**Dates for the Diary**

- **Summer Production Dress Rehearsal** – Monday 15th July
- **Summer Production** – Wednesday 17th & Thursday 18th July
- **Friends End of Term Picnic** – Friday 19th July
- **Y6 Leavers Assembly** – Monday 22nd July 9.15am
- **Open Afternoon** – Monday 22nd July from 1.15pm
- **Y6 Bowling** – Tuesday 23rd July
- **End of Term Celebration Assembly** – Wednesday 24th July 09.15am

**Headteacher’s reflections:**
The children will be bringing home their end of year reports tomorrow and I hope you are looking forward to reading about their successes. To ensure that the school meets the national priority to reduce teacher workload, you will notice that the reports have been streamlined however as families will be aware this report is in addition to two previous reports and teacher meetings as well as Open Friday after school every week which have taken place throughout the year.

Reading the reports has been a huge pleasure, allowing me to reflect on how well our children have progressed this year and how much they have achieved. It has been a joy to see them growing and learning over the past year as they have relished in new challenges. There has been a wonderful variety of enriching activities in the curriculum around the theme of “Find Your Wild” with lots of opportunities for the children to develop their creative, physical, social and emotional learning.

Please take time to talk to your children about their experiences, memories and achievements from the past year and also about their expectations and wishes for the year to come.

**Visit from Daniel Zeichner M.P. The Spinney in Hansard!**

We were delighted to welcome Daniel Zeichner into school recently as he came to talk to the children about his role and responsibilities of being a Member of Parliament. He took questions from the children and was very impressed by the children’s developed understanding of the role of an MP and how they can influence change. The children also told him about our “Empathy for the Earth Day” and he was very inspired by their knowledge and enthusiasm. A week after his visit to us he went on to mention The Spinney during a House of Commons debate! His speech has been recorded in Hansard! We received a copy of the Hansard so we could see his words, and a letter this week thanking the school for making him so welcome, he described his visit to The Spinney “truly uplifting”
Summer Production Dress Rehearsal – Monday 15th July

On Monday 15th July, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are going to Netherhall School for a full dress rehearsal performance which will be watched by Foundation, Years 1 and 2.

All children will require a packed lunch which will be eaten back at The Spinney at approximately 12.45. All children in years 2, 1 and Foundation and those entitled to free school meals will have a packed lunch provided for them. To avoid waste, please inform us if this is not required. As lunchtime will be later than usual please provide your child with a healthy snack that can be eaten midmorning.

Key stage 2 children should come to school in their costumes with their uniform in a bag so that they can change on return to school.

If there are any volunteers to help walk all of the children to Netherhall in the morning: you are welcome to stay and watch, or you can come back in the afternoon at about 12.05pm for the walk back. If you are able to help, then please see Mr. Mawson or your child’s teacher.

WhatsApp Groups
The Friends of The Spinney are happy to support each class to set up their own WhatsApp Group. We recognise that What’s App has proved an excellent way to communicate with other parents about education visits, homework and other school events. However, we would like to remind parents and children to use the THINK rules before they post anything on social media.

If you feel that using What’s App or other platforms contributes to upset or kerfuffle for your child, or they are causing upset or kerfuffle for other children, it is parents’ responsibility to address this and moderate and intervene in your child’s use. We advise all parents to provide active guidance on the use of social media, and to be proactive in monitoring how it affects your child and the impact it has on other children. Whilst social media can be a force for good it can also become addictive and potentially impact on social, emotional and mental well-being.

• T= Is it true?
• H= Is it helpful?
• I = Is it inspiring?
• N= Is it necessary?
• K= Is it Kind?

Important Safety Notice
We would like to remind parents that it is important for all visitors to be correctly registered with the office and therefore you should not open the school security door for other people. Although you are being polite, it is important to follow this procedure so that all visitors are accounted for. It is also very important that you do not leave the door open so that we can ensure the safety of the children in our school. Many thanks for your understanding and help with this matter.
Music Grade Examination Results: Congratulations!

Congratulations to Hannah (Y2) who received a Merit and Katy (Y4) a Distinction in Initial piano, to Samika, Piano and Barathan, Violin, (Y3) who gained distinctions in Grade 1. Talitha (Y4) gained a Merit in Grade 1 Violin and Kamilia (Y4) was awarded a merit for Grade 2 violin. Sanjana (Y6) received a Distinction for her Grade 3 Violin.

Well done all of you; keep up the good work.

Farewell to Year 6

We have a few events taking place as we begin to say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 pupils. On Monday 22nd July there will be a fantastic traditional leavers’ barbecue for the year 6 staff and children. This is a lovely fun event and we are all very much looking forward to it. Also on Monday 22nd July we will hold our leavers’ assembly at 9.30am after which parents can join year six in a spot the baby competition. We hope you will be able to join us. Consent forms will be sent home shortly. This year The Friends have offered to fund an end of term Y6 Ten Pin Bowling visit for the children to enjoy. This will take place on Tuesday 23rd July.

Open Afternoon

The report that you receive on Friday is the final report on your child’s progress and achievement this year. If however you would like to review their school books and visit their class room, you are very welcome to join us for the Open Afternoon on Monday 22nd July from 1.15pm. It is very affirming for the children when they see how much parents and families take an active interest in their work and learning and it re-enforces the view that school and home, work in partnership together to ensure that children achieve to their full potential.

