



SPRINGWELL SKY

Where learning matters for everyone



THE HEADLINE

Issue 26 – December 2020

Dear Parents and carers

As we reach the end of 2020, we reflect back on a term full of successes but continued challenges. Despite bubble closures, restrictions on movement and social distancing, our pupils continue to enjoy a meaningful educational experience delivered by people they know and trust. For many of our pupils, education during the pandemic has not been easy; online learning and the break in routine and structure has been a test of their resilience and spirit. We are so proud of the way the pupils have responded, the courage they have shown and the incredible attendance that continues to be on show across our Learning Community.

Not only is the work of our pupil's worthy of a mention, so too is the work of our staff. The flexibility, care and dedication shown this term has been a pleasure to witness. They continue to go the extra mile and to say that many staff have had to work outside of their usual comfort zone would be an understatement.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the pupils and staff for making our annual Kindness Week the success that it always is. Whether it was by donating toys to children less fortunate at Christmas, fundraising for Barnsley Hospital or by witnessing the small acts of kindness when walking around school, the generosity that Kindness Week brings never fails to inspire me and fill me with pride.

As always, but even more so during this difficult time, we would like to thank you for your continued support. The individual and personal messages you have sent to staff over the last few weeks have been very much appreciated.

It is with regret and sadness that we have been unable to end the term with our usual festive fun, in the form of Christmas concerts and Family Learning Days, however we intend to hold a virtual parent consultation evening on Thursday 7th January. This will provide an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and meet the staff. A member of your child's class team will be in touch with further details and to set up an appointment.

As you may know, schools are on-call to support Test and Trace during the holidays. For this reason, if your child experiences Covid symptoms within 48 hours of leaving school on Friday 18th December and subsequently has a positive test result, we'd be grateful if you could call or text **07710167934**, leaving a message with the following information:

- Name of child
- Class group
- Date of symptoms
- Date of positive test

Pupils return to school on Monday 4th January for what promises to be another action-packed year of learning and hopefully, over time, a programme of tests and vaccinations. On return, we will have an updated risk assessment that notes all contacts of positive COVID cases only need to self-isolate for 10 days (not 14 days).

On behalf of all of the staff and Governors at Springwell, we would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Danny Ross
Head of School

Key dates for the diary – Spring Term 2021

Academies open for Spring Term: **Monday 4th January**
 Remote Parent Consultation: **Thursday 7th Jan (15:30-17:30)**
 TRUST INSET Day – Academies closed to pupils: **Friday 12th February**
 Academies close for half term: **Thursday 11th February**
 Both academies re-open: **Monday 22nd February**
 Academies close for Easter: **Friday 26th March**
 Academies open for Summer Term: **Monday 12th April**



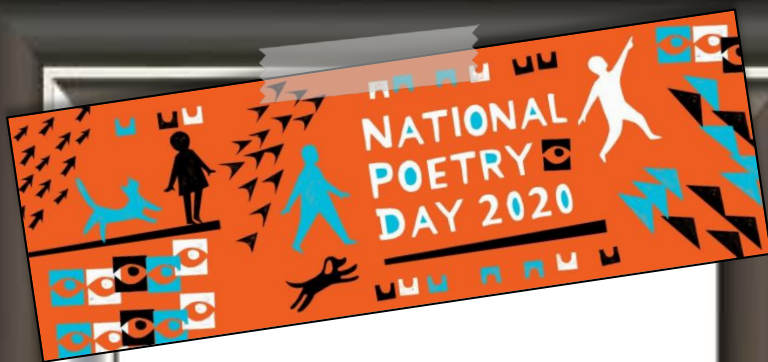
01226 291133

springwell@springwellacademies.co.uk

@springwellLC



Taking the curriculum outdoors can have a considerably beneficial impact on the learning and development of our pupils. The pupils have had lots of fun in outdoor learning this term enhancing their problem solving skills as well as developing their communication and resilience. Outdoor learning provides our pupils with endless opportunities for exploration, experimentation and contextual learning.



We celebrated another fantastic National Poetry Day on the 1st of October by welcoming local spoken word artist, Dominic Heslop, aka 'The 1 Devotion' into school. Dominic delivered workshops and listened to some of the fantastic poetry written by our pupils. It was an inspirational day, the work produced was amazing and Dom was left with a difficult decision when trying to select a winner from the school poetry competition. Rather him than me and well done to all!



