

Dear Parents/Carers,

Now that we are at the end of the first term of the new school year, we are pleased to share with you our updated Newsletter format.

We have had such a positive and busy start to the new year and are so proud of how all the children have settled back into daily school life. It is also wonderful going round the three schools and seeing the new reception pupils smiling and settled into the routines already.

As many of you will have heard, Digby received a monitoring visit from Ofsted in September. Whilst initially getting 'the call' right at the start of the term was a bit of a shock, it proved to be a very positive experience and it was lovely to have our hard work over the last two years recognised and celebrated.

The inspector felt we had '*responded swiftly to address the findings of the previous inspection. No time has been wasted*' and that '*the leadership arrangements are having a positive impact and we are an ambitious leadership team. Improvement planning is thorough. We have the backing of the staff.*'

For us, this gives us the perfect springboard to continue to drive our schools further forward. As a team, we feel extremely passionate about our Federation and know we have an incredible team all wanting the very best for our children and families.

We hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter and we look forward to seeing you in school next term for all of our upcoming events.

Miss Winters



Mrs Toulson



Mrs Miller



Attendance and Punctuality Update

Now that we have settled back into school, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the current high levels of attendance in all three schools.

The DfE guidance identifies that pupils need to attend school regularly to benefit from their education. Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to falling behind. Children with poor attendance tend to achieve less and therefore as a school we are expected to promote good attendance and reduce absence, including persistent absence (where a child's absence falls below 90%).

We wanted to remind you about a few processes in place to ensure that we can effectively track attendance and support families as needed.

- All holiday requests must be sent to admin@spiresfederation.co.uk for the attention of myself. These requests must be sent at least a week before the absence. All holidays will be unauthorised, unless it is deemed to be an exceptional circumstance.
- If unauthorised holiday absences total over 4.5 days in a 6 week rolling period, families can be liable for a Fixed Penalty Notice from LCC.
- All medical appointments, should where possible, be made out of school hours. If this is not possible, then please complete the Medical appointment request form. This can be found on our website or a paper can be sent home via the office.
- We have noticed an increase in the number of families arriving late after the school gates close. Pupils who arrive late have an unsettled start to the day and this can disrupt their learning, as well as that of their peers. In addition, punctuality is a key life skill that we are keen to promote.

