground leaders have been formally trained to lead physical games at lunchtimes and looking forward to starting this role soon!
Extra curricular X games
An extensive after school sports program, often competing with other schools
The daily mile

Healthy Eating

Development of a whole school food policy
Surveying of all classes to discover their food activity ideas
Tweaking of the language we (staff) use when we talk with children about food.



Spinfield Achieves The Healthy Schools Award!

Here's something to think about over the holidays!
It will soon be time for the Spinfield Fair Trade Cupcake Bake Off Competition!

We would like to invite you to take part in this fun competition.

To enter, bake as many cupcakes as you like using as many Fair Trade ingredients as you can (please remember we are a NUT FREE/ ALLERGY AWARE school).

Bring **TWO** of your cupcakes, in a sealed/named container, to the main school entrance on Friday 2nd May, the cakes will be stored in the staff room as we have children with allergies. You can eat the rest of your cakes with your family! Some of our School Governors will have the enjoyable task of judging the cupcakes based upon the number of Fair Trade ingredients used, their TASTE and appearance!

You also need to provide a written or printed recipe sheet listing your ingredients and include photos of you making your cupcakes and the finished cupcakes.

You can decorate your cupcakes in any way - be creative but try to use as many Fair Trade ingredients as possible!

Why are we doing this?

Well, we want you to see how easy it is to make delicious food using Fair Trade products. Fair Trade really helps farmers and people in other countries where the food we eat is grown. The farmers and workers earn fair wages and this improves their living conditions and can help them provide better education for their children. By supporting Fair Trade we are making the world a fairer place for everyone.



The Spinfield Fair Trade Cupcake Bake Off Competition!



Governor Update from Keith Spence, Chair of Governors.

I am delighted to share the remarkable successes our school has achieved so far, this academic year, underscoring our commitment to nurturing the whole child, both academically and socially. Our school is full, despite challenges around a dropping birth rate, and we take immense pride in retaining our excellent staff. Our impressive SAT results place us in the upper decile, ranking fifth in the county.

In addition to our academic achievements, we have received both the International School Award and the Healthy Schools Award, recognising our commitment to global perspectives and the well-being of our children. Furthermore, we recently engaged every pupil in our Inter House Poetry Competition, fostering creativity and confidence. Feedback from our school improvement partner from Buckinghamshire Council has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the excellent behaviour and focus of our children, the quality of our displays, and our dedicated approach to well-being through the Zones of Regulation.

We know that as parents you have a huge part to play in this and as Chair of Governors, I want to thank you for your continued support and to recognise the excellent job that the team at Spinfield do to provide your child/ren with a world class educational experience.

We are currently working hard on the financial plan for Spinfield for the new financial year 2025/2026 which starts in April. Over recent years our income from the Local Authority has not met our increasing costs, and we are currently unable to fully resource the school and therefore have no contingency. We will be communicating with you regarding parent led school functions and financial support early next term.

Another urgent problem is lack of governor resource. The governors play a key role in the support and development of the school, and it is the most valuable, rewarding and fulfilling role. Over the Easter break, could you please consider if you would like to join our excellent governing board or if you know of anyone that would be interested. Please contact me or Miss Spreadbury with contact details - our email addresses are below. We will be delighted to meet with you to discuss the possibility.

Have a lovely Easter

With best wishes

Keith Spence

Chair of Governors

chairofgovernors@spinfieldschool.co.uk

office@spinfieldschool.co.uk

Governor Update –

Please feel free to contact me on my email address chairofgovernors@spinfieldschool.co.uk

The Family Hub Service offer several FREE courses for children and young people to support their well-being. Please see below and attached for more information. Apologies, there is a lot of information, but it includes our whole package of support for CYP across Bucks and online, so we hope you will find the information relevant and helpful.

Courses for Primary School aged children (aged 7+)

Wellbeing Matters

A one-day workshop for 7-11 year olds which covers topics such as emotions, self-esteem, resilience and relationships with others.

Aylesbury: Wednesday 9th April, 10am to 2pm, Berryfields Family Centre

Burnham: Wednesday 28th May, 10.00am – 3.00pm, Burnham Family Centre

[Wellbeing Matters | April and May Half Term | Family information service | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

How to Move Up to Secondary School Course and workshops for Year 6s

Support for year 6s getting ready for the big move to secondary school. Ran either as an online 1.5 hour workshop, or a 6-week face to face course for those who may need some extra support. The course and workshop explores: What to expect at secondary school, making new friends, getting organised.

1.5 hour workshop on MS Teams: Monday 14 April 1pm to 3pm, Tuesday 27 May 11am to 1pm or Tuesday 12 August 1pm to 3pm. [How to Move Up to](#)

[Secondary School Workshop for Year 6s \(Online\) | Family information service | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

In person course for 6, one-hour sessions: Southcourt Family Centre Plus, Aylesbury, Southcourt Family Centre, Mondays 3:30pm to 5pm starting Monday 9 June 2025. Please book by 26 May 2025. [How to Move Up to Secondary School Course for Young People | Family information service | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Family Learning also offer workshops for parents and carers of year 6s to help support their child with the move [News - Buckinghamshire Adult Learning](#)

Support for Families

During Parent Consultations several parents commented on the fact that they had concerns regarding their child's use of WhatsApp. We thought that the information on this poster might be useful.

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>
Please follow the link to learn more.