Take Everything Home

Over the next few days we will be supporting the children to take everything home including, PE kits, uniform, boots, musical instruments, music books, projects, and indoor shoes. The school does not have any space to store property at the end of the academic year and is reluctant to start the new academic year finding lost property. Please provide your child with a plastic bag tomorrow and on Monday so that property can be returned to you. Thank you.

End Of Year Celebration Assembly –Find Your Wild

We are nearing the end of another fantastic year of “Teaching and Learning Together” and I am looking forward to marking the occasion and reflecting on the targets we set ourselves in September. We would like to warmly welcome you to participate in our end of term Celebration Assembly at 9.15am on Wednesday 24th July. As on previous occasions the assembly will be an informal opportunity for the children to share their thoughts and ideas, and singing with you. We hope that everyone, families, friends and governors will join the children and staff to celebrate the end of another exciting year at The Spinney! We look forward to seeing you there.

End of the academic year – School Opening date 2019

The end of year celebration assembly marks the end of the academic year and the school gates will be closed promptly on Wednesday 24th afternoon at 3:30pm however, families are of course welcome to make their own arrangements to meet elsewhere such as at the Recreation Ground or Cherry Hinton Hall.

The teacher training day is on Wednesday the 4th September and children and families are welcomed back to school on Thursday 5th September.
**The National Trust’s 50 things to do before you’re 11¾**
The National Trust’s 50 things to do before you’re 11¾ is a fantastic way to Find Your Wild. They have worked closely with children to put together a fantastic list of the best all year round, outdoor things to do before you’re 11 ¾. From setting up a snail race to watching the sunset - maybe one for the autumn when it’s not so late - there are 50 lovely ideas for children and families to do together. Time spent outdoors in nature helps increase children and adults’ wellbeing as well as encouraging us to care for our world and the natural environment. Information about 50 Things can be found [here](#).

**After School Clubs**
Our after school clubs will finish on the following dates;

- Mad Science 11th July
- KS1 French 15th July
- KS2 Choir Thursday 11th July
- KS1/KS2 Premier Sports Wednesday 17th July and Thursday 18th July
- KS2 French 9th July
- Y6 Netball Monday 15th July
- KS1 Choir Tuesday 9th July

**Do not Miss Out on this lovely event!!**

**Friday 19th July 3.15pm Summer Picnic on the field**
Please come along with your picnic blanket to celebrate the end of the academic year and the start of the summer! The Friends of The Spinney will be selling drinks and ice creams. Games will be provided. All are welcome!

This will be a final opportunity for year groups, children and families to celebrate together. Please bring rugs and blankets to sit on and a picnic and a smile. Please note that parents must closely and rigorously supervise their children’s behaviour, play and conduct during this event to ensure that everyone has a lovely time and no one is upset.

**My Cambridge**
As some of you will know, **My Cambridge** the cultural education partnership for our area was initiated by Mrs Snape and through our school! We are thrilled to say that this partnership now has its very own [website](#)! You can also follow on Twitter [@MyCambs](#).
You can now find listings of what is happening in Cambridge following the link from the new website or going to the [CAN Network Page](#). Please take a look!

**52 Stories**
52 Stories takes place every week at Cherry Hinton Library on Saturdays from 10.30am – 11.15am.
If you would like to become a 52 Stories Reader or become a volunteer to help us please come along to Cherry Hinton Library during one of our sessions and talk to one of the 52 Story Team Members. [www.52stories.co.uk](http://www.52stories.co.uk) [www.facebook.com/52stores](http://www.facebook.com/52stores)
**Book Launch.** On Wednesday 17th July at 6.30pm, join author/illustrator Elena Arevalo Melville as she celebrates the publication of her new book Umbrella. Elena created the map of The Spinney Wild Wood that is displayed in our front entrance. Clara has gone to the park, but there's nobody to play with. She finds an umbrella on the ground and does a good deed by putting it on a bench. The umbrella says 'thank you' and invites Clara to make a wish. So unfolds a magical chain of events where kindness and forgiveness go hand-in-hand. An amusing way to explore themes of empathy, choice-making and citizenship.

The launch is free to attend but booking is essential as spaces are limited. Tickets can be booked through this page, by calling 01223 463200 or in person at Heffers bookshop.

**Free Family Sports Fest**

On Saturday 20th July from 10am to 6pm, Cambridge City Council are being joined by local sports clubs and organisations for a free festival of sport for all ages and abilities. With over 30 activities on offer this event which takes place at North Cambridge Academy promises to be a fun day out. For more information please visit [www.cambridge.gov.uk/summerevents](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk/summerevents)

**Summer Reading Challenge**

Children's reading can 'dip' during the summer holidays if they don't have regular access to books and encouragement to read for pleasure. The annual Summer Reading Challenge helps get three quarters of a million children into libraries each year to keep up their reading skills and confidence. The Challenge celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

The theme for 2019 is Space Chase, an out-of-this-world adventure inspired by the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing.

Children taking part in the Challenge will join our super space family, The Rockets, for a thrilling mission to track down books nabbed by mischievous aliens!

Children can read whatever they like - fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, audio books - just as long as they are borrowed from the library.

Children receive special rewards each time they finish a book and there's a certificate for everyone who completes the Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all primary school aged children and is designed for all reading abilities.

**Finally….**

I am very much looking forward to the KS2 Production of Mary Poppins Jr. next week. The children have been enthusiastically rehearsing, choreography and learning their lines over the last half term and I have been able to hear the wonderful songs from my office. I hope you are able to join us at one of the performances and I am confident it will be spectacular!

With very best wishes,

**Rachel Snape**

Headteacher
National Leader of Education