THE POWER
OF THE
SPOKEN
WORD

GREEK MYTHOLOGY IN PRIMARY



This half term, Springwell at Forest have been learning about the features of a myth, and focusing on Greek mythology. We learned how Perseus went on a quest for the head of a monster called Medusa. He needed it in order to save his mother from King Polydectes. At first we thought Perseus was a hero because he killed the monster Medusa. But as we researched more about Medusa, we learnt that the Goddess Athena had turned her into a hideous gorgon all because she was jealous of her beauty... How unfair! Our favourite lesson by far was when we chose a scene from the myth of Perseus and Medusa to act out. We took on the roles of different characters, from the evil King Acrisius, to the unlucky Danae. Next, we will be writing our very own myths, so keep an eye on the blog to be engrossed in Springwell Mythology.



Stay Safe this Christmas...online



STAY SAFE WITH TECH THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time of year when many young people turn to technology. It could be because they've been given a console, phone, tablet, laptop or other online tech device or it could be because they're bored or the weather is inclement, they might turn to these devices to play, communicate, collaborate and have fun. With there being a higher chance of young people using technology and being online, so the associated risks with that activity can be heightened too. The advice on this page can help you stay safe.

In these uncertain times, we would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents, carers and pupils of the importance of staying safe online. The school website contains a link to the CEOP website that advises ways of ensuring that online safety is maintained and also ways to report any suspicious or harmful online activity or contact.

CEOP stands for Child Exploitation and Online Protection. It is a law enforcement agency that helps to keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse and grooming online. They help thousands of children and young people every year who have been in uncomfortable situations online.

The **Thinkuknow** website is another great source of information for helping young people stay safe online.



STAY SAFE WITH TECH THIS CHRISTMAS!

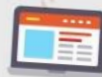
IPADS



Be careful what you download
Play games appropriate for your age
Ask to set up agreed parental controls with you to help



LAPTOPS



Make sure to take care with what information you share!
Be careful about online games - are they appropriate?
Make sure you know who you are talking with



CONSOLES



Take close care who you play with online!
Try to play games that are suitable for your age.
Make sure to take it in turns playing games with others

SOCIAL MEDIA



Use social media appropriate to your age
Use a safe profile picture
If you are pressured into sharing something you aren't comfortable with ask an adult

PHONES



Ask permission before taking a photo or video
Do not show off your phone in public
Make sure you keep enough credit to make calls

FAKE news



Don't believe everything you read online, including email
If unsure, ask a trusted friend or adult
Don't share stories that aren't true

Kindness Week 2020

This year has been a very different year not without its fair share of difficulties for many families. For Kindness Week 2020, our pupils wanted to focus on helping families who may be less fortunate provide a good Christmas for their children. All classes collected toys and they were all donated to the Westfield Resource Centre in South Elmsall, where members of the Just Homes Care boxed and prepared all the toys to be distributed to families struggling this Christmas. Jan, the manager, was very touched by our generosity and send a message of thanks.

We would like to thank all members of the school community for their generosity and for making our Kindness Week another great success.



FUNDRAISING IN YEAR 7

Here at Springwell Special Academy, the pupils and teaching staff in Year 7 have been completing a daily mile to raise money for Barnsley Hospital Charity during the second lockdown period. Starting on November 9th the pupils have been walking, running and jogging a mile every day, regardless of the weather. Barnsley Hospital Charity will use the money raised by Year 7 to buy technology, which will enable patients to video call their friends and family while visitation is suspended. The fundraising has been a great success and we are extremely proud of Year 7 for all their dedication and hard work.



509%
£510 raised of £100 target by 54 supporters

Give Now
Share

Barnsley Hospital Charity
We support patients at barnsley hospital to enhance patient care and experiences.

Charity Registration No. 1058037

Mr Fallis
Springwell Class 7's Daily Mile

We are completing the daily mile challenge for Barnsley Hospital Charity because we want patients to be able to make video calls

WHY WE READ EVERY DAY AT SPRINGWELL...

- 1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.**
After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.
- 2. Reading exercises our brain.**
Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching TV, for example. Reading strengthens brains connections and builds NEW connections.
- 3. Reading improves concentration.**
Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.
- 4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.**
Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.
- 5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.**
Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.
- 6. Reading develops a child's imagination.**
As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story, we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.
- 7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.**
As children develop, they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.
- 8. Reading is a fun.**
A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it anywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.
- 9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.**
Reading together on the sofa, bedtimes stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.
- 10. Children who read achieve better in school.**
Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

Book Club Interview – Mrs Hazell

What is your favourite book and why?

Harry Potter series, I love the element of Magic and adventure. It echo's history in lots of ways such with hints of WW2 (Voldemort as Hitler), Slavery (House elf's s seen as sub- human despite them having powerful magic).

What inspired you to read the book?

I spent a long time not wanting to read them as didn't want to follow the 'trend', however once I read one book I couldn't stop!

