

Springmead Newsletter
Newsletter 8 in 2011-12



Preparatory & Nursery

24th November 2011

Dear Parents and Children,

Life for all of us is very busy, the sign of a thriving school community. Could we please ask you to read the newsletter carefully as there are items that need attention over the next few days. The weekly newsletters keep 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. **This week's newsletter is coming out a day early to remind parents about tomorrow's Showcase!**

Springmead Showcase

We look forward to sharing the news of tomorrow's night's showcase with you on next week's newsletter! Performers need to arrive by 6:00pm; the show will start at 7:00pm. Please leave plenty of time for parking.

Putting the Springmead motto into practice!



With my husband, Nigel, on a seven month tour of Afghanistan, serving as a Royal Navy Chaplain with 42 Commando Royal Marines, I had the opportunity to join the Military Wives' Choir in my home town of Plymouth, led by Gareth Malone and filmed to be aired on BBC2 over the last three weeks. I had never seen Gareth on TV but was soon captured by his inspirational leadership - he knew every one of the fifty member choir by name and soon whipped us into shape, very quickly recognising the potential of individual voices.

Springmead School
Castle Corner
Beckington
Somerset
BA11 6TA



t: 01373 831555
e: info@springmead.com
www.springmead.com

Although we only had a one rehearsal a week we soon built a substantial repertoire, and have performed at two venues in Plymouth as well as at Sandhurst, and finally at the Royal Albert Hall for the Festival of Remembrance, with a newly written song. This piece, *Wherever you are*, was composed for us by Paul Mealor and we were able to submit our own words for him to work with.

Last Saturday we recorded the song at studios in Hampstead and now have the added thrill of being able to hear the combined voices of the Chivenor and Plymouth choirs on the radio! All the proceeds from the sales of the record will go to the Royal British Legion and SSAFA, a forces charity helping forces families.

During the last few months I have met lots of interesting characters from all walks of life; made some super friends; have been truly fascinated by how a TV programme is made (did you know that about 100 hours of footage is recorded to produce an hour long programme?); and am now learning a little bit about the build up that is involved in releasing a record (I have been sworn to secrecy for a couple of weeks but dying to let the cat out of the bag!). I have been in many choirs over the years but feel very privileged to have been involved in this particular one; I am very grateful that I plucked up the courage to 'Seize the Day'.

Jacqueline Beardsley

Candlelit Carol Service for Year 3 - Year 6, 7:00pm on Monday 12th December

As is our tradition we are having our candlelit carol service at St George's Church, Beckington, led by our prep department. As usual we will be joined by former pupils of Springmead and by the Beckington Choir. Younger children are welcome to come along to the service and sit with their parents but please be aware that this will be a traditional service of carols and lessons that will suit our older children and adults. Out of consideration for our young performers we would ask adults bringing toddlers and babies to stay at the back of the church in order to be able to take them outside promptly should they become restless during the service.

All children in Years 3-6 need to be seated in their place in church by 6:50pm. Children need to be in full school uniform with fleeces. Please do not arrive before 6:40pm as the church will not be set up and we do not want the children to have to sit and wait quietly for too long!

Due to the lack of parking near the church on Church Hill and Church Street, please park in the usual area on the Frome Road and walk to the church. You may need to allow extra time to do this!

Whilst we would hope that all children will be involved, if any child, in Year 3-6, is unable to attend for unavoidable reasons, can you please let us know by Monday 28th November as we are allocating roles on that day!

Christmas Production for Nursery - Year 2

Tuesday 13th December, at 10:00am and Wednesday 14th December at 10:00am

As you already know our lower school children are busy rehearsing their Christmas production, *The Christmas Recipe*. We will shortly be issuing tickets for the event. To cover the costs of the costumes and sound equipment we will be charging £4.00 per ticket, which will be added to next term's invoice. Again this year we are going to use St George's Church for the event and we have also decided to put on two performances and limit the tickets so that the audience can all see the young performers. Parents may only be able to come to one performance, depending on the demand for the tickets.

Out of consideration for our young performers we would ask adults bringing toddlers and babies to stay at the back of the church in order to be able to take them outside promptly should they become restless during the service.

