

Term 1

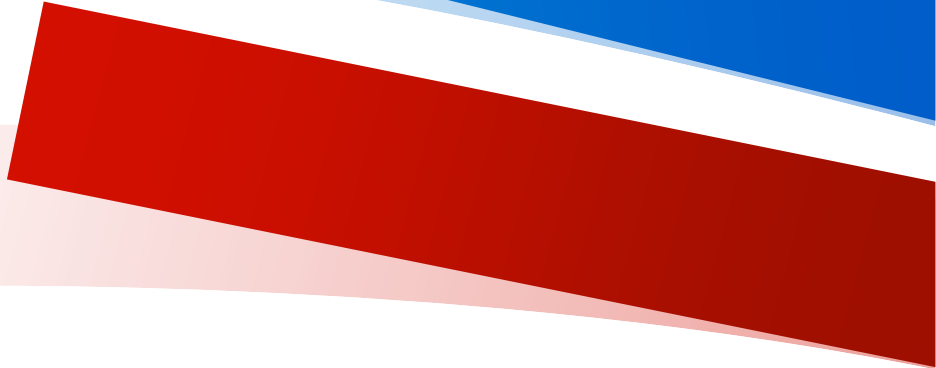
OPENING DOORS



OPENING MINDS



Spires Federation



# Dear Parents and Careers,



Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year! We have been thrilled with how all the children have returned with a smile and are calm and settled. It is lovely to see our new reception children skipping into school and smiling each day and being so independent this early on.

Staff have worked exceptionally hard over the summer and the environments in all three schools are looking great! We have had many visitors across the Federation over the last few weeks and they have complimented how amazing the schools are looking and how fabulous the behaviour and attitudes of the pupils is.

As you will know from our updates last year, we are continuing to work closely with Infinity Academies Trust and they have already been in school this term. They were very impressed with so many aspects of our Federation and we look forward to working more closely with them as the year progresses.

This next term, brings lots of exciting adventures for our three schools and we cannot wait to share them with you. Please keep an eye on Dates For Your Diary and watch out for PMX's which will give more information. Next week, brings the first Parent's Evening of the year and the staff are looking forward to sharing how well the children have settled and how you can support them further at home. If you are remotely joining us on Teams, please check you are able to log on prior to the appointment and let us know if you have any difficulties.

Thank you as always for your support and kind words.

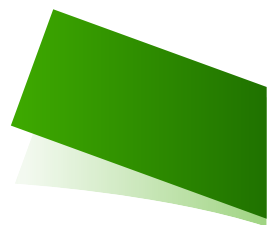
Miss Winters



Mrs Toulson



Miss Vaughan





# Pixies

## Term 1

What a lovely start to the year. It was fantastic to welcome our new reception and is wonderful to watch them enjoying their time in our class. We have loved all our PE we have took part in this term, especially the curling event. In Geography KS1 have been busy making weathervanes to record the weather and in English we are learning so much about grammar and punctuation, with some fantastic games! We have been incredible artists this term and made wonderful self-portraits in may styles. Reception have loved their drawing club, and we have already read so many great stories! We really are enjoying learning all about animals and humans in science and have created some amazing diagrams and fact files! Well done Pixies you have absolutely blown us all away with term with all your hard work! What an incredible start!

**We have especially enjoyed our music lessons this term!**



Wonderful first term memories!





# Gnomes

## Term 1

We have had such a super start to the year in Gnomes class. We have enjoyed getting stuck into our new class novel 'Pugs of the frozen North' and our geography topic on mountains. We had lots of fun creating our own mini mountains out of various different items including Sreen cake. In PE, we've made great improvements to our rugby skills with the sports coach and have been putting our map skills to good use in orienteering. We've learnt all about light as part of our science work this term, even hiding in the hall cupboard to try and experience true darkness! We have enjoyed finding out about different portrait artists in our art sessions and made some beautiful harvest wreaths for our church service. We are really looking forward to swimming next term and our exciting new topic about the second world war.



**Celebrating at our orienteering challenge!**



Our mini mountain models



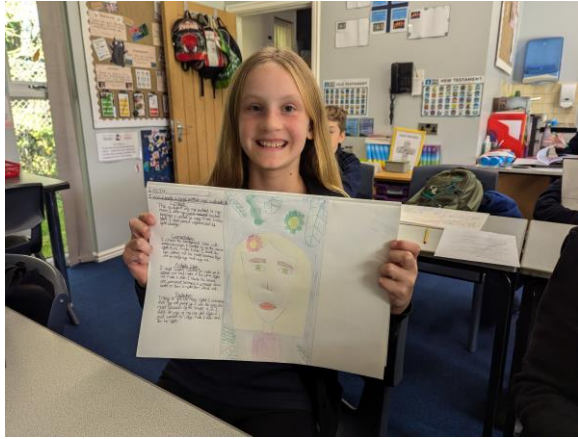
# Imps

## Term 1

It's been a great start to the year. We have had the opportunity to go swimming and have taken part in some incredible events held by Premier Education. In geography, we have learnt all about Mountains, particularly looking at Everest and it's first ever ascent by Edmund Hiliary and Tenzing. In art, have studied portraiture in art and have drawn in the style of various artists to help influence our own style. We've enjoyed studying light in science, especially how the human eye works. And finally in music, we have been learning music inspired by Africa; we have used traditional instruments and played them together as a class. We look forward to the next with a new exciting topic and preparations for Christmas.

