

Springmead Newsletter

No. 13~ 2021/22



Thursday 6th January 2022

Dear Parents,

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome the children back to school yesterday and to hear about their holiday experiences.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our annual questionnaire at the end of term. We had responses from over 50 percent of parents, given the chaotic time of year for everyone we were grateful to receive so many! Thank you for the overwhelming support you indicated and for the positive and constructive suggestions made. The replies indicated a high degree of satisfaction with our provision but also showed some frustration with restrictions that Covid19 is inevitably causing. We absolutely share your frustrations and are working around the clock to try to manage each new situation that arises whilst always following local and national guidelines. We clearly needed to make changes to our usual practices because of Covid19 but we understand that many of our parents have differing views on this topic, illustrated by the responses and comments, which are often emotive and opposing.

Overall there were no common trends in the responses, rather they were issues raised by individual families over things that had affected them. ALL feedback is greatly valued and really does feed into our school development. Whilst we don't respond individually to comments (this is not in the spirit of questionnaires as it could inhibit people responding openly in the future) you will see us addressing some of the topics raised as we go forward, communicated through the newsletters. If the questionnaire raised any particular issue for you please do get in touch.

With just one day under our belt this is a very brief newsletter, normal service will resume next week.



At INSET on Tuesday the staff team covered a wide variety of issues:- supporting children with additional needs; fire marshall training; induction training and a review of our philosophy and aims. The staff were greeted with a warm bacon roll cooked by our resident chefs!



The school's philosophy and aims remain our mantra, Covid or no Covid and are what we strive towards each day:

Philosophy: at school children should not only become numerate and literate, but also develop a hunger for knowledge and a thirst for learning whether this is in academic areas, sports or arts. Children need to be guided to become self-learners, to think wisely, be confident, balanced and compassionate, while developing their own particular talents and abilities to the full. Such principles are best achieved in an environment that is stable, secure and safe, but at the same time one that is exciting, rich, stimulating, rewarding and fun.

At Springmead these ideals are achieved by having the following clearly defined aims:

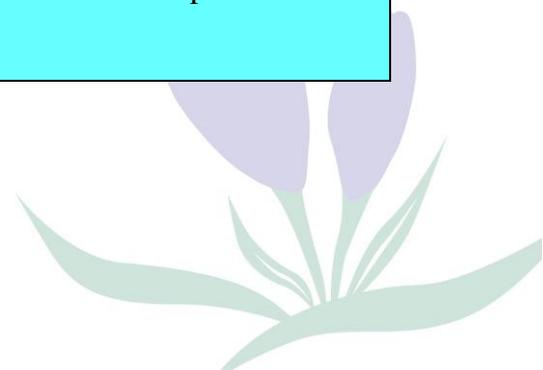
- To see each child as an individual with unique needs and possibilities
- Always to teach children in small classes
- To use the best traditional and modern teaching practices in the classroom and beyond
- To ensure pupils work towards and beyond national age-related expectations in literacy and maths, but at the same time maintain a very strong commitment to a fulfilling curricular experience across all subjects
- To provide a rich variety of academic, artistic, sporting and social enrichment experiences through an extensive extra-curricular programme, allowing children to find and nurture talents
- To teach children how to become effective, resilient, reflective and resourceful learners
- To teach sound human values, implicitly and explicitly
- To provide dedicated, professional and caring staff
- To forge strong partnerships between home and school
- To provide an inspirational, happy and supportive environment.

Springmead School - Calendar of Events Spring Term 2022 and Term Dates 2022/2023 is available on our website:

<https://www.springmead.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Spring-Term-2022.pdf>

Please be aware that as with any written document the dates are subject to change and more events will be amended and added as restrictions hopefully lift.

(Please ignore the separate online website calendar which is corrupted and is in the process of being replaced.)



Welcome to our new Teachers

Mrs Stickley and Mrs Flecchia joined us at the beginning of term in Rabbits' and Owls' classes respectively. They have fitted in beautifully and we know that the whole school will benefit from their warmth and experience.



Science in a Shoebox 2022

Science Fair for Years 3 – 6

Thursday 20th January and Friday 21st January

Beckington Village Hall

Projects should now be nearing completion and time being spent on practising presenting and answering questions from adults.

As old hands know, one of the major highlights of the Springmead Calendar is the annual Science Fair.

