

**Springmead Newsletter**  
Newsletter 14 in 2011-12



Preparatory & Nursery  
27th January 2012

**Dear Parents and Children,**

Please keep an eye out for the weekly newsletter, keeping you up to date with current issues; please look out for them every Friday and read them alongside your Calendar of Events, as some dates unavoidably change! Newsletters are also available on the school website [www.springmead.com](http://www.springmead.com).

**Art Workshop**

As we went to print today the children were all enjoying their art workshop sessions. We look forward to showing you their finished work in due course.

**Instrumental Concert, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2:00pm, at the Village Hall**

Again this year we are inviting all parents to our annual instrumental concert, on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2:00pm in the Village Hall. All children from Year 2 to 6 will be performing, either singing or playing instruments. For many of our children this will be the first opportunity they have to play their instruments to an audience, so this event is essentially relaxed and informal!

For parents whose children do not yet play an instrument, this is a good time to come and see what our youngsters are achieving through individual music lessons and lots of practice at home. After the concert we send out a letter to parents of children going into Year 3 in September, and older children, asking parents and pupils to decide if they want to take up playing an instrument in September. This includes singing lessons. We hope you will be able to join us and ask that you return the reply slip by Friday 3rd February so we can issue tickets.

Children in Years 2 to 6 will be able to go home with parents straight after the concert; clubs will run as usual. Younger children will be at school in the afternoon.

**Holiday Club**

Please find attached a flyer for our Holiday Club for the half term break. The activities that Sally Cox and the team have planned are varied and exciting. If you would like to book any days please contact Karen Grist or if you have any feedback please pass it on to us.

**Social Committee Quiz night**

This event will take place at The Mill at Rode on the Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 8:00pm. Look out for the flyer next week.

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## ***Go Explore!***

### ***Year 2 & 3***

The weather forecast did not bode well nor did the lashing rain as we gathered in the playground before school began. However, being very British, we decided to plough on anyway as we had exploring clothes at the ready. Off we set, clip boards poised and pencils prepared for our Welly Wander storyboard. Each surface we encountered on the journey to the wildlife area was recorded on our paper, which was steadily turning into papier-mache, and included tarmac, gravel and boggy areas. We also had a picture list of things to spot on the way. We saw buds, heard birds and people, spotted fungus, nests and moss. One of the most exciting things we saw were the few, dangling catkins telling us about the imminent arrival of spring!

Once we were established at base camp the task was set to build twig towers, in pairs, the highest one to win. Round One revealed the trickiness of the challenge with several pairs constructing tepees rather than towers. However, Round Two proved to be very exciting as the Official Measuring Stick was used to find that Amelia Grist and Elinor Perkins were the winning team.

It was a super; slippery and soggy morning and we had an inspirational, investigative visit to the wildlife area, which has become so much a part of the Springmead experience.

### ***Year 6 Bushcraft session***

The children were totally engaged in the tracking activities, they made use of the whole of the wildlife area and had to use all of their 'learning skills' throughout the afternoon. To read more about learning skills please see the focus article.

*A note from Mark Hotson following a thank you from Year 6 to him. "So glad you are all enjoying it. I look back on my very charmed life and this was one element that was missing from earlier days. Not so much participating in the outdoors, but understanding it. I honestly feel it is more than relevant it is essential- these are not lessons to be forgotten but skills which will last a lifetime. I wish everyone could understand the value of them...learning to learn at its very best".*

## **Parking**

We have had a couple of complaints from local neighbours saying parents are blocking drives with their cars and that some parents are using Castle Corner to park in, even mounting pavements with cars. Please help us to maintain good relations locally by abiding by the School transport plan you have been provided with (which forms part of our planning conditions). If you have any concerns at all please speak to Karen Grist.

## **Sports News**

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January Yr 3 & 4 Netball v Hemington**

Monday afternoon saw Year 3 & 4 netballers from Hemington and Springmead come together for a joint training session. The children spent time working on the key elements of netball: passing, shooting and movement skills. The children then mixed together to form two teams to play a training game. Despite the lack of games playing experience the children produced some fantastic netball with accurate passing, good movement and great defending. Both sets of children had a great time thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January Yr 5 & 6 Netball v North Bradley**

The Year 5 & 6 netball team had their first fixture of the term on Thursday afternoon. Having lost 6 members of last year's successful team it was an almost completely new team that made the trip to North Bradley. Playing High5 netball as opposed to the more traditional 7-a-side form of the game and soon took a lead that they would not relinquish.

Thomas Hastings was in fine form scoring four goals, Mia Quick scored three and Martha Atkinson one. Strong defending from Christian de Jaeger, Fraser Humphrey and Mia Ralph managed to keep North Bradley to only three goals and allowed Springmead to celebrate a comfortable win.

### **Future Fixtures**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Netball v Beckington - home

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Football v North Bradley - home

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January - Mendip Junior Cross Country League at Millfield Prep, Glastonbury.

### **Swimming News**

Well done for the following achievements in the pool:

10 metre Rainbow Award: Jessica Metcalfe, Harriette Puddy-Jones

School Speed Award – Front crawl Bronze: James Halls, Charlie Herd, Louis Mansfield

School Speed Award – Front crawl Silver: Christian de Jaeger

School Speed Award – Front crawl Gold: Mia Quick

School Speed Award - Breastroke Bronze: Jack Buchan

School Speed Award – Backstroke Bronze: Luca Morgan

School Speed Award – Butterfly Gold: Fraser Humphrey

### **Reminder: Family Swim, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 5.30-6.30, Frome Pool**

This is a completely free activity for the whole family. Springmead School pays for the hire of both pools, allowing families to enjoy time with friends in the pool. We also set up a couple of lanes to allow children to do distance badges. Please bear in mind that if children are attempting 64 lengths, 1 mile, they will need the whole hour so arrive promptly.

