

OPENING
DOORS



OPENING
MINDS



To provide an aspirational education which inspires all to SHINE in our community so that they are happy, confident and equipped for life in all its fullness.

Term 3

Spires
Federation



Dear Parents and Carers,



As we near the end of another term, we wanted to share the wonderful experiences from our recent **Careers Week**, themed "Opening Doors, Opening Minds." This event was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to learn about different jobs and imagine what they might like to do when they grow up.

We welcomed friendly visitors from various jobs, including police officers, hairdressers, homelessness support workers, members of the armed forces, construction workers, medical professionals, and many more. They shared fun stories about their work and answered lots of curious questions from our students.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the guest speakers who took the time to visit our schools and share their experiences. Your contributions made Careers Week a truly memorable and inspiring event for our students.

At our schools, we believe in the values of **Success, Happiness, Inspiration, Nurture, and Everyone**. Careers Week was a wonderful reflection of these values, as our pupils experienced success in learning new things, happiness in discovering exciting careers, inspiration from our guest speakers, and a nurturing environment where everyone is encouraged to dream big. We believe that this experience has sparked our students' imaginations and helped them think about all the exciting possibilities for their futures. We encourage parents to keep talking with their children about what they enjoyed and what they might like to explore further.



As always, we thank you for your continued support.

We hope you all have a wonderful Half Term.

Kindest regards,

Miss Winters



Mrs Toulson



Miss Vaughan



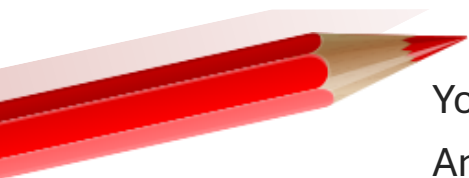
Dear Parents and Carers,



I am writing to inform you of an important decision made by the Governing Body of the Spires Federation. After thorough deliberation, we have decided not to proceed with the academisation process and will not be joining the Infinity Academy Trust at this time. This decision was made after careful consideration of various factors, including the potential loss of autonomy over key decisions, financial implications, and the impact on our community and staff.

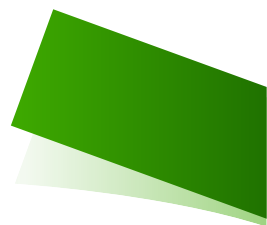
Our primary concern is to maintain the high standards of education and the strong sense of community within our schools. We believe that staying as a Federation allows us to continue providing the best possible environment for our students and staff. We will seek opportunities to strengthen collaboration with other small schools in the area to further enhance our educational offerings.

We appreciate the support and understanding of Infinity Academy Trust and our community during this process. We remain committed to reviewing our position in the future and will keep you informed of any developments. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Yours sincerely,

Andrew Hancy Chair of Governors Spires Federation



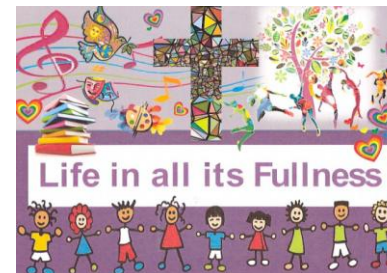
Our Vision in Action How we SHINE!



To provide an aspirational education which inspires all to SHINE in our community so that they are happy, confident and equipped for life in all its fullness.



This term our values and vision were really lived out especially during careers week. Children had the opportunity to be inspired as they looked beyond school life, as the community shared such a variety of careers with the children. So much fantastic information, experiences and so many questions asked!





Pixies

Term 3

We have had such an exciting term! We have loved learning all about castles in geography and in our science, we really got stuck into fieldwork learning all about plants! We even grew our own! We have had great fun programming robots in computing and even had a race. Our girls really enjoyed the computing workshop this term and we have all had such interesting visitors for our career's week. Our reception have enjoyed their term all about rhyme and even got to go on their very own bear hunt! They have been amazing at all their craft tasks and have made some wonderful creations. Our KS1 pupils have also been able to get creative this term making sculptures in art. We have seen some incredible talent.

We have earned a well deserve rest and are excited to see what next term brings and the adventures the Pixies will have in their next part of their learning journey!



Pixies





Gnomes

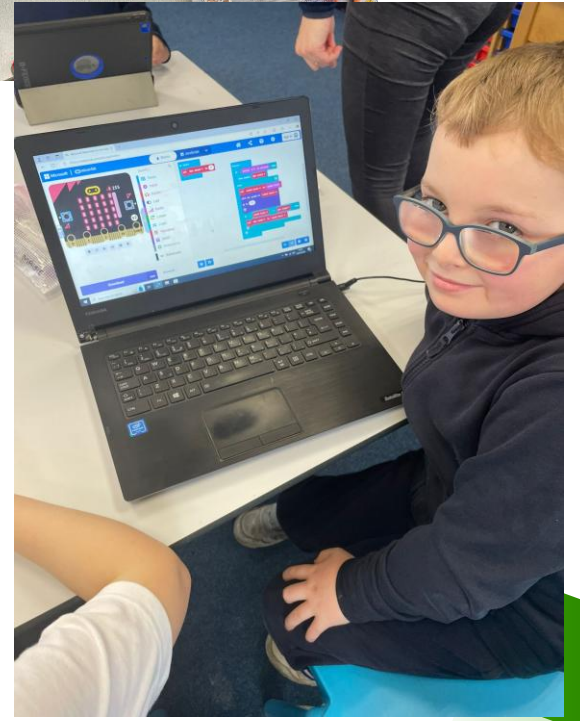
Term 3

We have absolutely loved starting our new book all about the adventures of Narnia this term and have written some of our own super setting descriptions based on this.

