



6<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Tel 01969 623474 Fax 01969 622731 [admin@spennithorne.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@spennithorne.n-yorks.sch.uk) [www.spennithorne.n-yorks.sch.uk](http://www.spennithorne.n-yorks.sch.uk)

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Dear Parent, Carers and Friends

### AVAILABILITY

As it currently stands, I will be in school on Tuesday and Friday and Wednesday afternoon.

### SPELLING

As a school, we continually strive to improve the ways we help to support your children. Through self-evaluation, we have noticed that with the change in the spelling curriculum, this is not an area of strength and we have decided to do something about this.

From Monday, we will be trialling a new spelling system in Class 3 and 4 which will be developed in Year 2 later in the year. **Rather than a spelling book with a list of words coming home, your child will come home with a sheet with the spellings on. Each day, we ask them to take each word, look at it, say it, cover it, write it and then check it. Do this only once a day. It takes about 5 minutes and supports the children's organisation and independence skills too.**

**They must bring this sheet in to school every day as there will be a 15 minute spelling lesson every day linked to that rule.** Most of the activities will be through games and every day will be different. To make it a 'big thing', we have bought special practise books for the children to use. **On a Friday, the children will be tested on their spellings on the back of the sheet. This will be in the form of a dictated sentence and a score put on the back of this. This will then come home for you to see the score and keep as a record.**

The children will be tested on the spelling rule rather than the word given in the list but this will come with time as they become more experienced. It is about using the spelling and its rule in context.

To reflect this, we have updated our homework policy and hope you can support us all in helping to develop this key skill in our children.

### PAYMENT FOR ALL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Times change and we appreciate this. Both Mrs Ramsay and I have been looking into the school possibly investing in an online payment for school. This can be used for dinner money, snacks, clubs, swimming, trips etc. and would mean that there would be less cash hanging around in school. However, it is only worth investing in this if all parents would use this system.

Please could you use this link (mobile/tablet friendly) and let us know if you think this is a good idea or not. The better the response, the better the service we can provide for you. A text will also be sent with this link.

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TGEP5/>

### NEW BAGS

The Friends of Spennithorne School have once again kindly, purchased a new school bag (not PE bag) for each child. I hope you like them. The children chose this design. I know some people have commented on the size and that it may be a little too big for the younger children. The Rabbits class voted overwhelmingly to have this design. Also, the smaller ones have Velcro closers which was an issue with the old book bags after a little wear and tear and I am definitely not going to look a gift horse in the mouth.

It would be a good idea if the children can identify their bag by putting **one keyring** on the top loop so it can clearly be recognised.



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## **DURHAM UNIVERSITY STUDENT**

We have a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year student starting in January, working alongside Miss Williams. She is called Miss Smith and will be starting with us for her serial days on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January.

## **UNIFORM**

You can purchase school uniform by using the link on the website or visiting [www.tesco.com/ues](http://www.tesco.com/ues).

We have met with Schools Trends and will update you with information as soon as possible.

Both sites will be available for you to purchase school uniform and you may choose who you would prefer as your supplier. Both have hoodies on offer which I think are great for PE.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Clubs start – w/c 9<sup>th</sup> Jan Film club – Tuesday Thursday – Bike/multi sports club

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Jan – Swimming starts

To be confirmed this term – Swimming gala

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan – Y5 Stomp/Dance day

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> March – World Book Day

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Y3 Maths Day

Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> March – Cross country Competition

W/C 20<sup>th</sup> March – Wensleydale Tournament of Song (2 weeks)

24<sup>th</sup> March – Red Nose Day

4<sup>th</sup> April – School photos

5<sup>th</sup> April – School council sponsored walk

7<sup>th</sup> April - Easter service at 2.30 and Easter Bonnet competition

## **WRITER OF THE WEEK**

This week, the following writers have been recognised:

Foxes: - Nathan K. for a fantastic recount of Christmas day.

Rabbits: - Matilda C. for spelling lots of common exception words correctly.

## **MATHEMATICIAN OF THE WEEK**

This week, the following mathematicians have been recognised:

Foxes: - Pippa F. for super number sentences.

Rabbits: - Alice W. for using a methodical approach to problem solving.

## **CHURCH AND VILLAGE NEWS.**

The library is open at Spennithorne Church on the following days:

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month 10.00/12 noon.

## **PARENT VIEW**

If you would like to share your views about our school with OFSTED, please use the following website:

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>



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