### **Out of school achievements**

Fraser Humphrey and Tom Taylor both enjoyed success at the Corsham Open Meet swimming gala last weekend. Tom gained medals in both his races: a gold in his 200-metre breaststroke race and silver in his 50-metre butterfly. Fraser gained 4 gold's and 2 silvers and achieved a regional time in the 200m butterfly; this is a really high standard! Both boys will be competing in the Wiltshire County Galas in March across all four swimming strokes.

Please don't forget to share your child's out of school successes with us so we can share the good news! Please email details to: [mtaylor@springmead.com](mailto:mtaylor@springmead.com)

#### **The virtue of the week is faithfulness**

Your child was introduced to this virtue on Wednesday in our assemblies. As always, it would be helpful if you could recap and extend their learning and understanding over the coming weeks!

#### **The winning house this week is Winter**

House points are awarded to our pupils for lots of reasons including: good behaviour, kindness, good work and effort. These are totalled each week and the results are shared with the children.

<b>Stars of this week are:</b>	
The following children received praise certificates in assembly this week	
Nursery	Charlie Milsom ~ working hard to learn sounds with 'Fred' the frog Lois Lechanoine ~ working hard at joining in during class discussions Isabel Coleman ~ being so sensible and doing the 'right thing' Tilly Haines ~ talking and contributing so well in class discussions
Reception	Jack Curtis ~ writing a fantastic winter poem and having fantastic creative ideas Phoebe Kirkwood ~ working really hard in all activities and always trying her best. Super star!
Year 1	Jonny Cox ~ focus and hard work with his writing and number work Lily Hastings-McMahon ~ being able to do what is asked for and for fabulous listening
Year 2	Amelia Nicholson ~ being super helpful around the classroom Beau Morgan ~ helping others in the class when stuck on some maths problems
Year 3	Annabelle Cox ~ fantastic concentration and working hard on her handwriting Zak Rosenfeld ~ brilliant sequence of events from our story James Howson ~ excellent maths work on addition
Year 4	Eddie Donson ~ very careful observational drawing of an artefact Agnes Arnold ~ pushing herself with harder maths problems Charlie Herd ~ a careful map of Egypt
Year 5	Eva Perkins ~ demonstrating a good understanding of multiplying and dividing skills Tilly Arnold ~ great co-operation skills when working with others Angus Walsby ~ a lovely fantasy landscape
Year 6	Frances Arnold ~ demonstrating that she can 'think out of the box'! Jack Buchan ~ proving to be an excellent team player

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**Madeleine Taylor**

**Principal**

### **Focus on learning skills**

Did you know that in the next 8 seconds, 34 babies will be born...what will the world be like for them?

Today, we live in a fast changing technological world and the world as we know it will not be the same world for long. We are currently preparing children for jobs and technologies that don't yet exist and to solve problems that we don't even know are problems. We are living in exceptional times. So what does this mean for our children and how are we at Springmead preparing them for a working world that doesn't yet exist?

At Springmead we believe in making the children effective learners. We believe that education is not necessarily about filling their heads with facts and figures, although they do have their place, but about giving them the tools to become effective, resourceful, lifelong learners and ones that can survive in a fast paced and ever changing world. We aim to make children become better learners. We design and use activities that deliberately stretch and exercise the full range of learning abilities of the mind. It is vital that we build resilience in life for example managing distractions. We need to be resourceful in life by learning to make links, learning to question and reason. It is important that we are reflective in ourselves and learn how to plan and revise etc. It is vital that we are reciprocal and learn empathy, learn to collaborate and listen etc.

All of these skills need to be learnt and practised and our school curriculum encompasses just this. Take for example 'Go Explore!' It gives our children knowledge that can enable them to experience nature in a more indigenous way: a way that demands them to open their eyes and other senses, and pay the closest attention to the world around them. It is designed to give the children a new way of learning and a chance to learn in nature's classroom. The children learn to work collaboratively, to make connections with their learning. The abilities they are learning are transferable abilities and are ones that develop them into lifelong learners. The skills the children will learn will liberate, empower and encourage the children to be practical and resourceful learners.

Thinking is how children make sense of learning; therefore developing the way children think will help them get more out of learning and out of life. Teaching children different ways of thinking is of great importance, if you can think your way around a difficulty or problem that you are faced with then you will advance much further in life than someone who can only think of the one answer. If you can teach children to be good problem solvers rather than just mere fact machines; they will be able to live and work in our fast changing world and cope with the developments that *will* occur in their life which we cannot possibly teach them about because they do not exist. Albert Einstein once said 'we cannot solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.' Education and learning has changed because it has had to. Our children will have to live in a fast changing world and therefore education now needs to provide children with the tools and key skills to cope with a lifetime of learning.

*'Education is not so much the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.'*  
William Butler Yeats

**Charlotte Heald**

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**Reply Slip, please return slip by Friday 3rd February**

<b>Instrumental concert, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February at 2:00pm, at the Village Hall</b>
Pupil's name
Parent's name/s
Number of adult tickets required