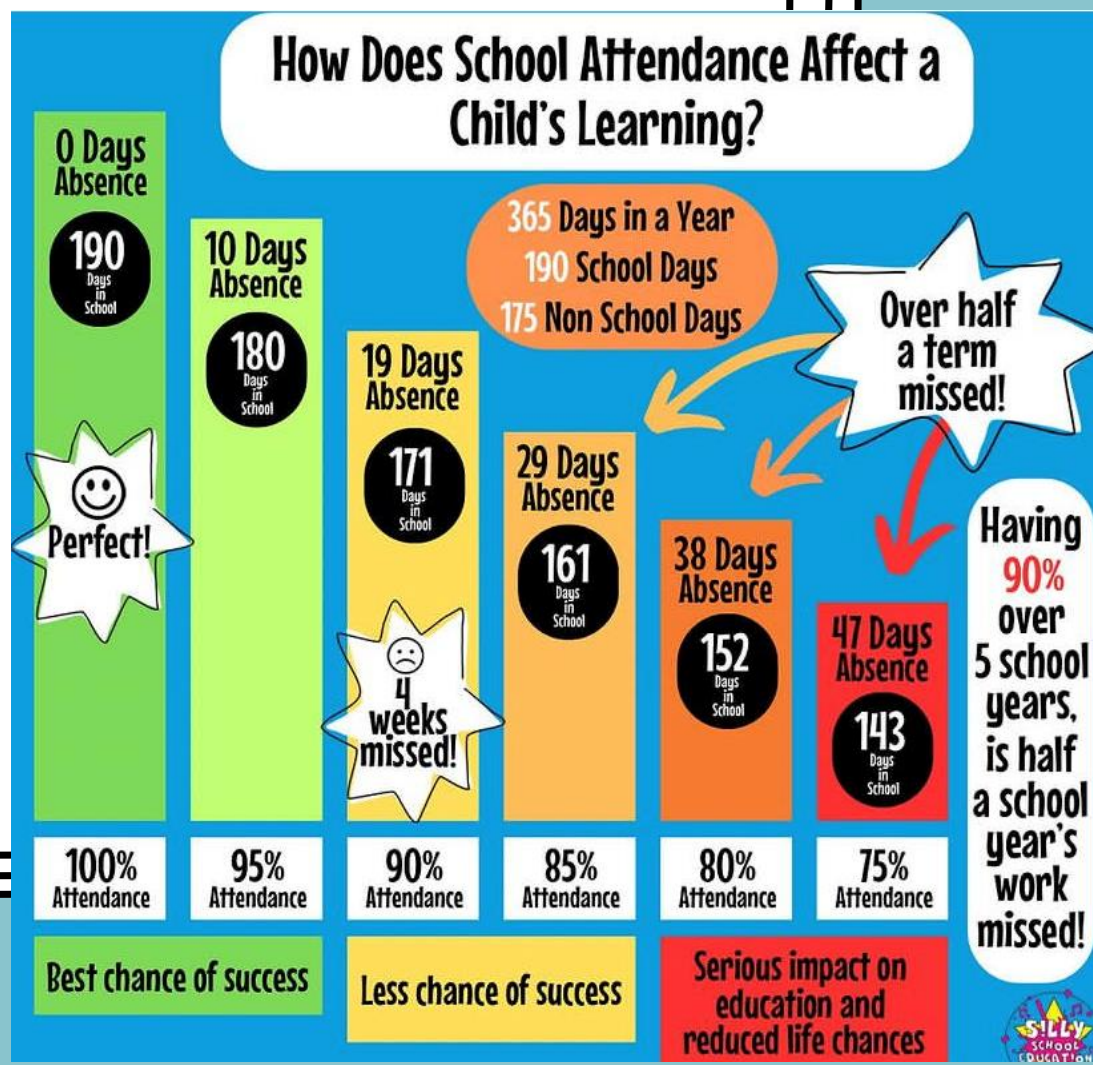
Attendance Update Continued

- With unplanned absence, such as when your child is unwell, please ensure that you notify us as soon as possible by telephoning the school office and leaving a message on the answer machine (Option 1). If your child's absence goes beyond one day, we must be contacted on each subsequent day of absence. If you are unsure if your child should stay off school, please speak to the school office or consult the new DfE [Is my child too ill for school?](#) website

As a Federation, our aspiration for all pupils is that their attendance is 100%, in order for them to get the best from their learning. I understand there are times when absence is unavoidable, however where it is avoidable, I ask that you work with us to ensure that they are in school.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Miss Winters
Executive Headteacher/Attendance Lead





Meet the SENDCo

Hello! I just wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those who don't already know me. I am Miss Vaughan and I have now taken over the role of SENDCo for the Spires Federation, after completing my National Award in Special Educational Needs Co-ordination last year.

I have been a teacher at Nocton for over 8 years now, so have witnessed our federation really develop and blossom.

My SENDCo working hours are all-day Tuesday and a Wednesday morning. I will aim to split my time equally between the three schools, getting to know all the families, so please do come and speak to me if you see me around!

I look forward to working with some of you more closely and meeting you all properly at the SEN reviews after half term.



Panthers Term 1



Panther Class have had a fantastic start to the year, already taking part in lots of exciting activities. We have worked collaboratively to create a 'biome in a box' linked to our work on rainforests, have had a virtual author visit with Maz Evans, and enjoyed baking and setting up a Café as part of our 'French Day'. Year 3 & 4 were entertained by ZooLab, meeting a variety of rainforest animals, and some of our Year 5 & 6 children have been busy demonstrating their cycling skills during Bike Ability. We are all really enjoying our geography topic, learning more about South America and its rainforests. In English, we have been securing deep grammatical knowledge in preparation for writing some exciting pieces after half term!





Flamingos

Term 1

What a fantastic start to the new academic year Flamingo Class have had! All the youngest children in our class have settled in so well, it's like they've been at the school for years! Pre-school and Reception have been enjoying exploring their topic of 'All About Me' and have really enjoyed listening to lots of different stories and participating in lots of fun activities. We have also been exploring the season of Autumn and looking at the changes we can see around us. Reception have also been busy in phonics and now know lots of new phonemes and graphemes!

Year 1 and 2 have made a good start to their topic of 'Terrific Travel'. We have been collecting lots of local data on how we travel to school and carried out some fieldwork by looking at our local area. When we return after half-term we will move our focus onto History and look at the development of transport over the year. In our English work, we have been securing deep grammatical knowledge in preparation for writing some exciting pieces after half term!

All the children thoroughly enjoyed our 'French Day' recently. Some of us were even brave enough to try the popular French dish of Escargot!



NOCTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Open Days:

Friday 13th October

9.30am - 5pm

Wednesday 1st November

9.30am - 5pm

A small, nurturing school in the heart of a picturesque rural location.

We offer Pre-school provision from the age of 3 and wrap around care each day.



For more information or to book to view our school



01526 320234



admin@spiresfederation.co.uk



www.spiresfederation.co.uk