**Imps Class making their own games in PSHE to understand the importance of rewards and consequences**





**Our first day back, final portraits and Mrs Lamb's celebration of life.**



# DIGBY

CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



**OPEN  
DAYS**  
2024/25

**Come and join us on our open days  
and meet our dedicated, nurturing  
and talented team.**

### We offer:

- ✓ Small school that feels like a family
- ✓ Wrap Around Care 7:30am - 6:00pm
- ✓ A bespoke, engaging curriculum
- ✓ A focus on nurture and well-being
- ✓ Free school transport from surrounding villages
- ✓ Digby Village Preschool on-site offering places age 2+, plus Wrap Around Care 7:45am - 4:00pm



**Come And Join Us**

**Wednesday 9th October  
Wednesday 30th October  
9am - 5pm**

To book a visit contact us:  
01526 320630  
admin@spiresfederation.co.uk



www.spiresfederation.co.uk  
Church Street, Digby. LN4 3LZ



OPENING  
DOORS



OPENING  
MINDS

# School Office

The school office is looked after by Mrs Elliott. She can be contacted on 01526 320630 or [admin@spiresfederation.co.uk](mailto:admin@spiresfederation.co.uk)



## Wrap Around Care – New Tel No.

We have set up a new telephone line for Breakfast Club and After School Club - the telephone number is:

**01526 552500**

The line will be available between **7.20am and 8.40am and 3.20pm and 6.00pm** only for use by parents who need to contact breakfast or afterschool club whilst their child is there.

## School office

The office is open 8.30am to 3.30pm Mon to Thur & 8.30am to 12.30 Fri.  
Calls will be diverted to Dunston when the office is unmanned during school hours.

## Attendance (@ 11/10/2024)

Pixies – 96.77%

Gnomes – 98.48%

Imps – 96.93%

Whole School – 97.36%

## Contacting the school via email

Please use the [admin@spiresfederation.co.uk](mailto:admin@spiresfederation.co.uk) email when contacting School

Thank You!



## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This school is proud to be a

# Music Mark School

In recognition of a commitment to  
providing a high-quality music education  
for all children and young people

**2024 - 2025**



Bridget Whyte  
CEO of Music Mark

**Congratulations!**  
Spire Federation has  
received a Music Mark  
award. Well done Mrs  
Walker for all your hard  
work.



MUSIC  
MARK

Supported by:



Find out more:



**THIS IS NOT  
A REHEARSAL.**

**Music Mark's campaign**

# Attendance Matters

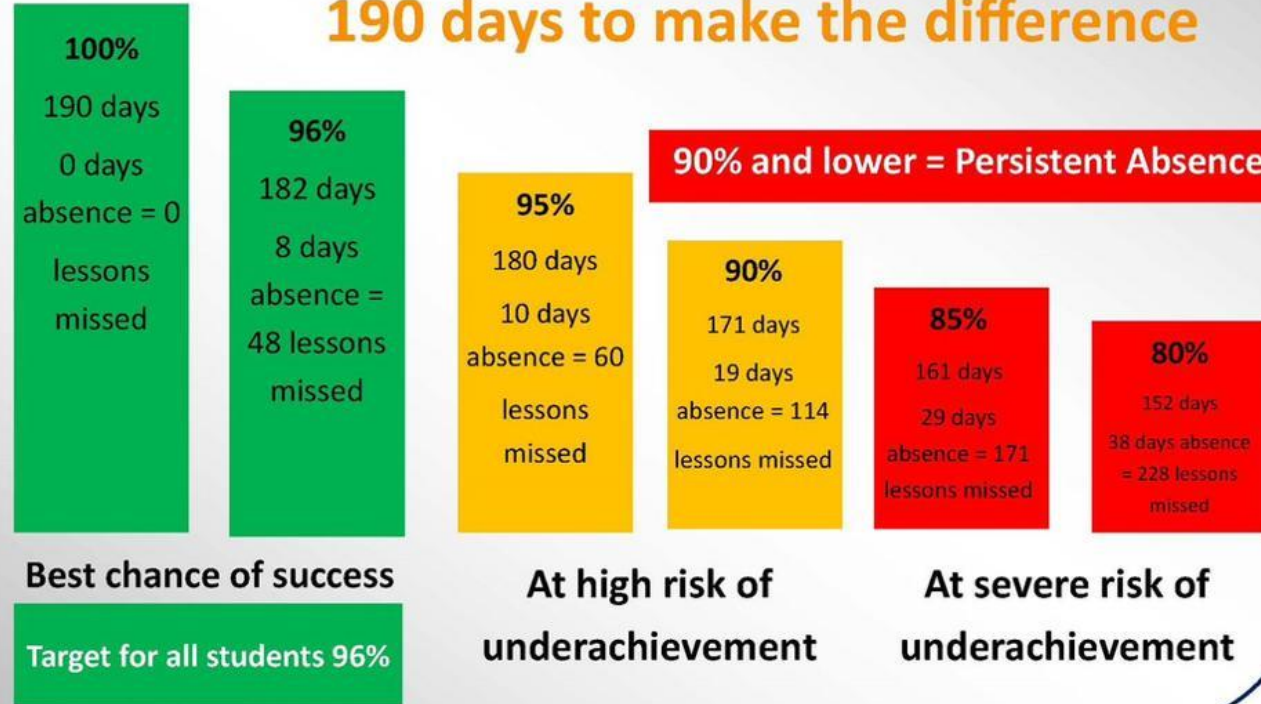
**Good attendance means .....**

**Being in school at least 96% of the time or 180 to 190 days**

365 days in a calendar year

175 days not in school for holidays, appointments, exercise

190 days to make the difference



**Attend school regularly, attend school punctually, attend school prepared!**

# ATTENDANCE

## WHAT THE NEW RULES MEAN FOR ME

1

I'm a single parent of one child and we want to go on holiday for a week.

Your holiday will not be authorised and you must talk to the school before you book anything. Because your child will miss 5 school days you will be given a penalty notice fine. The fine is £160 but if you pay it in 21 days it will be reduced to £80.

£160



2

FOR EVERY CHILD A PENALTY IS GIVEN.



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 1 parent = £640

Reduced to £320 if paid in 21 days

IRREGULAR ATTENDANCE

10 IN 10

5

If your child is absent for 10 or more sessions in 10 weeks and their absences are unauthorised. The school will consider prosecution.

1 Day = 2 Sessions

3

FOR A FAMILY OF TWO PARENTS



+ £160 + £160 + £160 + £160

4 children & 2 parents = £1280

Reduced to £640 if paid in 21 days

4

If in any period of not more than 3 years, your child has a 2nd and 3rd leave of absence or pattern of irregular attendance...

2ND TIME

2 parents and 1 child = £320  
2 children = 640  
3 children = 960  
4 children = 1280

No discount for early payment



3RD TIME

A penalty notice fine will not be given. Instead, your case will be taken to court.  
A magistrate can fine each parent £2500 for each child  
1 parent & 4 children = £10,000  
2 parents & 4 children = £20,000

# Do I need to keep my child off school?

<b>Chicken Pox</b> Until all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Impetigo</b> Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Measles or German Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>Scabies</b> Until after first treatment	<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
	<b>Flu</b> Until recovered	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Tonsillitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	

# Wrap Around Care (WAC)



## Wrap Around Care

### Before and After School Childcare

2024/25

Our three schools offer wrap-around childcare provision for families. You may book the day and section of time that suits you. Bookings are made up to three days prior through our Parentmail payments system, with an up-front charge to cover the period booked. If you will be paying using Tax Free Childcare Vouchers, please select the box on PMX to make us aware.

#### **Breakfast Time**

For those children attending a before school session we will provide a variety of cereals, yoghurts and fruit, along with the option of toast for their breakfast. This will help them start their day on a nice full tummy. We aim to meet all dietary requirements, so please communicate with the WAC supervisor if you need an adjusted food provision.

If you book a 'drop-off' session only, breakfast is not provided.

#### **After School Time**

Following our school healthy eating approach, we offer the children a light, healthy snack and fruit to keep them full until you arrive to take them home for their family meal. We understand the importance of making sure the children are nutritionally balanced and will endeavor to make sure we fulfil those needs. Drinks and fruit will always be available throughout all sessions.

#### **Medication**

Should your child need to take any medication whilst at clubs please use the standard school medication form and inform us immediately.

#### **Opening Times**

We are delighted to now offer wrap around care as follows (new times and prices for 24/25):

# Wrap Around Care (WAC)



## Opening Times

We are delighted to now offer wrap around care as follows (new times and prices for 24/25):

WAC Session	Time	Price
Breakfast Club	7:30am - 8:50am	£5
Drop off Only	8:20am - 8:50am	£2.50
After School Club (early twilight)	3:20pm - 4:20pm	£4.50
After School Club (late twilight)	3:20pm - 6pm (Mon-Thurs) 3:20pm - 5:20pm (Fri)	£10

Ideally please book and pay before term starts to secure your place. We will try to accommodate late bookings – please contact the school office.

## Clubs Staff

Miss Urquhart	Dunston
Mrs Butler	Dunston
Mrs Colley	Dunston
Mrs Elliott	Digby
Miss Thompson-Dowse	Nocton

Please call the school office if you have any queries.

For billing queries, please email [admin@spiresfederation.co.uk](mailto:admin@spiresfederation.co.uk) specifying which school your query relates to.

# Wrap Around Care (WAC)

WAC out of school hours contact

If you need to contact the WAC Co-Ordinator after 3:30pm.  
Please use the following number.

**01526 552500**

We found out this week that our application to Kellogg's Breakfast Club  
grant was successful!!

They will be donating **£1000** to help support the running of our club!!





Thank You!

Senior Leadership Team

