

**Spire Junior
School**



School Newsletter

Autumn 1 2021

September - Issue
1

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Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new school year. I am pleased to report it has been an amazingly positive start to the academic year throughout the school, with children settling well into their new classes, and producing some excellent pieces of work. I feel now we have our children back we have a sense of normality and routine - I hope your children feel the same. One of the highlights this week was today's Celebration Assembly as a whole school, I have missed the magic of these happy times together. In particular, it was good to welcome parents of the Gold Award winners into school to witness their children's achievements and I look forward to meeting more of you in such circumstances during the coming academic year.

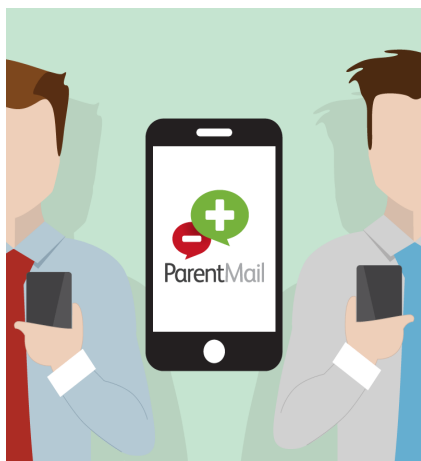


Thank you

I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to you all for your support during our return to school for the new academic year. The children look so smart in their new uniforms and footwear.

Morning Routine

When we had the staggered starts last year, there was no queuing to enter the premises. This week, with everyone starting at 8.30 a.m., we have been opening the gates at 8.25 a.m. to find long queues. Thank you for arriving so promptly and I apologise for you having to queue to enter the premises. Therefore, we have decided to open the gates to the playground at 8.15 a.m. to ensure you no longer need to wait on the pavement or around the school. However, there will be **no** adult supervision until 8.25 a.m., and no entry to the school building until 8.30 a.m., so please supervise your own child if you arrive prior to 8.25 a.m.



ParentMail

It is important, particularly during these uncertain times, that we can quickly contact parents with key information and timely reminders. The school set up our ParentMail system a few years ago and this has worked incredibly well. Parents can receive emails and notifications via the mobile app, as well as use

the app to pay for school lunches and school visits. All new starters have now been sent (via email) invitations to set up an account linked to our school. Please check your email and 'junk email' folders to locate the invitation and sign up.

Breakfast Club

We are very happy that Breakfast Club is up and running once again for the new school year. Breakfast Club provision costs £2.50 per child per day and begins at 7.45 a.m. Breakfast Club offers child care provision and we serve bagels, toast, a range of cereals for children and a fruit drink or milk. Please contact the School Office to sign up on ParentMail if you wish to use this service and for booking a place.



After School Club Provision

Chesterfield FC have agreed to run an after school club until 4.10 p.m. on Tuesdays, for any of our children. Letters were sent earlier this week, but if you require another one, please pop into the office. Sessions are priced at £3.50 per week. We also have Karate sessions planned for later in the term (more information in due course).

We are aware that some parents are asking us to provide after school provision (wrap around care) to support their working hours. Therefore, we are consulting with parents to gauge demand prior to taking the next steps. Please respond to the consultation on ParentMail before 1 p.m. on Monday 13th September. The proposed sessions would be 3.05 p.m. until 6 p.m. and will be priced at £8 per day per child.

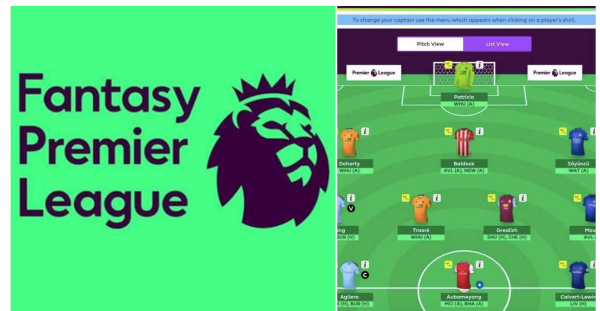
Fantasy Premier League

As a school we would like to have a bit of a challenge with the children and their parents. As a staff we always run a fantasy football league (Mr Bramley is the current champion!). Once again we have set up a Spire league. This is a great opportunity for parents and children who like football to have some time together setting up their joint teams. Please sign up at: <https://fantasy.premierleague.com/> and pick your team. To join our league, select the 'join league tab' once your team has been selected and our league code is: **op2bj5**

Could you be our new champion?