Our science topic on sound has been lots of fun too - we have created our own mini pan pipes to learn about pitch; looked at the different parts of the ear and built data loggers to record the volumes of different instruments.

Our history topic on the second world war is coming to an end and we have all learnt so much about the experiences people went through during that time. We all particularly enjoyed learning about local hero Guy Gibson and his bravery during the Dambuster raids.







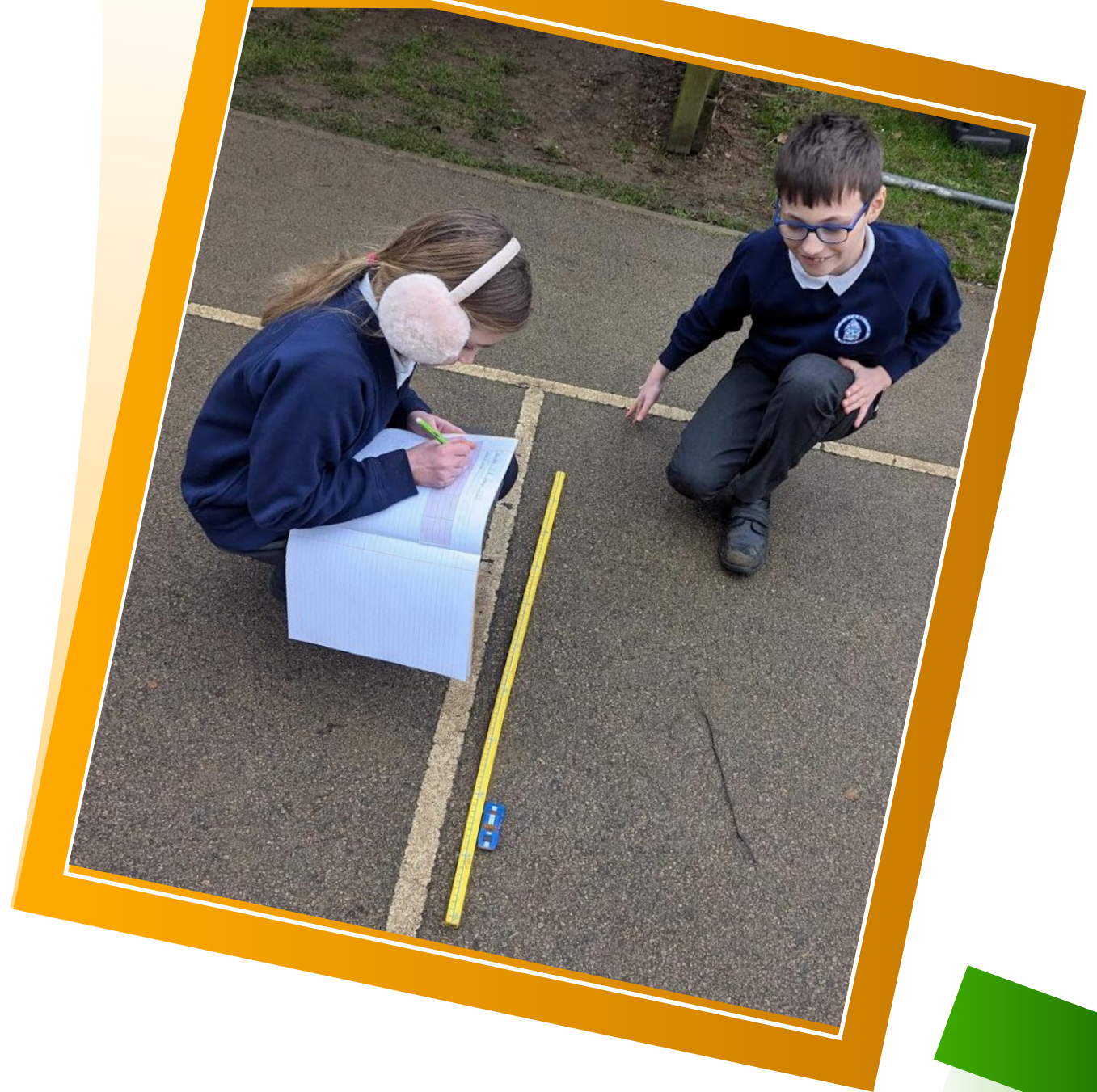
Imps

Term 3

This term has been incredibly exciting with a variety of activities and events. We participated in several sporting events, including Sportshall Athletics and the football finals, which were both great fun. In art, we created pottery inspired by the designs of Wedgewood, working with clay to bring our ideas to life. We also held a 'I Belong' Computing Competition, where all the girls in the school came together to showcase their skills.

