

SPINFIELD SCHOOL

End of Term Newsletter 2025

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy new Year*

The autumn term been a fantastic term, and I am proud to say that our children have worked incredibly hard, achieving many great things along the way.

Our Christmas shows were a resounding success, bringing joy to both performers and the audience alike. It was heart-warming to see our children shine on stage, showcasing their talents and creativity!

I am also delighted to share that we have once again been listed in the top 5% of schools in the UK in The Sunday Times Parent Power guide. This recognition is based on our Year Six SATs results from 2024 and reflects the dedication of every member of our community - well done to our children who give their best every day. To our staff, governors and parents, together, we all work tirelessly to ensure the best outcomes possible for our children.

It has been wonderful to experience the inspirational leadership of both Mrs Gallagher and Mrs Rasmussen-Brooks and their team of helpers who have reignited the Parents' Association and who have organised great events over the term! A HUGE thank you to everyone who has supported by helping in whatever they can. The next fun filled evening to look out for is quiz night on Friday 6th March so start sorting your teams out and polishing up on your general knowledge!

At the end of this term we are saying a fond farewell to Mrs Soomal and Mrs Wright, both of whom are starting new chapters in their lives. I'm sure that you'll join with me in thanking them for all of their hard work at Spinfield and in wishing them the very best for the future. Mrs Batt will be joining the Year One team to teach on Thursdays and Fridays.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school. On behalf of the Spinfield team, warm wishes for a restful and joyful holiday season. We'll see you on Tuesday 6th January 2026!



The children have had a busy couple of weeks, enjoying their Christmas plays, pantomimes, craft mornings, Christmas parties and finally, their Christmas dinner complete with crackers!

Happy Christmas!

Safeguarding Information for Parents & Carers

Keeping Children Safe is Our Top Priority

At Spinfield School, we are committed to ensuring every child feels:

Safe
Happy
Listened to
Supported

Our Safeguarding Team

If you have concerns about a child's wellbeing, please contact:

Miss Spreadbury – Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Holland – Deputy DSL

Miss Denton – Deputy DSL

Mrs Clarke – Mental Health Lead

☎ **01628 473551** ✉ **office@spinfieldschool.co.uk**

What is Safeguarding?

- Safeguarding means:
- Protecting children from harm
- Keeping them safe online and offline
- Supporting their emotional and physical wellbeing
- Taking early action when concerns arise

What Should We Look Out For?

Please speak to us if you notice:

- Changes in your child's behaviour
- Worries your child shares
- Issues at home affecting your child
- Concerns about online activity

We're here to help.

How We Keep Children Safe

- Clear procedures for reporting concerns
- Online filtering and monitoring systems
- Teaching children how to stay safe and speak up
- Visitor ID badges and secure gates
- Regular staff safeguarding training

Online Safety Matters

We encourage parents to:

- Check privacy settings on devices
- Monitor online activity
- Be aware of app age ratings
- Talk openly about online safety

Working Together

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility. If you ever have a question or concern, please contact us.

Your child's safety is always our priority.

If you are concerned about a child it is important that you talk to someone about this. Don't ignore your concerns or delay taking action.

If there is immediate risk of harm to a child, call the Police on 999.

For urgent safeguarding concerns call the First Response team: 01296 383962 between 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm Friday.

If you need an urgent response outside of these hours, contact the Emergency Duty Team on 0800 999 7677.

This year, we have once again been privileged to enjoy all of the wonderful Art Competition entries. Our judges, Bee Skelton and Keith Clarke, both members of The Marlow Arts Society were extremely impressed with the standard of entries.

Well done to all of the children who entered and a congratulations to the following winners:

Overall winners:

KS1: Max D

KS2: Grace P

Category Winners:

Drawing and Painting: Vaila and Olivia C

Collage and Print: Evie C and Lois M

3D Models and Sculpture: Archie RB and Kleo V

Photography: Henry P and Rafe H

Textiles and Sewing: Miles G and Charlotte N

House Entries:

1st Place: Shelly – 94

2nd Place: Eliot – 68

3rd Place Hobart - 51

4th Place – Tierney – 50

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Smartphone Free Childhood – Spinfield School Liaison Needed

At present, there is no school liaison in place for Spinfield. The **Smartphone Free Childhood** organisation is therefore looking for someone from Spinfield to help share and forward information from **Marlow SFC** to our parent community. This is a **small and manageable role**, mainly involving passing on updates and resources when they arise.

