

Term 2

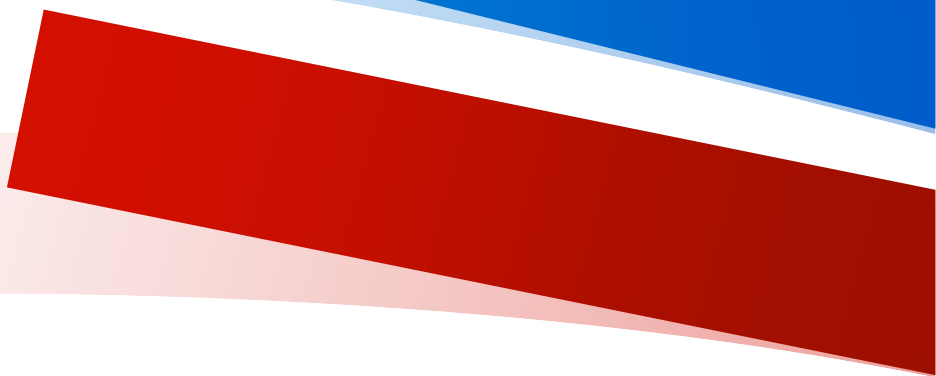
OPENING DOORS



OPENING MINDS



Spires Federation



Dear Parents and Careers,

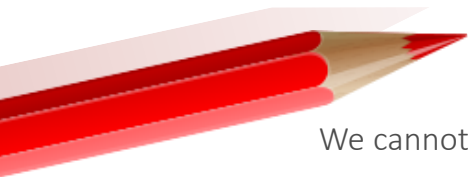


Well, what a busy term we have had!!! From Nativities, to Panto, craft afternoons, discos and Christmas Fayres to name but a few. It's been jammed packed full of excitement. Yet again the children and staff have shone out across the Federation. It has been so lovely to move across all three schools and listen to the copious amount of singing and laughter.

This week, your child will be bringing home their end of term assessment slip. These slips are a way for us to share the outcomes of our recent internal assessment, as well as next steps for how you can support your child at home. The slip also includes their attendance so far this year (up until the 10th December).

As you are aware, at the end of this term Mrs Bond will be moving away from the classroom and developing the Forest School role further. From January, we are pleased to inform you that Mrs Williams will be teaching the class at the start of the week and Mr Bond for the last three days of the week. Mrs Williams is an experienced teacher who has held roles such as SENDCo, Assistant Head and Pupil Premium Champion at her past school and we feel she will be a valuable new addition to the Dunston family. She has already been spending time in school getting to know the children, as well as having time to plan next term with Mr Bond. We will ensure you will have opportunities to meet Mrs Williams on the gate at the start of term.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all so much for supporting the numerous events held in each of the schools we know how busy this time of year is, so we do appreciate all the continued support we receive.



We would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We cannot wait to see the children back on the 6th January.

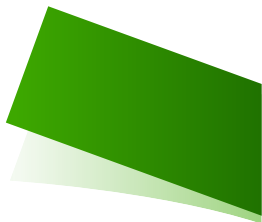
Miss Winters



Mrs Toulson



Miss Vaughan





Apples

Term 2

Apple class this term have been enjoying lots of enrichment activities.

We have had lots of fun learning about being kind to others and sharing as well as the true origin of the Mince Pie.

Apples have been on a trip to the Theatre Royal to watch Snow White and LOVED IT!

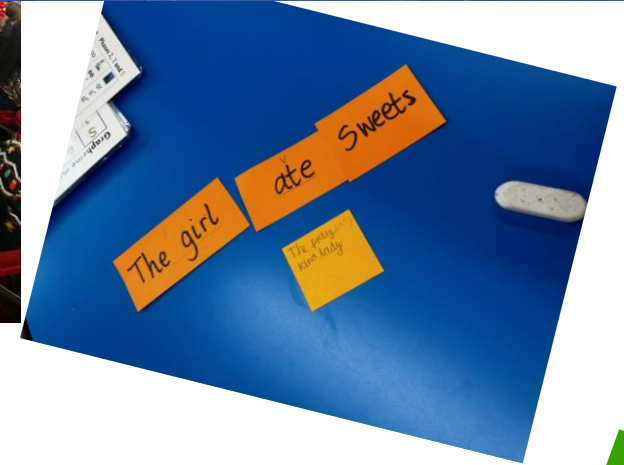
We also enjoyed meeting up with other children from our federation.



Apples have been working hard, learning about our local history and looking closely at our own village and school. We have also enjoyed preparing for our amazing Nativity and learning about why Christians celebrate Christmas.