What is your favourite character and why?

My favourite character is hard to single out. Randomly the phoenix, although not seen as a main character is really integral to the narrative and although he's not my favourite, I do like how he weaves in and out of the story. But if pressed I would chose, Luna she is odd, quirky but also very kind and caring. She stands out as being different and embraces this.

What is your favourite quote?

We've all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on. That's who we really are.

What is your favourite genre?

I enjoy novels that are set in the 60's and 70's, but also love Crime novels.

What is your least favourite character and why?

My least favourite Character is Barty Crouch senior, he portrays himself as being opposed to the dark arts and in turn Voldemort and his follows. However, his behaviour and the way he treats others gives an insight into a very controlling, self-obsessed man who is just as bad as the dark lord

The more that you read.
the more things that you'll know.
The more that you learn.
the more places you'll go.
-Dr. Seuss

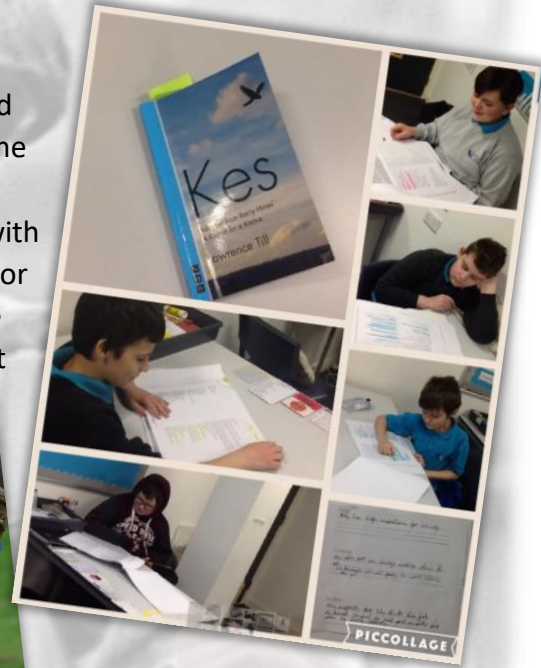


Harry Potter



ENGLISH IN KS3

This half term Year 7 have been reading the playscript, Kes. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed reading and acting out the script and have produced some fantastic writing as a result, including a diary entry written from the point of view of Billy after the loss of Kes. As part of the topic we compared elements of the playscript with the film. Combining English with ICT we decided to write an email to David (Dai) Bradley, David is the actor who plays Billy Casper in the film and we had a number of questions we wondered if he would be willing to answer. David replied to our request and suggested trying to arrange a visit to school once COVID clears - he also wished us a merry Christmas and sent us this photo of his character Billy holding the kestrel. We look forward to making this happen in 2021.



Duke of Edinburgh

The launch of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh programme has been very successful and the students have learnt new skills and accessed new opportunities. Students have been busy, creating a sensory garden at the allotment, learning how to map read using different technology, going on adventure bike rides, geocaching, engaging in team building games and learning new skills by repairing and building bikes.

The social cooperation they have shown is outstanding. Always willing to support each other with bike maintenance, locating coordinates and map reading, all done with huge smiles on our faces.



DE

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



GEOCACHING AT KENDRAY

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. The pupils navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. It has been great fun and the pupils have shown real problem solving skills, patience and team work.



SOUTH YORKSHIRE VIOLENCE PREVENTION UNIT

We continue to build on the work we did with South Yorkshire Violence Prevention Unit and have put the bikes they funded to good use - expanding our Outdoor Education programme. Enabling our young people to broaden the curriculum they access and give them invaluable time to build positive relationships with peers and staff.



These are some of our top tweets from the last term.

If you have not already done so, please follow us to keep up to date with everything that is happening at Springwell.

@springwellLC

Springwell @springwellLC · 5d
So proud of our amazing pupils. Well done Year 7 and well done @dsfalls 🍌🍌🍌❤️

Barnsley Hospital @barns... · 6d
Amazing work Class 7! I'm sure we know a few people who can help get you past £500!

You Retweeted
Dan Morris @Dan_Morris91 · 19/11/2020
Some very creative artwork produced this afternoon 🍌

Springwell @springwellLC · 17/09/2020
Hard work, cooperation, effort and loads of smiles on show at Springwell this afternoon! Just how we like it! ❤️ #ProudThursday

You Retweeted
Danny Ross @DannyRos... · 23/10/2020
The staff and pupils @springwellLC have been incredible this half term. Massive thanks for the dedication, resilience and team work. Have a well earned break next week. Stay safe and relax!