They're looking for someone who:

Is supportive of the **smartphone free / delayed smartphone** movement

Is happy to act as a point of contact for Spinfield

Would like to help strengthen communication between local schools and parents

If you're interested or would like to find out more, please

contact sam.mccollum@gmail.com

Pilates

Find your Focus: Mat Pilates for the New Year

Join us for Pilates every Monday at 6:15pm in Spinfield School Hall, starting 6th January. Build core strength, improve flexibility and posture through controlled movement and mindful breathing. Perfect for complete beginners, injury recovery and experienced practitioners alike – everyone works at their own pace.

Choose to attend in person or join us online from home. Block book to save or simply drop in when it suits you.

All you need is a mat, water bottle and comfortable clothing.

Book your spot: www.clairehindleypilates.com

Questions? Email claire@clairehindleypilates.com or call / message 07841119268

Need help disposing of your tree post-Christmas?

From Thursday 8 – Sunday 11 January 2026, Child Bereavement UK will be travelling across Bucks and Berks collecting and recycling people's real used Christmas trees in return for a donation.

If you live within HP7, HP8, HP9, HP10, HP11, HP12, HP13, SL2, SL6, SL7, SL8 and SL9 and would like to benefit from this service, please register before Sunday 4 January: <https://just-helping.org.uk/>

In addition, the charity is looking for volunteers to help with the collection. For more information and to sign up please visit: <https://www.childbereavementuk.org/faqs/christmas-tree-collection-volunteer-bucks-berks>

Safeguarding training for volunteers:

Training for safeguarding.

We are always very grateful for all of the time that volunteers give to the school, it means that we are able to give our children so many wonderful experiences. If you are able to volunteer, please remember that you'll need to have a DBS (paperwork can be obtained from the school office) and attend one of our online safeguarding training sessions (these need to be refreshed every three years).

Training dates for the Spring Term are as follows:

23/1 at 11:15

23/1 at 1:30

06/03 at 1.30

17/04 at 1.30

21/04 at 1.30

Please email the office if you would like to attend one of the sessions.

One Can Trust Collection:

Thank you to all of the families who made a donation. This term we organised the collection slightly differently with the children collecting the donations in their houses.

We had over 200 donations, your support and generosity is truly appreciated.

Shelley 77

Tierney 47

Eliot 45

Hobart 45

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School Census:

Our termly school census takes place on the 15th January. The information collected in this census forms the basis for our funding and so it is vital that we have all the correct information.

Please could you let us know, if you think we are not already aware, if any of the below apply or if there are any changes in your circumstances:

You think your child is entitled to free school meals due to benefits regardless of which year group your child is in. These benefits are: Income Support, Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance, and Income Related Employment and Support Allowance Child Tax Credit (with no working tax credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, The Guaranteed Element of the State Pension Credit, Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400. Application forms are available from the school office.

Your child falls into the 'Post Looked After' category ie: Pupils who were looked after immediately before adoption or prior to being the subject of a residence order or special guardianship order (you are not obliged to provide this information if you prefer not to).

Either or both parents serve in the armed forces

The number of school meals taken in reception and years 1 & 2 on census day affects our funding. **If your child is in these year groups, especially if your child receives free school meals due to receipt of benefits, please book your child a school lunch through Kids Packed Lunch Company. If you want to provide a packed lunch as a back-up, we completely understand.**

School Comms:

We kindly request that parents read all information shared via Schoolcomms regularly and carefully. Unfortunately, there are occasions when consent requests are not responded to by the stated closing date, which requires staff to spend additional time following up. In some cases, responses are invalid because the instructions have not been read carefully, again necessitating further clarification. Please note that when food is being provided, we are legally required to have parental consent in advance.

Due to limited time and resources, we will not be able chase outstanding payments or incorrect responses from January 2026. As a result, this may mean that your child is unable to take part in a particular activity or event.

Governor News

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reflecting on a Successful Autumn Term

As we reach the end of another successful and very busy term at Spinfield, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our entire school community. The support from parents, hard work of staff, and the enthusiasm of our pupils have all contributed to another productive and enjoyable term.

