



Spetisbury News 4th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all enjoyed the half-term break and managed to take advantage of some of last week's sunshine.

As we begin our final half-term of the academic year, there is a real sense of excitement around the school. Whilst the children have quickly settled back into their routines, this is also one of our busiest periods of the year with a packed calendar of events ahead.

Over the coming weeks, we have sporting events, transition activities, reports, end-of-year celebrations, Year 6 events and opportunities for children to share their learning. It is always a term that seems to pass by incredibly quickly and one that creates many lasting memories for our pupils.

We are also hoping that the weather remains kind to us. Whilst last week's sunshine was very welcome, the forecast currently appears a little more changeable. We will continue to make the most of opportunities for outdoor learning and events wherever possible and will keep families informed should any arrangements need to change.

It has been lovely to see the children return so positively this week. Around school, there has been a calm and purposeful atmosphere with children showing great enthusiasm for their learning and a determination to make the most of the final few weeks of the year.

As always, thank you for your continued support. The partnership between home and school plays such an important role in helping our children thrive.

I look forward to sharing the many successes and celebrations of this final half term with you over the coming weeks.

Andrew Brown

Looking Ahead to September

As we begin to look towards the next academic year, I wanted to provide a brief staffing update.

One of the pleasing aspects of our planning for September is that we can move forward without requiring any teacher recruitment. This means we will enter the new academic year with a stable, experienced team that knows our children and community well.

Over recent years, schools nationally have experienced significant challenges with recruitment and retention. At Spetisbury, we have also seen periods of change, both in staffing and in the development of our curriculum. Whilst change can often bring positive opportunities, stability is equally important.



With this in mind, our intention is to keep teachers within their current year groups next year. We believe this will help us continue to build on the strong foundations already in place and provide consistency for children as we further embed our curriculum and school improvement priorities.

We are currently finalising the deployment of our support staff and will share further information with families in the coming weeks once arrangements have been confirmed.

We are excited about the year ahead and the opportunities it will bring for all of our children.

Welcoming Our New Families

This half term, we look forward to welcoming our newest children and families to school as part of our Rising 5s transition programme.

Over the coming weeks, our new Reception children will begin spending time in school, meeting staff, becoming familiar with their classroom and taking their first steps towards joining the Spetisbury family. These sessions are always a highlight of the summer term, and it is lovely to see the excitement and enthusiasm that the children bring.

We have been delighted with the level of interest in Reception places for September. Whilst many schools continue to be affected by falling birth rates and declining pupil numbers, we have once again seen strong demand for places, including a waiting list.

I would like to thank our existing families for the role they play in this. Many prospective parents comment positively on the school's welcoming atmosphere when they visit and frequently tell us that recommendations from current and former families influenced their decision to apply. There is no greater compliment than parents choosing our school because of others' experiences.

We look forward to welcoming our new children and families into the school community and helping them begin what we hope will be a happy and successful journey with us.

Key Dates

Friday 5 June FOSS Non-Uniform Day (please bring a donation for the Summer Fayre)

Week Beginning Monday 8 June Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week

Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 June Year 5 Residential Visit to Leeson House

Monday 8 June Year 4 Trip to the Ancient Technology Centre

Thursday 11 June DSAT Year 6 Leavers' Service (children only; no parents)

Friday 12 June Year 6 Charborough Estate Country Day

Monday 15 June Year 1 Trip to Upton Country Park

Tuesday 16 June Reception Trip to Upton Country Park

Tuesday 16 June Year 3 Trip to the Sea Life Centre

Friday 19 June Year 5 Bryanston DT Trip (details to follow)

Wednesday 24 June Sports Day

Friday 26 June FOSS Summer Discos

Wednesday 1 July Sports Day Reserve Date

Thursday 2 July Year 6 Careers Afternoon

Tuesday 7 July Transfer Day Across Dorset Schools

Wednesday 8 July FOSS Summer Fayre from 15.00

Thursday 9 July Year 6 Performance: *Matilda* (details to follow)

Friday 10 July Rock Steady Summer Concert 13.30

Monday 13 – Wednesday 15 July Year 6 Residential Visit to Cumulus

Wednesday 22 July Year 6 Leavers' Celebration Assembly 14.00

Wednesday 22 July End of Summer Term

Children back to school **Thursday 3rd September**.