In our RE studies, we have been looking at the creation story and how Christians can be thankful to God.

We have been working on our place value of sentences and making sure they make sense as we read them.



Apple Class



Oak

Term 2


We have had an amazing Autumn term in Oak class! We have enjoyed starting our topic all about the World War 2, becoming evacuees sent to the country.



The children have been enjoying our festive activities, making wax melts for our enterprise.

The classroom smelt amazing with the gingerbread scent.

A huge well done to our narrators in the nativity performance. We are so proud.



From all of us in Oaks, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Can't wait to welcome you all back in 2025!!



Oak Class



Redwood

Term 2

Redwood have been able to celebrate differences in their PSHE lessons by designing their own version of Snakes and Ladders board game!

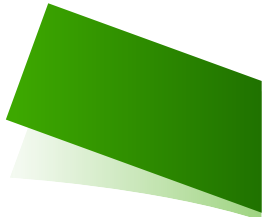
In computing, the children have worked tremendously hard creating their own videos based on things they enjoy. Some even followed this up by creating a short film trailer!

In our PE lessons, everyone worked well within small groups and teams whilst learning netball skills. Very often it was heard, "It's so difficult to score a goal!"



Redwood Class

We thoroughly enjoyed our visit to watch the panto – Oh yes we did!



Forest School

In Autumn 1, we began our pilot Forest School programme with Year 6. It's become a firm favourite amongst the children, and we're pleased to say we'll be continuing with the programme all year round.

Forest School follows six principles, one of which is that it *is long-term and across different seasons*. Therefore, children will take part in 12-week blocks to get the most benefit from their sessions.

Our Year 6 children will have 2 more sessions in January; we will then work with the Year 5 children for 12 sessions. This way we ensure that all of our children get the full Forest School experience whilst at Dunston St Peter's.

During the summer months, the younger children will get the chance to come and have a 'taste' of Forest School and will get to try a range of activities. We will of course make the children and parents aware closer to the time.

Look out also, at the end of the Spring term, for an opportunity for the children to join a mixed year afterschool Forest Club.

Volunteer opportunity!

Do you enjoy spending time in nature?
Are you happy outside in all weather?
Are you available Tuesday afternoons?

If you'd like to help at our FS sessions, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact Mrs Bond via the school office for an informal chat.



EYFS
taster sessions

Year 1
taster sessions

Year 2
taster sessions

Year 3
taster sessions

Year 4
taster sessions

Year 5
Forest School
12 week block

Year 6
Forest School
12 week block

School Office

Ms Jo Hayward is the school administrator and can be contacted on

01526 320027 or
admin@spiresfederation.co.uk

School Gate

The school gate is open from 08:45am each morning. If you are late, please ensure that you sign your child in at reception

School office

The School office is manned from 08:45am to 3:20pm

Attendance

Apples - 98.07%
Oak - 97.14%
Redwood - 97.29%
Whole school - 97.53%

Contacting the school via email

Please use the admin@spiresfederation.co.uk email when contacting the school

Thank You!

Attendance

Recently we had some absences where we were informed that the child was unwell, however on their return to school, the child said they had in fact been on holiday or been on a day trip away from school.

Following the updated guidance, which came into effect on 19th August 2024, we will have no option to follow the route stated if we have reason to believe the absence was not as stated.



Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.
For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

5 consecutive days of Term Time leave

Penalty Notice Fines will be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days. Inset training days are school days and can be included in the 5 or more consecutive days where there was intent to be absent for Term Time Leave.

10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period. A session is either an AM or PM session.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days
Reduced to £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days

Second Offence

(within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:
£160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days

Third Offence and any Further Offences (within 3 years)

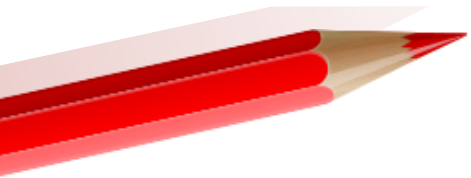
The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. **Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.**

Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on the parent's future DBS certificate, due to "failure to safeguard a child's education".



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

"From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.
#AttendanceCounts"



Do I need to keep my child off school?

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

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 specifying which school your query relates to.

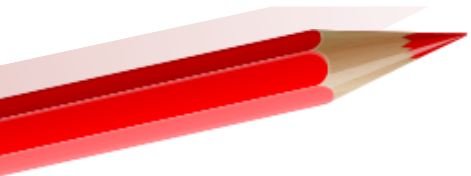
Wrap Around Care (WAC)



WAC out of school hours contact

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

07907 372167





Thank You!