



Spetisbury News 20th September 2024

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year! I'd like to start by saying how incredibly proud I am of the way the children have settled into the new term. Whether they are returning pupils or brand new faces to our school, they have embraced the new school year with enthusiasm, positivity, and smiles all around! A special welcome to our youngest members, the **Acorns**—our Reception class—who have already shown their resilience and excitement for learning. I must say, it's been delightful watching older pupils lend a helping hand, guiding them through the maze of new routines and playground dynamics.

I also want to take a moment to reflect on last year's fantastic achievements. Our children excelled, and we are thrilled to report that we achieved **outstanding national results**. An impressive **96% of our Year 6 pupils** met the expected standard in **Reading, Writing, and Maths**, well above the national average of 61%, placing us in the top **99th percentile nationally**. This success reflects the hard work and dedication of both our staff and students, as well as the ongoing support from parents and carers. It's clear that Spetisbury Primary is a place where children flourish, and I am confident this year will continue in the same positive direction.

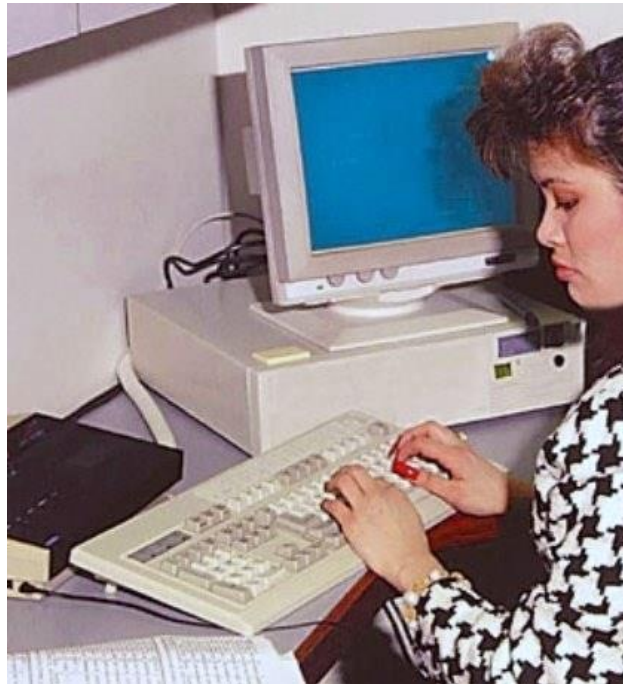
The whole school is bubbling with energy, and I couldn't be more positive about the year ahead. There's a lot to look forward to—from festive fun and performances to new learning adventures. We're all in for

a great ride, and with your continued support, we're confident this year will be filled with growth and laughter. Here's to a fantastic year ahead (and to only losing half as many jumpers along the way)!

As always, thank you all for your support.

Kind regards, Mr Brown

Trustees Clerk- We are still looking to recruit



We are reaching out to our wonderful school community as we are in urgent need of a **Trustees Clerk**. Our school is fortunate to have a unique body of volunteers, known as the **Hall and Sloper Trustees**, who provide essential additional funding from investments. This group has supported us in numerous ways—helping to buy laptops, fund enriching trips, and even offering experiences like the **Planetarium Dome** to enhance our curriculum.

Many longstanding members of this group, including some of our current parents, are committed to ensuring that the trust continues to evolve and meet the school's needs. **Caroline Tory**, who has been a driving force as Clerk for many years, is stepping down, and we need someone to take on this rewarding role. Caroline has been an incredible supporter of the school, and as she retires from this position, we hope someone from our school community can step forward to continue her great work.

The role of **Trustees Clerk** is not a heavy time commitment, requiring the minuting of just one termly meeting, coordinating diaries, and keeping an eye on investment statements. Caroline is more than happy to talk through the details and help ease anyone into the role. If you have clerking experience or are simply interested in this opportunity, please contact **Ms. Erim** in the office, and we'll connect you with Caroline. This is a fantastic way to support our school in a meaningful way, and we truly need your help to keep this vital support running smoothly!

Meet the Teacher sessions



We are excited to invite you to our upcoming "Meet the Teacher" sessions for years one through six, as previously shown in class newsletters. These sessions provide an excellent opportunity for you to get to know your child's teacher, hear about the year's curriculum, and ask any questions. We look forward to seeing many of you there! Reception parents will have a session later in the term, as your child has had more opportunities to settle in.

The sessions will be next week from **2:45 p.m.** If you cannot attend the meeting, we will endeavour to share any documentation via Arbor. We have tried to ensure that there are no clashes due to siblings but please let us know if there is a clash.

Monday: Years 5 and 6

Tuesday: Year 3

Wednesday: Year 4

Thursday: Years 1 and 2

Clubs

Our after-school clubs are now available to book via the **Arbor Parent Portal** under Activities > Clubs. Please note the following important information:

- If a club is full, the system will not allow further bookings.
- If you need to cancel a club booking, please get in touch with Miss Erim directly. She will then free up the space for another child to join.
- **KS1 Lego Club** is particularly popular this term. We may change club membership in the new year to allow those on the waiting list to participate.
- A reminder for our **netballers**: Please come to school in your PE kit on Thursdays!