Application to Join Marlow Education Trust

Throughout the term, we have kept you fully informed about our decision to apply to join the Marlow Education Trust. Detailed work on this process will continue over the coming months, and we are hopeful that Spinfield will become part of the Trust by mid-2026. Should you have any questions about this transition, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at academy@spinfieldschool.co.uk.

Changes in the Local School Community

You may be aware that both St Peters and Little Marlow School are closing. This is a clear indication that there are currently more primary school places in Marlow than are needed, which is largely due to the falling birth rate. Despite these changes, our school is currently oversubscribed with 216 pupils. This is a tremendous testament to our dedicated staff and wonderful pupils, who together deliver an outstanding holistic educational experience. It is also important to note that our main funding is allocated on a per pupil basis making our full enrolment particularly significant.

Celebrating Our School's Success

We continue to drive ambitious school improvements through our School Development Plan and our Curriculum Development plan despite having to operate below optimum resource levels due to continually tightening budgets. Our school's performance has been highlighted in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide to the top schools in the UK. Based on our 2024 Year 6 SATs results, Spinfield has once again been ranked in the top 5% of schools nationally. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire school community.

Spinfield has recently been awarded the Jane Goodall Roots and Shoots Award, which serves as a testament to our commitment to environmental education and our dedication to preparing our children for a journey of global citizenship.

Looking Ahead

As we look forward to joining the Marlow Education Trust, we believe the school will benefit from being part of a wider community of schools, with access to improved central services, sharing of best practice and a somewhat stronger financial position. However, it is still possible that we may need to ask our parent community for further contributions to support the operational costs of our school in the coming year.

A Very Big Thank You to the Parents' Association

I would like to extend particular thanks to Alys and Gemma, who have taken over as co-chairs of the Parents' Association, and to Maidlin, who has returned to become secretary. The Christmas Fair was a great success—enjoyable for all and it raised significant funds to help with the running of our school. So far this year the PA have made many invaluable contributions to our school - Forest School, software licensing, contribution towards ground maintenance, music equipment, KS2 VR Workshop, KS1 Norden Farm theatre trip and the children's Christmas lunch.

Welcome to our two new Governors

This term, we are delighted to welcome two new governors to our board - Roxy Jahansouz and Duncan Lewin. Their experience and fresh perspectives will be invaluable as we navigate the opportunities and challenges ahead. I am confident that, with their support, our governing body will continue to serve the best interests of the school and its families.

In closing, I thank you again for your engagement, encouragement, and partnership throughout this term. On behalf of the Governing Board, I wish you and your families a restful and joyful festive season, and I very much look forward to working with our wonderful school in 2026.

With best wishes
Keith Spence
Chair of Governors
Spinfield School

If you have any questions, please email me at chairofgovernors@spinfieldschool.co.uk

PA Notices

We would like to start with a huge thank you for all the support Gemma and I have had over the past term as we find our feet in the PA team. This half term has been a very busy one, but it has paid off with some amazing fundraising totals reached, which is only possible because of the hard work and enthusiasm of the whole PA team, the class reps and parent volunteers so thank you.

Details of the fundraising figures per event for the second half of term 1 are:

We were all blown away by the support for the Christmas Auction, with so many wonderful parents sourcing donations and bidding generously. We were hoping to raise enough to part fund a year of Forest School, but £7022 covers the cost entirely, which is so amazing as we all know how much our children love it. It means that the **fundraising total for the year so far is £12,000**, something we can all be proud of as we support our children's school experience.

Parental Donations	£600
Front Row Raffle	£570
Christmas Fair	£2800
Christmas Auction	£7022

The PA have also had great pleasure in funding, or part funding, the following things for our children so far this year:

- Forest School
- Music Equipment
- KS2 VR workshop
- KS1 Norden Farm Theatre Trip
- Christmas Lunch

But we have lots of the year to go, many more fun events to plan and many more enriching things to fund. We cannot wait! As always, please do get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions, especially any ideas for events you might like to run. Thank you again for all your ongoing support and we wish you a very fun and relaxing winter break!

Dates for your diary for Spring Term:

- Film Night: 7th January
- Cake Sale: 16th January
- Quiz Night: 6th March
- Childrens' Fun Run: TBC

A red rectangular box with a white border containing the text 'PA NEWS' in a large, white, outlined font. The 'PA' is on the top line and 'NEWS' is on the bottom line. A red vertical bar is visible to the left of the box.