Tickets will be issued to parents of the children involved in the first instance and then to other parents, friends and family, 'out of a hat', depending on the number left. To avoid disappointment, please could we ask you to complete the slip on the back page of the newsletter, indicating the number of parents wishing to attend, along with the number of additional tickets, and **return to Class Teachers by Friday 2nd December**. We will then let you know how many tickets you have been allocated.

Tickets will need to be produced on entry, therefore, please ensure that you bring your tickets with you.

Storytelling Evening

I've heard lots of lovely feedback. Thank you very much to everyone involved for making it such a great evening. The Hall looked amazing, the storyteller was really thrilling, the children enjoyed their hot chocolate and biscuits, and they loved their chocolate coins at the end. Well done everyone!

The Storytelling was our last event for 2011 as we have moved the pub quiz to next year. So I'd just like to round the year off by saying how much I enjoyed being part of the Committee. We've organised some really great events this year and I'm looking forward to our busy calendar in 2012.

We have our next meeting in the diary for 7:00pm on Tuesday, 17th January, in the mean time have a great Christmas.

Helen Messenger

Social Committee Chair, Autumn Term

Reminder: Please bring in your Christmas Gifts for the Gift Shop, Wednesday 7th December

Please place your donations, in the box labelled "Christmas Gift Shop", in the library. Offers for help on the day would be greatly appreciated.

Book Fair

Thank you to the adults involved in making this event happen and for the support. It is lovely to see our children so passionate about books. From the sales we earn commission in books, this helps to keep our library replenished with exciting, current book!

Questionnaires

Thank you so much for taking the time to fill in the questionnaires and for the overwhelmingly positive feedback. Be assured that your comments are given serious consideration and, wherever possible, you will see suggestions taken on board over forthcoming months.

Gentle Reminder

We regularly use the wildlife area in all weathers and would be grateful if appropriate clothing could be available in school i.e. waterproof coats, trousers, thermal underwear, hats, gloves, Wellington boots and fleeces. It spoils children's enjoyment of the activities if they are cold and wet.

Go Explore

Year 3 Go Explore

On Tuesday morning the badgers went to the wildlife area and discussed hibernation. They thought about why animals hibernate and the qualities that make a good shelter for them. The children worked in groups to create their own animal shelters, as well as having time to explore the area and splashing in the stream.

Year 6 Bushcraft, shelter building

On a crisp autumn afternoon the intrepid Yr 6 bushcrafters set off to their outdoor classroom where they had a science and design technology session on shelter building. If anyone was wondering why our Year 6 children were in school with action men and Barbie dolls this week they were building homes for them! Life size shelters will follow shortly. It is wonderful to see how much our children are getting out of these sessions! Thank you to the Hotsons.

Go Explore, Foundation Stage

Right at the other end of the school I was privileged to watch our youngest children totally engaging in their outdoor learning environment earlier this week. The youngsters were using the children's garden to find resources and create outdoor pictures. The object of the lesson was to work together; the sharing, enthusiasm and energy displayed by all was tangible.

Year 5 trip to the Egg theatre

The Owls had the opportunity to visit The Egg Theatre on Monday afternoon. John Johnston had invited us to watch St Julian's C of E Primary Schools performance of 'Goodnight Children Everywhere'. It was a fantastic chance to watch children of a similar age perform in a lovely venue.

Year 5 trip to London

The Year 5 children had an early start on Wednesday as they had to be at school for 6:25am to board the coach for their trip to London. Despite the early start all the children were looking bright eyed and raring to go. After an eventful journey we were dropped in the centre of London and spent the morning on a walking tour, guided by Mrs Beardsley, to see Trafalgar Square, The Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and the London Eye. Our final destination on the walking tour was The Imperial War Museum for our 'Blitz Experience' and to explore the exhibits. The children enjoyed exploring the museum for a couple of hours before it was back on the coach for the homeward journey and an arrival back at school by 6:45pm with all the children still excited and chatting but not quite so bright eyed! Despite the long day it was once again a fantastic trip!

