Greetings!

It's exciting times at 'The Spinney', a multi-surfaced adventure playground for children aged 8-13 years. The Playground, which is free to all, has a unique free play philosophy and an exciting range of facilities and equipment including play barges, water activities, climbing towers, a trampoline. We have recently secured the Learning Bus which will be based at the Playground and used by local partner organisations and the Playground to provide educational and social activities for families.

Regular sessions are organised for children at the Orchards Primary School, Wisbech and 'Stay & Play' sessions run every Wednesday morning in term time for parents/carers with children aged 0-5 years. Our 'Early Help Offer' is receiving an increased number of referrals from social care, children's homes and schools for one to one play worker support for children with emotional and behavioural challenges.

Plans are now underway for the Playground's major annual event for National Play Day which is an excellent free day out drawing children and families from the surrounding area and out of county. This year's Play Day will be held on Wednesday 1st August 2018. In 2017, hundreds of children and families came to this event at the Playground. Please tell your parents and families and we hope many feel able to join us.

https://www.wisbechadventureplay.net

For more information please contact:
Violet Loveridge, Lead Playworker
Diane Fenner, Manager

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Gender separation in mixed schools - Non-statutory guidance June 2018

The DfE has published fresh guidance to schools about the separation of pupils by characteristics such as sex, race or faith.

This has implications for PE and Sport, and single sex sports are permitted (section 195). There is reference to "gender-affected activity", an activity of a competitive nature where the physique of the average pupil would put them at a disadvantage in competition with the other gender. Schools should, however, still allow pupils equal opportunities to participate in comparable activities. Schools should consider the age and development of children in making a professional call about whether an activity is gender-affected.

IES Teachers' pay research

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned the Institute for Employment Studies (IES), an independent research charity, to collate and assess teachers', leaders' and governors' views on the teacher pay framework. IES are currently looking for 50 teachers to participate in this important research via telephone interviews at a time convenient to you. Your responses will be treated confidentially and anonymised at all times. The findings of the project, to be delivered to the DfE in September 2018, will help to inform any future proposed changes to optimise the existing teachers' pay framework. IES will be exploring views on how the pay framework, including features such as the main and upper pay ranges and Teaching and Learning Responsibility allowances
currently operates in your school. Descriptions on the various structures will be covered in the session.
Please contact karen.patient@employment-studies.co.uk or telephone 01273 763419 to speak to a researcher with any questions you may have and to arrange a convenient time for the telephone interview. Please click here for more details.
If you would like to contact DfE about this research please email Nicola Mackenzie at jobshare.MACKENZIE-PEACHEY@education.gov.uk.

Public Health England: guidance on looking after children during heatwaves

Guidance from Public Health England on looking after children in early years settings and schools during heatwaves can be found here.

Managing Asbestos in Schools

The ESFA Asbestos Management Assurance Process is now complete for Cambridgeshire County Council.

- 44% of schools responded to our request for data by returning the survey direct to the County.
- County utilised existing records to provide assurance on the remaining 56% of schools.
- All schools were subject to the assurance process which has now been fully completed.

The survey asked who had read the ESFA guidance document: Asbestos Management in Schools. The guidance is available for download here.

This document helps readers to understand their obligations and duties in relation to asbestos management in schools. It should be understood by school leaders, governors and staff.

It is important to be aware that your school buildings may contain asbestos if any part of them was built before 2000.

It is extremely important that any asbestos present in your school is managed properly via the County Councils Asbestos Coordinator. The Asbestos Coordinator can be contacted by emailing Property.Compliance@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Horizon scanning

Wednesday 4 July at 16.30: Ofsted `How we inspect the Early Years in Schools' webinar. More details here.

Ofsted: developments in education inspection. Deprivation, ethnicity and school inspection judgements.

`Association of School and College Leavers` year-long project on ethical leadership in education was launched at our Annual Conference in March, 2017. Since then, commission members have met to discuss and agree the parameters of the project. The Report of the Ethical Leadership Commission to ASCL Annual Conference 2018, including the Commission's draft Ethical Framework for Educational Leadership, was published in March 2018 and launched at Annual Conference. It is further proposed to publish an ethical framework for school leadership in December 2018.

#ThankaTeacher Day!

On #ThankaTeacher Day, three of Cambridgeshire's schools were celebrating after winning silver Pearson Teaching Awards.
Congratulations to James Horwood at Fourfields Primary School in Peterborough who won Teacher of the Year in a Primary School, Matt Woodfine from Hinchingbrooke School for winning the Outstanding Use of Technology in Education award.
and Cambourne Village College also won a silver award in the School of the Year in the Making a Difference category.
They will all join fellow Silver Award winners at the 20th UK Ceremony of the Pearson Teaching Awards on October 21 where they will find out which of them has won one of just 12 Gold Plato Awards, the UK's "Oscars for Teachers".
We also celebrated Thank a Teacher day by posting some videos of Cllr Simon Bywater, Service director for Education, Jon Lewis and Chief Executive Gillian Beasley on CCC social media, who talked about memories of their favourite teachers and why they inspired them.
You can watch the clip of Cllr Bywater here, Jon Lewis and Gillian Beasley here.

Training Courses, Events and Conferences

For a list of all current training courses provided by the Local Authority and Teaching schools click here.

National Award for SEN Co-ordination
Venue: Swavesey Village College. Year long statutory accredited M level course for SENCOs which meets all DfE learning outcomes. For more details, and to book, click title above.

SENCO Briefing - Education Health and Care Plans
Wednesday 11 July, 10.00 to 12.00 morning session (secondary schools and FE), 14.00 to 16.00 afternoon session (primary), Cambridgeshire Professional Development Centre (CPDC), Trumpington. £30 Academies.

Level 5/6 PE Specialism Award
We are currently recruiting for the next cohort of the afPE L5/6 Primary PE subject leadership certificate. These are DfE / OFQUAL recognised qualification to enable primary school teachers to improve and lead the Physical Education curriculum within their schools. It is acknowledged by OFSTED as an example of good use of the PE and Sport Premium funding.

National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership (NPQML)
- funding available. Cambridge Teaching Schools Network (CTSN), Starts October 2018, Comberton Village College, £850.

National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL)
- funding available. Cambridge Teaching Schools Network (CTSN), Starts October 2018, Swavesey Village College, £975.

Mental Health Issues and Solutions - Tuesday 11 September 2018, 14.00 to 16.00, St Peter's School, St Peter's Road, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 7DD. FREE EVENT.

Recently Qualified Teacher Conference - 'Work Smarter'
Thursday 1st November, at the Huntingdon Marriott Hotel. Keynote by Helena Marsh, Executive Principal Linton Village College. £50 for Teachincambs subscribers, £85 for non subscribers.

Teaching Assistant Conference 2019!
Thursday 25th April 2019 at the Huntingdon Marriott Hotel. £70 per head.

Tell us what you think of this Newsletter or if you know of a colleague who would like to receive it, please share this email address: schools.news@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
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