PA
NEWS

Roots and Shoots update...

Last year we raised £150 by selling FairTrade Cupcake Recipe Books at our Summer Fair. We have used this money to sponsor three rescued chimpanzees. Thank you to everyone who bought a recipe book!

A message from the Jane Goodall Institute.

To all the students at Spinfield School

Thank you for taking out Guardianship of chimpanzees Zeze, Wounda and Perrine! Your symbolic adoption of **these chimps** will help ensure that Tchimpounga will remain a safe haven for them and other rescued chimpanzees.

For many years we have proudly supported the *Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Centre* run by the Jane Goodall Institute, Republic of Congo, via our Chimp Guardian programme which offers symbolic adoptions of rescued chimps orphaned by the illegal wildlife trade, hunting, bushmeat, pet trades and habitat loss.

Let us introduce the chimps we have sponsored for the coming year.



Jane Goodall Institute UK

© JGI/Fernando Turmo

Proud to be a Chimp Guardian

CHIMP GUARDIAN
HOPE THROUGH ACTION

Gender
Male

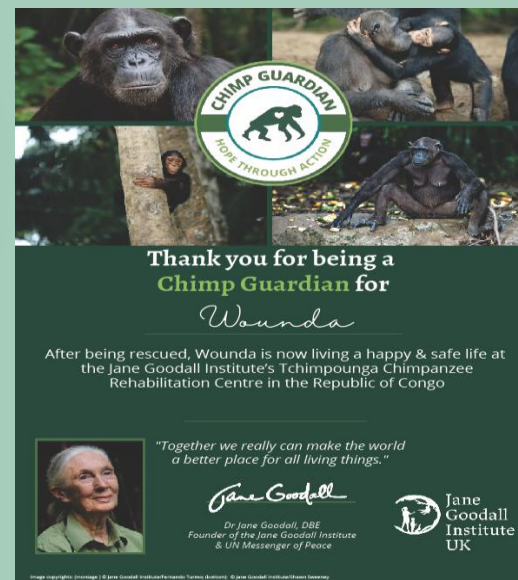
Reason for rescue
Illegal pet

Current Age
6 years old

Location
JGI Tchimpounga Sanctuary,
Republic of Congo

Zeze

#ChimpGuardianUK



Thank you for being a Chimp Guardian for
Wounda

After being rescued, Wounda is now living a happy & safe life at the Jane Goodall Institute's Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Centre in the Republic of Congo

"Together we really can make the world a better place for all living things."

Jane Goodall
Dr Jane Goodall, DBE
Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute
& UN Messenger of Peace

Jane Goodall Institute UK

Image copyright: (top left) © Jane Goodall Institute/Fernando Turmo (bottom) © Jane Goodall Institute/Thomas Sweeney



Thank you for being a Chimp Guardian for
Perrine

After being rescued, Perrine is now living a happy & safe life at the Jane Goodall Institute's Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Centre in the Republic of Congo

"Together we really can make the world a better place for all living things."

Jane Goodall
Dr Jane Goodall, DBE
Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute
& UN Messenger of Peace

Jane Goodall Institute UK

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Roots & Shoots Awards

Spinfield School wins award from the Dr. Jane Goodall Institute

Spinfield School has been named a winner of the Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Awards 2025, in the Roots & Shoots Journey and Legacy – Your Story category. The judges praised the school's inspiring story of teamwork and growth, highlighting how it integrates environmental care, community service, and compassion for animals into everyday school life. They said Spinfield's approach exemplifies how young people can make a meaningful impact on the world around them. Judges also commended the pupils' creativity, collaboration, and impressive project outcomes, calling the recognition "well-deserved for everyone involved." Thanks to the generosity of the Roots & Shoots programme sponsors, Spinfield Primary School has received a £500 prize to support its next sustainability initiative. The school will also be presented with a Roots & Shoots trophy and a collection of special prizes. The judges remarked that Spinfield's story continues Dr. Jane Goodall's legacy of hope and action, and expressed their excitement to share it more widely.

*"Together we can. Together we will.
Together we must save the world."*

— Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE

A journey rooted in sustainability

Before joining Roots & Shoots, Spinfield School had already established a strong foundation in sustainability through several initiatives, including the British Council International School Award, Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Schools, the Woodland Trust, and the Fairtrade Schools Association. Becoming part of the Roots & Shoots community allowed the school to unify these efforts under a single, cohesive vision – giving pupils a stronger sense of purpose, global awareness, and environmental responsibility.