Safeguarding Information

The NSPCC produces excellent guides for parents and carers –

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/leaflets/parent-leaflets?_gl=1*geaq12*_up*MQ..*_gs*MQ..&gclid=EAlaIqObChMlroW3j6yljAMVTYpQBh1jHy5XEAAAYIAAEgIhePD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds

Here's a few that you might be interested to read:

Keeping Your Child safe Online:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Home or Out Alone Guide:

https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/leaflets/home-or-out-alone-guide?_gl=1*169c5bj*_up*MQ..*_gs*MQ..&gclid=EAlaIqObChMlroW3j6yljAMVTYpQBh1jHy5XEAAAYIAAEgIhePD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only you and the recipient can view what's sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app unfortunately comes with several risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting emergency funds because of a spurious emergency, and even cases where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account. They, posing as WhatsApp, call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access to your private messages and personal information.

CHANNELS

Channels let users follow interests without sharing their phone numbers or sending direct messages, allowing only votes on polls and reacting to posts with emojis. However, fraudulent channels can impersonate legitimate organisations, tricking people into sharing personal data and even spreading misinformation or hate speech. Additionally, WhatsApp may collect details about followed channels and sell this information to third parties, raising data privacy concerns.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK

Another new feature named "Chat Lock" allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate "locked chats" folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. While this usually functions as intended, it can potentially be exploited by younger users to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of – such as the sharing of age-inappropriate material.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages are useful for sharing personal or sensitive information, but young people may have a false sense of privacy regarding the content they share. These messages disappear after anywhere from 24 hours to 90 days – depending on the user's preference – or can even be set to be viewed one time only. However, the recipient can "keep" the message by bootstrapping or screenshotting it, making them not as private as they may first appear.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's "live location" feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safety on the way home. For example, however, children are able to share their location with anyone in their contacts list or a mutual group – potentially letting strangers identify their live location.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence. Real-life friendships are far more important than likes, after all.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to Privacy, then Groups. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if the child needs to use live location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a "locked chats" folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why a child might want to hide them. Also, if a young user has sent any "view once" content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wake_up_weds /wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.03.2025

Dr Claire Sutherland

Online safety consultant, educator and researcher:

WhatsApp is one of the most popular messaging apps available and, as of 2024, has been made accessible to users as young as thirteen. With end-to-end encryption preventing even the platform itself from viewing any messages that users send on it, this app has been regularly utilised by those looking to keep their conversations private. Unfortunately, the service poses several risks to its younger users – from misinformation and bullying to potential criminal exploitation – and it's vital that parents and educators understand these concerns and how to address them. This free guide delves into the online safety risks of WhatsApp and offers expert advice on how to safeguard any young people who use the platform.

Sources

<https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter>
<https://faq.whatsapp.com/549900560675125>
<https://faq.whatsapp.com/1077018839582332>
https://faq.whatsapp.com/361005896189245/?helpref=hc_fnav
<https://www.whatsapp.com/security>
<https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private>
<https://www.aura.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>
<https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/how-to-spot-a-whatsapp-scam-a7Lyx1W6HCVK>

Safeguarding Information

For Information:-

Key dates for your diary:

Clubs Start – Monday 28th April
Y5 residential 6-7th May 2025

Half term – Monday 29th May – Friday 30th May
Inset Day – Monday 2nd June

Y6 residential – Wednesday 11th June – Friday 13th June
Y6 Leavers play – Thursday 10th July
Sports Day – Friday 11th July
Break the rules & Ice cream day – 17th July
School Prom – Monday 21st July
End of term - Wednesday 23rd July

Safeguarding Training

Remember that if you wish to help out with school activities, you must:

- Have a current DBS certificate
- Completed school safeguarding training
- Have completed an annual Childcare Disqualification Declaration form

The following dates have been scheduled for online safeguarding training if needed:

28th April @ 9.15
9th May @ 1.30
17th June @ 9.15
4th July @ 1.30

Please email the school office if you wish to be booked on to one of these sessions.

TERM DATES:-

Summer Term 2025

Wednesday 23rd April – Friday 23rd May
Half term: 27th May – 30 May
Tuesday 3rd June – Wednesday 23 July

Autumn Term 2025

Thursday 4 September – Friday 24 October
Half term: Monday 27 October – Friday 31
Monday 3 November – Friday 19 December

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 January – Friday 13 February
Half term: Monday 16 – Friday 20 February
Monday 23 February – Friday 27 March

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13 April – Friday 22 May
Half Term: Monday 25 – Friday 29 May
Monday 1 June - Thursday 22 July

INSET DAYS: Wednesday 3 Sept; Friday 24 October; Monday 5 January; Monday 13 April; Monday 1 June

SCHOOL LOTTERY
Please continue to support our school lottery:
www.yourschoollottery.co.uk
Supportyourschoollottery.co.uk

Win a cash prize whilst raising funds for Spinfield School.

Please remember to buy your tickets and contribute to Spinfield School's fund to buy resources for your children as well as giving yourself a chance to win a cash prize and regular fantastic additional prizes.



PA EVENT: Please book your babysitters... Friday 9th May sees the return of Spinfield Wine Night hosted by Spinfield parent Ally McGeachie (check out her Instagram alexandra.mawson)

It promises to be a really great night and a lovely way to catch up with friends whilst supporting the work of the school. The Spinfield Arms will be open for anyone who wants another glass or two!

As with all PA events, the money raised goes towards enriching our children's education and school experience.

Follow us on Social Media...



spinfieldschool



spinfieldschool