You Retweeted
abigail maw @MawAbigail · 19/11/2020
We've been getting active at Springwell Horizon this week with a bit of walking and a HITT cardio lesson ... healthy body healthy mind ❤️

Springwell @springwellLC · 02/09/2020
Seeing all the smiles today on our brilliant pupils has been a privilege! Massive well done to all the staff for producing such welcoming, creative and inspiring learning environments! 🍌❤️

Danny Ross and 2 others

The1Devotion @The1Dev... · 01/10/2020
They All Inspire ME , What A Class !! Thank you @springwellLC @Dan_Morris91

Dan Morris @Dan... · 01/10/2020
Once again an absolute pleasure to have @The1Devoted in our classroom for #NationalPoetryDay. The kids loved performing and this message one pupil left him says it all...

Springwell @springwellLC · 01/10/2020
Loved walking into KS3 today to be greeted by our Year 7s enjoying a good book! #readingforpleasure #bookworms 🍌📖

SpringwellBarnsleyPrim... · 28/09/2020
When children feel confident in their learning and they are happy to take on the teacher role and set challenges for the class #confidentlearners

You Retweeted
Kerry ann Beet @psmbar... · 06/10/2020
What's not to love ❤️ Good morning everyone 🌟 @springwellLC @WellspringAT

You Retweeted
abigail maw @MawAbigail · 06/11/2020
Some fantastic art work produced at Springwell Horizon yesterday to commemorate the bravery of all the soldiers who have fought in wars ❤️ @springwellLC



Magic moments from around our Learning Community

Snow

In Primary 1, we have been learning about snow and have been using different techniques to develop our art skills. We have also been exploring adjectives to describe winter scenes in more interesting ways. We also learnt about different adaptations of the animals that live in this climate and used this knowledge to create our own animals that were equipped to inhabit these conditions.



SPRINGWELL@DARTON

It has been a strange time to be in education for the students at Darton AA. We have had to follow strict procedures to ensure that everything is COVID safe. The staff have been amazed by level of respect and adaptability that the students have shown to adhere to these new rules. This has allowed the students to prepare well for their qualifications and show the resilience needed to succeed. Attendance at Darton is currently averaging at 86% and rapidly increasing which shows the level of commitment. Staff are immensely proud of the students, well done

BTEC HOME COOKING AWARD

The Year 10 team have very much enjoyed cooking with the students this year. The class have been learning all about food hygiene and how to work safely in the kitchen. The budding chefs of KS4 have also developed practical skills such as chopping, boiling, and frying. The class have created several delicious dishes including a hearty, wholesome roast chicken dinner, handmade beef burgers and an all-day English breakfast.



Yum!



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY



Design Technology

KS2

Our KS2 pupils have been working really hard producing some excellent work based around our Caring and Weather topics. Students have produced their own Nesting Boxes, Kites and constructed their own Model Windmills.

The pupils have been getting to grips with using new tools and techniques and have produced some excellent work!



Special Provision Partnership

Design Technology

KS3

Our pupils have been working really hard producing some excellent Castle design work using Computer Aided Design.

Pupils have also designed and produced some excellent Hero themed Clocks

Class 8 have been busy making their own Walking Sticks using timber sourced from the school grounds.



Special Provision Partnership

THANK YOU

We didn't let COVID get in the way of our socially distanced coffee morning. Thank you to everyone who made a cake. We raised a fantastic £120 on the 25th September for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. A big well done and thank you



'LAUGHING.
YUMMY CUPCAKES.
GETTING TOGETHER...
AND HELPING FAMILIES
AFFECTED BY CANCER.'



WE'RE MAKING THE WORLD BETTER WITH A SWEATER

On Friday 11th December we all donned our daftest, most wonderful woollies to help raise funds for Save the Children.

It was a great day with plenty of smiles and we managed to raise £48.



children in Need

This year we again supported Children in Need by participating in a 'Pudsey Pyjama Party' fundraising event. We raised a massive £82! So well done and thank you to all who got involved, we can definitely make a difference.

ATTEND TODAY

ACHIEVE TOMORROW

Aim for 100% attendance for a better future

There are 190 days in a school year which leaves 175 days to spend on family time, shopping, appointments and other things.



Give your child a better future - aim for 100% school attendance

Springwell Learning Community
Springwell Special Academy Springwell Alternative Academy



Our attendance continues to be excellent, significantly above the national average and this makes us very proud. Keep up the great work.

Give your child a better future - aim for 100% school attendance.

TESCO

A BIG THANK YOU

Springwell have been overwhelmed by the support that the community continues to offer.

We would like to thank Tesco, Morrisons and Gemma at OSI for all their generous donations during this difficult time.



Merry CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY New Year