New Reception Class start **7th September**

After-School Play and Scooter Use

One of the things that makes Spetisbury special is the sense of community at the end of the school day. We are one of the few local schools that allows families to remain on site until 4:00pm to use the scooters and spend time together after collection. It is lovely to see children and parents enjoying this opportunity.

However, I do need to ask for your support.

Recently, there has been a significant increase in the amount of equipment being left out at the end of these sessions. Scooters, helmets and other resources are often not returned to their storage areas, resulting in staff spending considerable time tidying up after school. On several occasions, scooters have also been left in front of the main entrance, which is a designated fire exit and creates a potential safety hazard.

It is also important that Treehouse and Forest School resources are respected. Some equipment has been moved, damaged or used without permission, which has understandably caused frustration for Treehouse staff. Children remaining on site after school are in the care and supervision of their parents and are not under the direction of Treehouse or school staff at that time.

Occasionally, when a breaktime is interrupted by sudden rain, children may come straight inside so that learning time is not lost. This can sometimes mean that resources are not returned to their usual locations. Rather than asking our grounds team to come back and tidy the site once the weather improves, we would really appreciate families helping us by returning any items they notice are out of place.



If your child is playing near the Forest School area at the rear of the school site, please position yourself so that you maintain sight of them at all times. This helps ensure children remain safe and that the area and equipment are treated appropriately.

We are keen to continue offering this opportunity to families, but this relies on everyone treating the site, equipment and facilities with respect. Please ensure that:

- Scooters and equipment are returned neatly to their designated storage areas.
 - Children must follow our rules and still put on a helmet when using a scooter.
 - Children must wait until the majority of families have left before scooting in front of the Office - Year 4 parents are regularly having to dodge scooting children.
- Scooters are not left in front of the main entrance or fire exits.
- Treehouse and Forest School equipment is not used or moved.
- Children remain under parental supervision at all times.
- Parents maintain sight of children, particularly when they are playing near the Forest School area.
- The site is left as you would wish to find it.

We would very much like to continue offering this after-school community time. However, if these issues continue, we will need to review whether access to the scooters and playground can remain available after school.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain this valuable opportunity for our children and families.



Suncream, Sunhats & Sensible Solutions



As the sun has been in full effect over recent weeks, we want to make sure all our children stay safe, comfortable, and ready to enjoy their day — whether they're playing on the field, taking part in outdoor learning, or just heading out for a sunny lunchtime.

All members of staff at Spetisbury are trained in safeguarding and will do their utmost to help you feel heard, supported and reassured.

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. If you ever need to speak with someone, we are here — and we are always ready to listen.

September 2026 to August 2027 school year

Autumn term 2026

INSET	Tuesday 1 September 2026
INSET	Wednesday 2 September 2026
Autumn term starts	Thursday 3 September 2026
New Reception starts	Monday 7th September
Autumn half term	Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026
Autumn term ends	Friday 18 December 2026

Spring term 2027

INSET	Monday 4 January 2027
Spring term starts	Tuesday 5 January 2027
Spring half term	Monday 15 February 2027 to Friday 19 February 2027
Spring term ends	Thursday 25 March 2027
Good Friday	Friday 26 March

Summer term 2027

INSET	Monday 12 April 2027
Summer term starts	Tuesday 13th April
May Day Holiday	Monday 3 May 2027
Summer half term	Monday 31st May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027
Summer term ends	Wednesday 21 July 2027
Summer holidays	Thursday 22 July 2027 to Tuesday 31 August 2027

1 INSET DAY TO BE CONFIRMED