School Meals and Free School Meals

Currently the cost of a school meal is **£2.20** per day. Please may I ask that all dinners are paid for in advance on a Monday morning weekly, if possible. Dinner monies should be placed in a named envelope and handed to the class teacher or may be paid on ParentMail. The weekly cost will be £11.00.



For all parents of children in Year 3, please note that your child will no longer be entitled to receive Universal Infant Free School Meals so there is the expectation that any dinner ordered will be charged unless an application for Free School Meals is made, and you are found to be eligible.

Please call in and see Mrs Jane Melbourne, our School Business Manager who will be more than happy to help verify your proof of entitlement with no form filling. All she will need from you is your full name, date of birth and National Insurance number (required for all adult members of the household). However, if you would feel happier, please contact Mrs Melbourne on Tel: 01246 234546 and ask to speak to her in person.

Parking

As a school we have worked hard during recent years to build up positive relationships with our parents and local residents. I have had a number of phone calls recently from local elderly residents, whom have had their driveways blocked by parents bringing their children to school. Many of these elderly residents require 24 hour access to their vehicles for medical reasons and I am writing to politely ask everyone to take care to not block driveways when parking on both Derby Road and St Augustine's Avenue. May I also ask parents not to attempt to drive into the school car park as this will be locked, as children and parents maybe walking across the car park.



Visits

Unfortunately, our children's academic ability has suffered due to their 'lost learning' during the pandemic, but we fully recognise that our children have also missed some of their childhood experiences that form the foundations for life. Therefore, we are making a big commitment this academic year - Every child in every year will receive a residential experience, a curriculum experience and a wider experience **FREE** of charge. We already have things booked and look forward to sharing them with you during the coming months. I am excited to be joining the Year 4's during their residential to Whitby in the next few weeks. This is a big commitment from Spire Junior School and we must raise funds to support this venture and are asking for sponsorship / donations from big businesses to assist us with this - if you know anyone who may want to get involved please let us know. Parents will be able to make a contribution towards visits if they wish but this will be completely voluntary, but the more we receive the longer we can run this initiative for, beyond the 2021/22 school year.

Home School Agreement

Please may all parents/carers read, sign and return the updated Home School Agreement forwarded this week. Copies are available from the School Office.

Update Details

A polite reminder for all parents to update school if there is any change of address or contact details as soon as possible - again a form is available from the School Office.



Term Dates 2021/2022

Term	2021/2022	Pupil Start Date	Pupil Finish Date	Holiday
2021				
1	Autumn *	Monday 6 th September	Friday 22 nd October	Half Term
2	Autumn	Monday 1 st November	Tuesday 21 st December	Christmas
2022				
3	Spring *	Monday 10 th January	Friday 18 th February	Half Term
4	Spring	Monday 28 th February	Friday 8 th April	Easter
5	Summer	Monday 25 th April	Friday 27 th May	Spring Bank
6	Summer *	Tuesday 7 th June	Friday 22 nd July	End of School Year

School Closed for Public Holiday

May Day Monday 2nd May 2022

* Teacher Training Days (Closed to Pupils)

Term 1 Thursday 2nd September 2021

Term 1 Friday 3rd September 2021

Term 2 Wednesday 22nd December 2021

Term 3 Monday 7th February 2022

Term 6 Monday 6th June 2022

Half Term Date for your Diary

A reminder that we break up for half term on Friday 22nd October.

If you have any issues you wish to raise, please contact either myself or Gail and Mrs Boulton, who form the Pastoral Team here at Spire. I'm really looking forward to the year ahead as a school and as a community. Together we can achieve great things.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Dave Shaw

Headteacher