All children in Years 3 – 6 have the opportunity to present a science project to peers, parents and staff. As well as providing an opportunity to get really involved in an extended science project it gives the children a super opportunity to ‘present’ to a wide range of people.

Children: you will need to choose an aspect of Science. How the information is presented is up to you!

It could be through a practical activity or investigation, a poster explaining how to look after a particular animal, a short presentation on a laptop – the possibilities are endless!

You will need to do a risk assessment too, please do not include dangerous items and materials without prior discussion with teachers (on the day is too late).

However, the challenge is to make sure that your display is no bigger than a shoebox!

You are expected to work on your project at home. You may work with a partner, but take into consideration that you will need to find time, out of school, to meet together to organise the work. If you need any help in deciding on a topic, then please speak to your class teacher. If this is your first time at preparing for the science fair, then maybe you could present your project on something that you have recently done in class.

How you present your project is as important as what you have produced.

As this is your chance to speak clearly and carefully on your chosen subject, please practise how you would deliver your answers to any questions on your project.

Children will need to bring their finished projects to the village hall to set up on Thursday 20th

January between 8:00am and 8:30am and will leave them there. They will also practise presenting their projects to their peers that morning. As we cannot take responsibility for expensive items such as laptops, these can be brought straight to the hall on the Friday. On Friday, children are to go straight to the village hall to share their projects with the younger children and teachers. Parents are invited to the Science Fair between 1:30pm and 3:00pm.

Projects and children can be collected from the village hall at 3:00pm.

If we can still not have guests to events we will keep to the Key Stage bubble but give children time to present to each other.

We would like to suggest that Year 3-6 children leave school bags and swimming kits/gym kits at school on Wednesday 19th January, as we will be swimming as usual on Thursday 20th January.

Children in Years 3 – 6 will not need school bags on Friday 21st January.



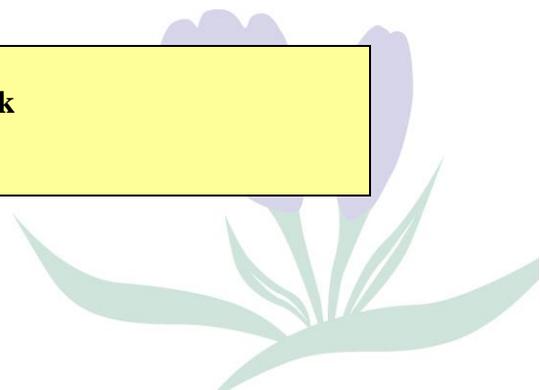
Springmead Reading Award

Please send a photograph of reading award sheets to Johanna Robinson
(jrobinson@springmead.com) by Wednesday each week, for inclusion in the newsletter,
sheets available from Mary Ann Pinchin.

Emerald Ruby Sapphire Amethyst Diamond Copper Bronze Silver
Platinum Gold Gold Plus (over 100 books)
Current totals will be shared next week

Emerald Jack Tucker Harrison Harbour-Lilley Seth Woods Harry Fraser Howie Harbour-Cowles Bella Bush Merle Jones Ellie Burt Arianna Fenna Skye Hillman Katerina Lazaridou	Ruby Otto Clark Milo Clark Polly Newmarch Devon Hillman Alexander Hurst Tristan Eagle Lily Hurst Ida-Mae Hall William Tucker William Thomas Martha Rider
Sapphire Milo Dennis Mabel Munckton Rose Wilson Lizzie Cochrane Hebe Hughes-Potashnick Elliott Barnard	Amethyst Noah Romain Poppy Hughes Ava Curran Charlotte Morrell Scarlett Baker Beau Baker Darcey Jamieson
Diamond James Cummins Elliott Attwood	Copper Ralph Hughes Enzo Clara
Bronze Aubree Ballinger	Silver
Platinum Everly Ballinger	Gold
Gold Plus Mary Drury (160) Owen Ruggiero-Jansch (110)	

Praise Certificates will resume next week



Out of School Achievements

Mabel, Year 3, made a stunning debut, in Wells Little Theatre's production of Cinderella. She enjoyed the experience and is looking forward to more starring roles.

Ava, Year 3, was awarded Student of the Year from her Taekwondo master at their end of year celebrations. Excitingly, she is on track to becoming one of the youngest black belts in the country.

Well done Ava and Mabel.

Do share your child's out of school news and successes with us so we can celebrate. Please email details to mtaylor@springmead.com

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,
Sally Cox
Headteacher

'Springmead School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this legal and moral responsibility'.



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