



# Newsletter



Spires Federation

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## A Message from Miss Hill

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school for the last half term of the year. As we return, we enjoy the colour of Autumn; the freshness of a new season, and an excitement about the final months of the year that lead to Christmas. It is with this in mind that we need to focus so much on our federation value of 'Hope'. We need to remember this now more than ever, as a new national lockdown starts, we can only hope that it allows the necessary recovery required for us to be able to spend Christmas with our loved ones. We thank you for all of the patience that you have had and your support to help us during the pandemic. We usually have such exciting plans for Christmas in school, and as I am sure you are aware things will be very different this year, the guidelines will prevent so many of our usual lovely events. As seen from the Parentmail sent out yesterday, we have received new guidance from the government about how we should be operating throughout lockdown. Please see the amended policies and risk assessments and each school will let you know about any planned Christmas events. We will do as much as the guidance allows!

It has been delightful to hear how many of you have taken part in the Pupil Conferences via Microsoft teams. Even COVID can't prevent us sharing news about children's successes! We are lucky that we have access to this form of communication, and I hope that you are reassured that if at any time we have a partial lockdown, full lockdown or if any of the bubbles need to isolate, this is the way that pupils can work remotely, as many of them do now with homework. Don't forget to read the remote learning and virtual meeting policy. It has a useful flow chart in the appendix to outline what will happen in different scenarios. Please follow this link to read it: <https://www.spiresfederation.co.uk/media/Remote%20Learning%20Virtual%20Meeting%20Policy%20Sep%202020.docx.pdf>

Once again, thank you and my thoughts and prayers go out to all of you who may be effected by COVID at this time, either personally or with family and friends. Please take care and stay safe everyone.  
Miss Emma Hill

## A Message from Mrs Douglas

Welcome back!

It has been great to hear all about what the children have been up to during the half term break – what a busy week they have all had! I have heard stories from the children enjoying time outdoors, including being active on their bikes and scooters, taking part in the 'Couch to Tokyo' Carres Outreach Challenge and being involved in the Nocton Hub's 'Nocton Pumpkin Trail.' A big thank you goes to Mr O'Mahoney who has not only had a personalised message of encouragement sent to school from Tokyo via our Twitter account for this month's Active Challenge, but also has had a message for our local community recorded of Paddy with Vinnie Jones! Take a look at our school Twitter account @NoctonPrimary.

Spending time in school is nothing less than a real joy – there is a positive 'buzz' about the place, with children in both of our classes working hard, demonstrating all of our school

values well and developing a real passion for learning. This week I have seen some incredible model space rockets, posters and even a jet pack brought in by the Flamingo children who shared their home learning so confidently with their classmates.



Thank you for your support with the children's homework, both projects such as this and also embracing our new approach using Microsoft Teams. We have held our first virtual 'Pupil Conferences' using Microsoft Teams this week, with further meetings scheduled with some parents later this term. Again, I would like to thank you for joining us remotely in order to discuss how your child has settled back in to school life this academic year, and discussing an overview of their progress so far. I am proud of the positive relationships we have between home and school to ensure the very best for your children.



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## Nocton Pumpkin Trail



Thank you also to the families who kindly brought pumpkins to school to add to what was a marvellous display outside of the school last Saturday for Halloween. A special thank you to Mr and Mrs Booth, who worked hard to make our school look so spooky! We are very lucky to have you.



## Breakfast and After School Club

The children have been very creative over the last few weeks. They have made an amazing, spooky, Halloween display and painted some spectacular



firework pictures, using straws. They have also had lots of fun making some sparkly, crispy cakes.

We would also like to welcome Mrs Bayne as

our new After School Clubs Assistant. Mrs Bayne has previously worked here at Nocton School in this very role, and we are thrilled to have her back and once again thank you to Mrs Booth for temporarily stepping into this role.

## Flamingo Class

The children have settled back into school really well and have been busy working hard in all their lessons. We are continuing with our topic of 'Explorers' and have learnt about the famous astronaut Neil Armstrong and looked at why he is a significant person in our History. The children all came in with some amazing space rockets they had made over the half term holiday and enjoyed sharing these with each other. We have had an addition of a space rocket role play area in the classroom which the children have enjoyed playing in. In English, we have



been focusing on poetry this week. We started off looking at fireworks and wrote some descriptive poetry ensuring we use lots of adjectives. We have then moved on to look at Remembrance Day and will be writing some poems about the poppy. In maths, we are continuing our work on



addition and subtraction and looking closely at number bonds. In art, Flamingo class have been looking at the abstract artist Kandinsky. We have been busy recreating his most popular piece of artwork 'Colour Studies: Squares with Concentric Circles'. Take a look at our masterpiece we created as a class!





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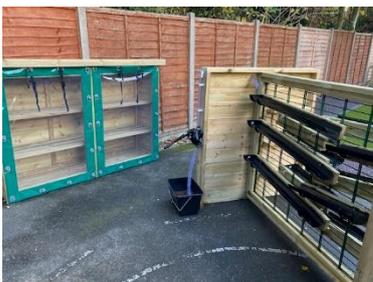
### New Outdoor Area

Flamingo Class were super excited to come back and find our outdoor area had been completely transformed over the half term holiday. Newby Leisure have done a fantastic job and we are all so pleased with it and can't wait to start using it! The old trim trail has



been taken away and

replaced with a fantastic construction area and mud kitchen. The canopy area has wooden sides with coloured windows and a perspex front meaning we can now work outside in all weathers. We have added in a water wall and sand tray and easily accessible sheds for the children.