Sports news

Monday 21st November, Yr 3 & 4 Hockey v Beckington

On Monday afternoon the Year 3 & 4 Hockey team had a fixture against Beckington. Having been beaten by 3 goals in their previous meeting Springmead knew they were in for a tough match. From the off Beckington started putting pressure on the Springmead goal. Solid defending kept the scores level for most of the first half but eventually Beckington took the lead. Springmead grew in confidence in the second half and scored an equaliser through good teamwork and determination. With both teams playing well it looked likely to end as a draw but a swift counter attack won the game for Beckington. This was a much-improved performance from Springmead and each player can be proud of their efforts.

Future Fixtures

Thursday 1st December, Yr 4,5,6, Football v North Bradley - home

Swimming News

The newsletter went to print whilst the children were at swimming this week so that we could get it into book bags on Thursday due to the Showcase tomorrow. Any swimming news will be on next week's newsletter.

As always, if you would like to speak to a member of the swimming team, please feel free to call Sarah Paton at school between 9:00am and 10:00am every Thursday, alternatively you can email her on sarahpaton@ymail.com.

Out of school achievements

Frances Fox started a course, hoping to be awarded Stage 3 of the Royal Yachting Association RYA Youth Sailing Scheme. Not only did the instructors award her Stage 3 but also Stage 4! On the final day, Frances chose to enter a race sailing single-handed and she won the race - beating adults and two man crews in the same type of boat. Well done, Frances!

Zakarie Rosenfeld was lucky enough to win a competition to walk out onto the pitch with the England team when they played against Sweden last week at Wembley Stadium. What an amazing experience!

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

The virtue of the week is detachment

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

The winning house this week is Summer

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.

Stars of the week, this week	
The following children received praise certificates in assembly this week	
Nursery	Leo Hopkins ~ enthusiasm for our recycling topic and pointing out recyclable materials on our walk Tilly Haines ~ being so sensible when out for our walks Charlie Milsom ~ brilliant tidying and helping others to tidy up Gabriel Ings ~ excellent kite building and flying skills
Reception	Daniel Hopkins ~ super speaking and listening skills in Divali Primrose Boyden ~ making a wonderful Diva lamp
Year 1	Jessica Metcalfe ~ fantastic independent writing Harriette Puddy-Jones ~ super independent writing
Year 2	Jemima Shakespeare ~ being a superstar at writing and trying really hard with reading Beau Morgan ~ trying really hard with reading
Year 3	James Howson ~ fantastic co-operation during our <i>Go Explore</i> session to make a shelter for a hibernating animal Ethan Collingwood ~ fantastic cop-operation during our <i>Go Explore</i> session to make a shelter for a hibernating animal Taylor Milsom ~ working hard in maths on fractions
Year 4	Charlie Shakespeare ~ super detailed work on a map of London in Tudor Times Sam Johnston ~ super detailed work on a map of London in Tudor Times Irene Dennison-Pender ~ super concentration and work on her map of London in Tudor Times
Year 5	Lydia Collingwood – Her sensible and mature attitude to all that she does. Campbell Goff – His enthusiasm and eagerness towards our WWII theme. Charlie Herd – Demonstrating a good awareness of other people on our trip to London.
Year 6	Amelia Knatchbull ~ lovely creative writing Fraser Humphrey ~ brilliant team work in group activities Mia Quick ~ fantastic concentration in maths

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

Yours faithfully,

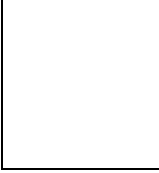
Madeleine Taylor
Principal

Focus on the showcase:

Sharing your talent

Having a go 

Overcoming nerves

Wow! 

Creativity and confidence

Aiming high

Social interaction

Excitement 

Good luck to all the performers in our first Springmead Showcase

Caroline Miller

Reply slip

A Christmas Recipe

Child's name _____

Tuesday 13th December 2011, 10:00am

No. of parents attending: 1 / 2 (Please delete as applicable)

No. of additional tickets required (*if available*)

Wednesday 14th December 2010, 10:00am

No. of parents attending: 1 / 2 (Please delete as applicable)

No. of additional tickets required (*if available*)

Parent signature _____

Name: _____

PLEASE CUT OFF SLIP AND RETURN TO CLASS TEACHER
FRIDAY 2nd DECEMBER