



# Earl Spencer Primary School

## Spring Term Newsletter

### Dates for Parents

Monday 5th January– Training Day  
Tuesday 6th January– school open  
15th January Year 5 trip to Holdenby Farm  
Thursday 22nd January– Community coffee morning  
Thursday 5th February– SEND coffee morning  
Monday 9th February– Children's mental health week  
Tuesday 10th February– KS2 Valentines disco  
Thursday 12th February– KS1 & EYFS Valentines disco  
Friday 13th February—End of term/mufti day

### Useful information:

PCSO Andrew Emberton  
Andrew.Emberton@northants.pnn.police.uk  
School contact information:  
Tel: 01604 751130  
Email: [senco@earlspencer-pri.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:senco@earlspencer-pri.northants-ecl.gov.uk)

### Welcome back from Miss Brear

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families had a restful and enjoyable break. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to warmly welcome you back to school as we begin the Spring term.

The Spring term is always a busy and exciting time, full of opportunities for learning, growth, and achievement. Our pupils will be building on the progress they made last term, and we are looking forward to seeing their enthusiasm, curiosity, and commitment return to our classrooms.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. Working together with families plays a vital role in helping our pupils feel confident, supported, and ready to learn. Please do keep in touch with us if you have any questions or concerns during the term ahead.

We look forward to another positive and successful term and to sharing our pupils' achievements with you.

### Earrings

If you are considering having your child's ears pierced, we kindly request that this is done during the summer holidays. This allows sufficient time for healing before the new academic year begins. When ear piercing takes place during term time, children are unable to remove their earrings and therefore miss valuable PE lessons.

We would like to remind families that, in line with our health and safety requirements, pupils are not permitted to wear earrings during PE lessons. Earrings must be removed for all PE activities, and we are unable to allow pupils to cover them with tape or plasters. If your child wears earrings, please can you support us by removing them before school on PE days, as staff are not permitted to remove them for your child.

We appreciate your support in helping us ensure all pupils can fully access the curriculum while keeping everyone safe.

## Curriculum

### This term in EYFS:

Happy New Year – we are all so pleased to be back in our wonderful classrooms again. This term our topics of Starry Night and Signs of Spring support our work on time, learning about the seasons and the changing of our environment throughout the year. If you get a chance to go outside when it is dark and take a look at the sky, noticing the stars, the moon and any other objects in the sky (planes, the space station etc) – we would love to find out what your child saw – please do put a note on Tapestry. We will be learning about nocturnal animals and where the sun 'goes' when we are asleep. We are starting a new literacy topic about a superhero and will continue our fabulous fun of drawing club alongside. We will continue to focus on pencil grip, letter formation and our use of our phonics knowledge when writing.

We will continue Muddy Mondays this term as long as we have the right clothing for the weather, so please do continue to send in your child's boots and extra layers on a Monday.

Children have been working well through our phonics scheme and working steadily through Phase 3. We continue to read regularly in school and thank you for continuing this work at home. Please do ask your child what a digraph is... it is when 2 letters together make one sound, for example 's' and 'h' together make a 'sh' sound.

A reminder for PE – children should come in their kit every Thursday morning and will change into their uniform afterwards (so please ensure it comes to school). At this colder time of year, they could bring in jogging bottoms to wear over or instead of their shorts. Please can you check that all items of uniform, PE kits, bags, shoes, jumpers etc are clearly named as the tub of lost property is full of un-named and unclaimed clothing.

### This term in Key Stage 1:

A big welcome back from the Key Stage 1 Team! We hope you all had a lovely break. This term our children are very excited to get stuck into their new topics.

**Year 1's** topic this term will be 'Bright Lights, Big City'. In this topic, children will be learning about the human and physical features of the UK, including a detailed study of the capital city, London. Children will also be learning about local landmarks such as the express lift tower which we can actually see from our school playground! In D&T they will be learning about moving parts and will be designing and making their own taxi's including wheels, axles and chassis!

**Year 2's** topic this term will be 'Coastline'. In this topic, children will learn about the physical and human features of coastal regions across the United Kingdom, including a detailed exploration of the coastal town of Whitby, in Yorkshire. They will be learning about the purpose of different materials in Science, and will be applying this in D&T where they will be designing and creating their own beach huts! Keep an eye on class webpages to see what fun the children get up to.

### **This term in Year 3 & 4:**

In **Year 3** this term our driver topic is a geography based one, where the children will be looking at and learning about different fossils, rocks and volcanoes.

In Science, the children will be learning about magnets, what makes materials attracted to magnets and why some materials repel against magnets.

In RE this term, the children will be learning about the festival of Diwali. As part of the art topic the children will firstly looking at sketching fossils moving onto creating their own pieces of art in the style of Lowey.

The design technology work this term will be looking at cams, and using these skills to design and make their own automation toy.

In **Year 4** our this term, the driver topic is also a geography based one, where the children will be learning about mountains and the water cycle.

In science, the children will start the year by looking at changing states, where the children will learn about solids, liquids and gases. The next science topic will be learning about classification where the children will decide which group different things fit into.

In art, the children will start off with using clay to explore animal sculpture's then they will be using watercolours to create different landscapes. As part of the design technology project, the children will be creating their own prints in the style of William Morris.

### **This term in Year 5 & 6**

We are excited to share with you the learning journeys that our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will embark on this term at Earl Spencer Primary School. These projects have been carefully designed to engage and inspire your children, offering them a rich and varied curriculum.

#### **Year 5: Sow, Grow and Farm Project**

In this fascinating project, your child will explore:

- Allotments in the UK: Understanding their historical significance, especially during the Second World War.
- Food Webs and Animal Life Cycles: Discovering how living things depend on each other within habitats.
- Plant Reproduction: Investigating different methods and dissecting flowering plants.
- Farming in the UK: Learning about modern techniques and challenges faced by farmers.
- Seasonal Eating: Exploring the benefits and comparing it with the pros and cons of importing food.
- World Farming: Understanding how climate zones influence where different foods can be grown.

#### **Year 6: Frozen Kingdoms Project**

Your child will delve into the icy realms of the Arctic and Antarctic, learning about:

- Regional Characteristics: Identifying similarities and differences in climate, landscape, and natural resources.
- Geographical Skills: Using grid references, latitude and longitude, and contour lines to explore these regions.
- Polar Oceans: Investigating how they differ from other oceans and the impact of climate change.
- Indigenous People: Learning about the Arctic natives and the changes in their way of life.
- Tourism in Antarctica: Evaluating the positive and negative effects.
- Animal Classification and Adaptations: Understanding evolution and polar explorations.