Highlights of the school's work

Little Rotters Composting Group – Pupils manage composting across the school, learning about food waste reduction and the natural cycle of life.

Bug Hotels – Children designed and built habitats to boost biodiversity and encourage outdoor learning.

Fairtrade Cupcake Competition – 53 pupils baked cakes using Fairtrade ingredients, showing creativity and commitment to ethical sourcing. The cakes were shared with a local care home, connecting global and local acts of kindness.

Foodbank Support – Through collaboration with One Can Trust, pupils organised food donations for families in need.

Chimpanzee Sponsorship – Pupils raised £150 by selling a Fairtrade cupcake recipe book, sponsoring three chimpanzees in support of Jane Goodall's mission.

Waste-Free Wednesday – Weekly tallies of plastic-free lunchboxes encourage a reduction in single-use plastics.

Sustainability Pledges – Families across the school community committed to eco-friendly pledges at home.

Recognition and community impact

Spinfield's achievements have been celebrated on the Roots & Shoots Mission Updates page and were posted in the 2025 end-of-year Roots & Shoots newsletter as the featured school. In July 2025, Spinfield hosted the Roots & Shoots team for an engaging workshop with two classes - an event that inspired pupils and reinforced their passion for sustainability. The Roots & Shoots programme has empowered pupils to become leaders in sustainability and global citizenship, fostering teamwork, creativity, and compassion throughout the school community.

Looking ahead

Spinfield's newly elected Global Citizens Committee is preparing to launch new initiatives in 2026, continuing the school's commitment to improving life for people, animals and the planet.

Spinfield's Roots & Shoots journey demonstrates how young people can be powerful changemakers. The school is proud of its pupils' passion, dedication, and ability to create real-world impact - a testament to what can be achieved when a community unites behind a shared vision for a better future.

Ms J Spreadbury, Headteacher

Mrs S Armstrong, Eco lead

Winter 2025



*We are thrilled to announce the
Winners of Jane Goodall's Roots &
Shoots Awards 2025!*

Brightest Sustainability Idea and Action

St John's Walham Green CE Primary School – "Bubble Up" Eco-Refill Shop
A creative, student-led refill initiative that cuts plastic waste and builds environmental responsibility across the whole community

Climate Warriors

Thomas Buxton Primary School – Paper Waste Project
A hands-on recycling project that transforms used paper into new notepads, teaching circular economy principles and practical climate action

Community Action and Efforts

Moreton Hall – Canal Clean Community Project
A powerful example of sustained environmental service, turning a one-off event into an annual tradition that unites pupils and the local community

Compassion in Action

Solihull Preparatory School – Charitable Giving and Humanitarian Projects
An inspiring whole-school movement that has raised thousands of pounds to deliver clean water, healthcare, and hope around the world

Green Innovation and Commitment

Eastbury Community School – Food Waste to Pet Food and Compost Project
An imaginative student enterprise turning canteen leftovers into useful products, combining creativity, science, and sustainability

Roots & Shoots Journey and Legacy – Your Story

Spinfield School – A joyful story of teamwork and growth, weaving environmental care, community service, and animal compassion into everyday school life

Special Sponsored Prize – Tell us about your Dream Project

St Anne's Catholic Primary School – Urban Forest School
A visionary plan to bring nature into the city through vertical gardens, recycled greenhouses, and community learning in green urban spaces

Wildlife Champions

TASIS England – Pond Renovation and Duckling Project
A heartwarming and hands-on celebration of wildlife care, restoring a pond and raising ducklings to teach empathy and ecological understanding.

Outstanding Roots & Shoots Commitment Award

Goat Lees Primary School – A wide range of environmental and community initiatives, led by the school's Roots & Shoots Club, combining practical environmental stewardship, wildlife conservation, and meaningful community engagement - empowering pupils to take the lead on projects that benefit nature, people, and their local area

Whole-School Environmental Culture Award

Walhampton School - Fostering a strong, whole-school environmental culture, with pupils leading climate action, embracing reuse and upcycling, and caring for local wildlife through hands-on conservation. Their Roots & Shoots journey empowers every student to make a positive, sustainable impact