Louis - "This is epic! I love the different coloured windows"  
Rosie - "I love building in the construction area!"  
Gabriel - "The water wall is so much fun! I

love how the water goes down the slides (drain pipes)"

Jaxon - "The water wall is fun! Loads of water goes out of it!"

Scarlett - "I like the kitchen bit! It's just like a kitchen everyone has at home!"



### Panther Class

Panther Class were extremely excited to be presented with a new box of playground games this week, and have had great fun exploring them with their friends. In class, we have been learning about

key Hindu beliefs and the importance of being a good person. We have also been busy thinking about the significance of Remembrance Day, and have made a class wreath in



preparation for laying it on the war grave next week. The children wrote their own messages of thanks on the back of their poppies. It has been a busy but really enjoyable first week back - Year 5 and 6 have loved carrying out guided reading based on Disney songs, whilst Year 3 and 4 have begun writing some fantastic poems about hope.

### Couch to Tokyo Challenge

Thank you so much for supporting our school in the 'Active Challenges' by uploading your minutes – there is still time to do this by going to this link [https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4I\\_ewOP1L06Lz\\_HFSzji0fKI0tWtvhGse87nNu9SDBUNIRGN0IGVkywQU01N09NVExTMIIVN09YNC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4I_ewOP1L06Lz_HFSzji0fKI0tWtvhGse87nNu9SDBUNIRGN0IGVkywQU01N09NVExTMIIVN09YNC4u)



# Newsletter



Spire Federation

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## 'Rock Out 2020' Competition

Further to the email sent last week, just a reminder that next week the Year 2 to Year 6 children have the opportunity to take part in this year's Times Table Rockstars Maths Week England competition. It's called 'Rock Out 2020' and is played online via [play.ttrockstars.com](http://play.ttrockstars.com).

For every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, your child will earn their class a point. The Times Tables Rock Stars platform will calculate the class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours). Winning classes in the school and in the country as a whole will be the ones with the highest average.

All game modes (Gig, Garage, Studio, etc.) will count but only from games played between 7.30am and 7.30pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>.

In the spirit of the competition, please don't play on their behalf but by all means encourage and support them to the extent that it doesn't cause high stress levels or impact on family plans. We suggest a limit of half an hour a day outside school hours – some will play more, some will play less. Please see the attached poster for further information.

## Nocton's Got Talent

The last day of term saw so many of our pupils take place in 'Nocton's Got Talent.' Even some of our very youngest children demonstrated such courage at going up on to the stage! The socially-distant event, which was enjoyed outside in our two separate bubbles, was a perfect way to end the first term. Well done to everyone involved! Please see our Twitter feed for videos of the event, or if your child is in Flamingo Class, take a look at your child's Tapestry account.

## Follow us on Twitter

@NoctonPrimary and @SpireFed



## Children in Need 2020

Next week we will be taking part each day in 'Five to Thrive' as part of our activities for this year's Children in Need. Led by Joe Wicks, Dr Radha and Blue Peter, 'Five to Thrive' is a unique programme of wellbeing activities for the Appeal Week. For full details of the activities the children will be taking part in, including a sneak preview of the daily Joe Wicks' workouts the children will be taking part in, visit the Children in Need website:

<https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/schools/primary-school/five-to-thrive-hub/>

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November, we would like the children to come to school wearing something sporty for a cash donation of your choice that will go directly to Children in Need. The 'sporty look' could be the usual PE kit, a favourite football kit (weather appropriate) or a comfortable tracksuit. We will be taking part in a special afternoon of sport at Nocton, including the Daily Mile Challenge and House Team games in our two separate bubbles. Please support us if you can in raising money for such a worthy cause.

## Remembrance Day

Due to the current lockdown restrictions, it is with



great sadness that we cannot be together, as we usually would be, in All Saints' Church for our Remembrance Day Service. During the school day we will hold our own very special Remembrance Assembly. Afterwards, we will walk over in our bubbles, to the church grounds to lay a wreath on the grave of Group

Captain Gilbert Stuart Martin Insall, who's grave we care for as a school. Unfortunately we are not selling poppies or poppy merchandise this year in school, but we will be making a donation from school funds – if you would like to make a personal donation to the British Legion, please visit their website:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate>.



# Newsletter



Spire Federation

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Vacancies

We currently have a vacancy for a WAC Club Assistant at Digby CE. Please see our website for further information about this role.

<https://www.spirefederation.co.uk/Vacancies.asp>

## Lincolnshire County Council Consultation Period

The Lincolnshire County Council consultation period for the 2022-2023 Admission Policy is now underway. Please find the link to the consultation below.

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/school-admissions-policies/1>

The consultation last up until 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 5pm and you can respond to the consultation by either this link:

<https://snaps.lincolnshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=156706591279>

Or in writing to: The School Admission Team,  
Lincolnshire County Council, Room 141, County  
Offices, Newland, Lincoln, LN1 1YL

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Every Monday and Friday

PE days so please come in your PE kits – these need to be named and plain (no logos or football kits please).

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Times Tables Rockstars – Rock Out Week 2020

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November

Bikeability form deadline for Panther Class

### Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Day

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Children In Need ‘The Sporty Look’

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November – SEN Review Meetings

Parents contacted individually if this applies

### Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Last Day of Term It’s Christmas!

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – First Day Back Welcome back!

### W/B 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

KS2 Bikeability – booking forms and details to come after half term

**Please keep checking these dates as some are added as we go through the terms.**