In science, we've carried out numerous experiments, focusing on forces, which has been both educational and hands-on. RE has been particularly fascinating, as we engaged in debates about whether science and RE complement or conflict with each other, giving us a lot to think about.

We also had Careers Week, where we learned about various jobs, including a visit from a police officer. Additionally, we had visits as part of our PSHE lessons on Healthy Minds and Mini Police, which gave us valuable insights into well-being and community safety. It's been a term full of learning and discovery!





Your Speak out. Stay safe. certificate

Awarded to:


Digby C of E Primary School

A massive thank you and a big well done to all pupils for being such great listeners and taking part in *Speak out*.
Stay safe. with Buddy.



Chris Sherwood
Chief Executive

Date: 23/01/2025



Thank you for
helping to keep
more children safe!

School Office

The school office is looked after by Mrs Elliott. She can be contacted on 01526 320630 or admin@spiresfederation.co.uk



Wrap Around Care Direct

Telephone Number

A reminder that we have set up a direct 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** and only for use by parents who need to contact breakfast or afterschool club whilst their child is there.

Attendance Term 3

06/01/25 -14/02/2025

Pixies – 94.49%

Gnomes – 95.13%

Imps – 95.56%

Whole School – 94.99%

School office

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

Bus Children & Changes to pick ups

Can we ask that parents give us as much notice as possible when changes are made regarding children going home.
We understand that circumstances do change, we have systems in place so we know where each child should be, but late calls/emails may not be picked up in time to get the message to the relevant staff.

Thank You!

Competition Winners Nocton

Safer Internet Day

On 11th February the Federation took part in Safer Internet Day. This year the theme was all about Scam awareness. A big part of scams is misinformation and fake news. We know that fake news being circulated can cause a ripple effect of problems for individuals and communities. Therefore, it is important that we all know how to spot misinformation and know places we can fact check like BBC reality check and Snopes.

Prior to this day, the pupils in Owls from Nocton Community primary took part in creating their own fake news story for the Safer Internet Day Competition. All the pupils were invited to the Terry O'Toole Theatre on 11th February where they discovered they won 1st place for their entry. Well done Owls!

Click on the link to see the winning online newspaper report on Fake News

[Nocton's Winning Entry](#)





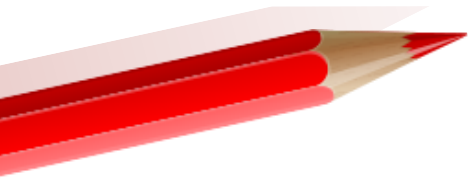
What do I need to do if my child has a medical appointment in school time?

Medical or dental appointments

Missing registration for a medical or dental appointment is counted as an authorised absence; but advance notice is required for authorising these absences. If advance notices is not given by completing the correct forms, absences may not be authorised.

However, we do encourage parents to make medical and dental appointments out of school hours where possible. Where this is not possible, the pupil should be out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

Parents must access and complete a 'Pupil request for absence form' from the school office before the appointment.





**Worried about
your child's health?**

Think 'Pharmacy First'.

Most community pharmacies across Lincolnshire can provide advice and treatment for your child for these common conditions.

It's a free and confidential way to get qualified help and can be much quicker than visiting your GP or an urgent care service.

1 Earache
Ages 1 to 17 years

2 Impetigo
Ages 1 year and over

3 Infected Insect Bites
Ages 1 year and over

4 Sinusitis
Ages 12 years and over

5 Sore Throat
Ages 5 years and over

Scan here to find your nearest pharmacy.



*Patients already exempt from prescription charges, i.e. children, will get their treatment free, for the listed conditions. Otherwise usual prescription charges will apply.

What is Pharmacy First?

Community Pharmacists offer free and confidential advice for minor illnesses such as coughs, colds, and eye infection. If appropriate, they can also provide treatment* without a prescription for seven common conditions:

- Urinary tract infection (women aged 16-64)
- Sinusitis (adults and children aged 12+)
- Sore throat (adults and children aged 5+)
- Earache (children and young adults aged 1-17)
- Infected insect bite (adults and children aged 1+)
- Impetigo (adults and children aged 1+)
- Shingles (adults aged 18+)

The pharmacy will send an electronic message to the person's GP surgery so their health record can be updated. Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the person to their GP surgery or other health professional as appropriate. This service takes away the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment and may help ensure children get well and back to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better sooner if they are unwell.

Patients that are already exempt from prescription charges, such as children, will still be exempt from charges if treatment is provided for the listed conditions, otherwise [usual NHS prescription charge rules apply](#).

For more information on how your pharmacist can help, visit [Pharmacies - Lincolnshire ICB](#) or watch [Starting to feel unwell? Think Pharmacy First - YouTube](#)

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.



Thank You!