Statutory Assessment Success: A Cause for Celebration!



We are delighted to share the fantastic results from our **2023-2024 Statutory Assessments**, which showcase the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and community. Spetisbury Primary continues to excel, and we are proud to be performing well above the national average in several key areas.

These impressive results reflect our school's commitment to providing a well-rounded and engaging education. For example, **96%** of our Year 6 students achieved the expected standard in **Reading, Writing, and Maths**, compared to the national average of **61%**, placing us in the **top 1% of schools nationally!** This builds on the excellent results from the previous year where our progress from **Year 6 in 2022-2023** also placed us in the **top 1% of schools** nationally. Although there are no progress measures for last year's cohort due to the impact of COVID-19, this outstanding achievement underscores the resilience and commitment of our pupils and staff during challenging times.

Our youngest learners are also thriving, with **89%** passing the Year 1 Phonics Screening, and **84%** of our Reception pupils achieving a **Good Level of Development (GLD)**.

These achievements demonstrate the strength of our school community and the opportunities we provide for every child to succeed. We are incredibly proud of all our students and look forward to continuing this success in the year ahead!

Here are some of the highlights:

Assessment	School Result	National Average	School Percentile
KS2 Reading, Writing & Maths (combined)	96%	61%	99th
KS1 Phonics Screening (Year 1)	89%	80%	78th
Early Years Foundation Stage (GLD)	84%	68%	93rd

Harvest Festival



We are pleased to announce the details for this year's **Harvest Festival on Thursday 17th October**:

- **9:30am**: Parents' Assembly
- **2:00pm**: Grandparents (and other elderly relatives) Harvest Tea Party

Unfortunately, due to space constraints, we cannot accommodate parents at the Tea Party. However, we would love to see you at the morning assembly!

We are also collecting **non-perishable food donations** (with at least six months left on the sell-by date) for the local food bank. Please contribute what you can to support those in need.

Uniform Reminder



This is a gentle reminder to please ensure all uniform items are clearly **named**. We are confident that this reminder is given regularly, but we continue to build up a tub of school uniforms, including brand-new school sweatshirts. School policy allows parents to claim any unnamed jumper they come across while searching for their child's lost items. Help us reduce lost property by labelling all belongings! Stick-on name labels can rub off over time, and our top tip is to regularly back these up by marking your child's name in Sharpie on the label and also on the washing label in case any marking fades.

Attendance and School Absence



If your child is going to be absent, please inform the school **before 9:30 am** to avoid an unauthorised absence. You can notify us via text, email, or by leaving a telephone message. Please note that phone messages are not always reliable, so we encourage the use of text or email whenever possible.

We also want to remind parents of the importance of good attendance. The government's target is **95% overall attendance** for the year, and consistent attendance is vital to your child's learning. We appreciate your efforts in helping us reach this goal.

Christmas Dates for Your Diary



Christmas planning is already well underway! Below are the key dates you'll want to note:

- **Friday, 6th December:** Non-Uniform Day (for Christmas Fair donations)
- **Friday, 6th December:** School Disco (Details to follow)
- **Friday, 13th December:** Christmas Jumper Day (in aid of Save the Children UK)
- **Friday, 13th December:** FOSS Christmas Fair with a 'special' visitor
- **Monday, 16th December:** Year 5 & Year 6 Performances at 9:30 am and 2:00 pm
- **Tuesday, 17th December:** Year 3 & Year 4 Performances at 9:30 am and 2:00 pm
- **Wednesday, 18th December:** Acorn Nativity at 9:30 am
- **Wednesday, 18th December:** Christmas Lunch for all children (FOSS pays for KS2 lunch)
- **Thursday, 19th December:** Year 1 & Year 2 Performances at 9:30 am and 2:00 pm
- **Friday, 20th December:** Break up for Christmas holidays

More details about these events will be shared closer to the dates, but do mark them in your calendars!

Child Protection and Safeguarding



Please remember that Mr. Brown is our Designated Safeguarding lead at Spetisbury. If you have any concerns about a child's safety and welfare, you can talk with him. All school staff are trained, though, and will be able to support you if you need to talk.

Free school meals and Pupil Premium



Do you know
about...



free
school meals



If your child qualifies for free school meals, they will have a **healthy meal every school day**, and can get:

- access to **free holiday clubs**
- **extra money for their school** towards more teachers and activities

You could
save over
£450
a year!

It's easy to find out if you qualify - complete our confidential checker at **dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/free-school-meals** or phone **01305 221090**

Pupil
Premium

If your child is in reception to year 2 and you receive qualifying benefits, **you could get extra £££'s for your school!**

Apply for the Pupil Premium at **dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/pupil-premium**

Many parents of children in Reception, Year One, and Year Two mistakenly believe their child qualifies for the Pupil Premium because they receive Universal Infant Free School Meals. However, these meals are provided to all children in these year groups, regardless of household income, and are not means-tested. As a result, we may be missing out on valuable additional funding for eligible younger children. This funding is crucial, as it helps support catch-up programs, provides assistance with uniform purchases, and covers the costs of school trips and other enriching experiences.

Have a look here: [Pupil Premium](#)