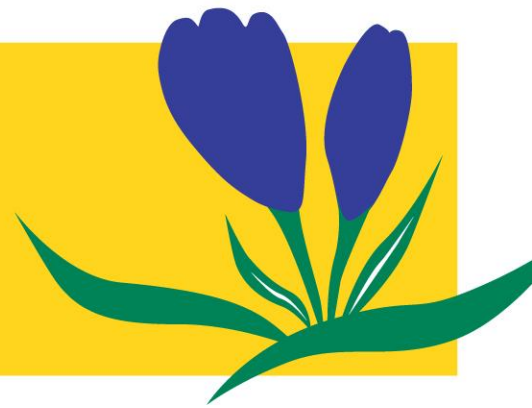


# Springmead Newsletter

## No. 1 ~ 2023/24



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents,

It was so lovely to be greeted by happy smiling faces as the children arrived at school on Tuesday, returning the building to the joyful, buzzy environment that we love. The start of a new academic year was heralded in with a trumpet fanfare in a lovely assembly. This is an exciting time, full of possibilities and promise; The new year is a time when we always pause, just for a moment, to reflect on the values and aims that underpin all we do at Springmead before we launch into the busyness of the term ahead.

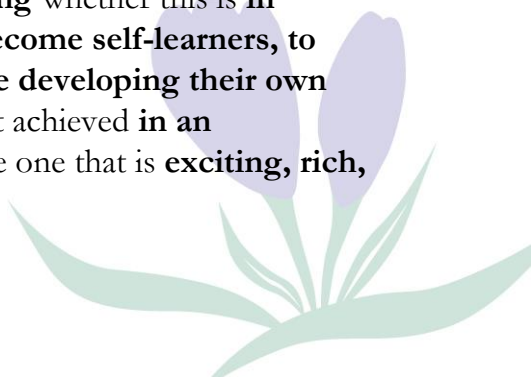
This week the main school parents will have been invited to Meet the Teacher meetings, have received welcome letters, emails and entries on Tapestry, these are all part of our working in partnership with you. Please keep an eye out for these weekly newsletters which will be full of updates and important information.

### Springmead Aims and Philosophy

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

1. To see **each child as an individual** with unique needs and possibilities
2. To teach **children in small classes**
3. To use the **best traditional and modern** teaching practices in the classroom and beyond
4. 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
5. 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 their talents**
6. To teach children how to become **effective, resilient, reflective and resourceful self-learners**
7. To **teach sound human values**, implicitly and explicitly
8. To provide **dedicated, professional and caring staff**
9. To forge **strong partnerships** between home and school
10. To provide an **inspirational, happy and supportive** environment.

Our Philosophy is that 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**.



## Diary Dates at a glance

Monday 11th September - Year 4 - Meet the Teacher - 8.30am  
Tuesday 12th September - Year 6 - Meet the Teacher - 8.30am  
Wednesday 13th September - Party in the Park - Beckington Memorial Hall - 3.30 to 5pm. All Springmead families are welcome.  
Thursday 14th September - Years 2 & 3 - Meet the Teacher - 8.30am  
Friday 15th September - Year 4 Award Walk  
Tuesday 19th September - Showcase Auditions  
Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd September - Air Ambulance Visit  
Friday 29th September - Year 3 Award Walk  
Poetry Competition Final for parents of finalists.

More details of these events are below or you will have been informed by your class teacher.

We are looking forward to being able to spend some time with you next week!

**Please note that the whole school will be at the Memorial Hall that afternoon and children will need to be collected from the Memorial Hall at 3.30pm - not school - if they are not staying for the party.**

**There are no after school clubs or activities on this day.**

**Whilst the activities and boundaries will be supervised by staff, parents will be responsible for their own children.**





## SHOW CASE AUDITIONS



Showcase auditions are coming up. Children will have been rehearsing acts over the summer. They have until Tuesday 19th September to be polishing these up, ready for their audition at Beckington Memorial Hall in front of the school and 'judges'.

For those new to the school, Springmead Showcase is a real highlight for us, performed at the Warminster Athenaeum on Friday 3rd November, please keep your diaries free for this wonderful annual celebration of our children's performance endeavours.

If you have any queries please do contact Charlotte Munckton at [cmunckton@springmead.com](mailto:cmunckton@springmead.com)

**SPRINGMEAD POETRY COMPETITION**



Our Autumn term starts with everyone taking part in our very own poetry recital competition.

- Launch pad 5 – Learn your class poem
- Launch pad 4 – Practice, practice, practice
- Launch pad 3 – Recite it in front of your class at the class heats on Monday 25th September
- Launch pad 2 – Be selected for the poetry final
- Launch pad 1 – If chosen – you will perform your poem at the Poetry Final on Friday 6th October.

**Blast Off!**

Class poems are on Tapestry

## **Nursery News**

We have some exciting news regarding our Nursery class. From November, our nursery provision will change to a 50-week nursery. This brings several benefits that will enhance children's experience in our nursery, as well as providing year-round consistent childcare for busy families. The Nursery will still be very much part of the school, enjoying taking part in whole school events, performances at Christmas and in the summer. They will be included in social aspects of school life for families too such as our Party in the Park event next week.

Our holiday club has grown in popularity for all ages, but we strongly feel that small children need a high ratio of permanent, specialised early years staff to be properly cared for and nurtured and the ratios and staffing do not occur in holiday club due to: the mix of children, the needs of the older children, the daily changes in staffing, and the general provision we can offer. We also see Nursery children feeling unsettled on their return as they are effectively attending two settings, but confusingly in the same space and this interrupts their learning and development and feelings of wellbeing as they settle back in. Children need stability and routine to thrive.

As part of this exciting transition, we have carefully planned staffing arrangements to ensure that all children benefit from having consistency.

The nursery name will change to Little Crickets at Springmead School, however the wonderful ethos and values of Springmead will very much remain. As Headteacher, I will continue to oversee the operation of Nursery, alongside Shirley Offer.

Our fees remain competitive and, to keep things simple for parents, we will be streamlining the session structure to offer a full day (8am – 6pm) £62, morning (8am – 1pm) £31 or afternoon session (1pm-6pm) £31. Lunch will be served to all children attending a full day or morning session. In the afternoon, families may collect at any time between 3.15pm and 6pm however there will be no change to the full day charge for those collecting earlier than 6pm, high tea will be served to all children at 4pm.

If you have any question regarding this change, please speak to Sally Cox.

### **Inhalers and Medication**

If your child needs an inhaler or any regular medication could you please see Kim Hobley over the next week to ensure we have up-to-date prescriptions/medications. Please remember that you will need to complete an Administering Medicine Form if we are administering medicine to your child. The forms are located at the side of the bookcase in the admin office, and are also available to print from the website. When bringing any medicine into school please ensure the medicine, and a form, are handed to an adult.

Sally Cox



# PERFORMING ARTS



## Music Clubs and Extending our Musicians

It has been a fun-packed and excitement-filled first week, and we have all hit the ground running, so to speak.

I thought it might be beneficial to explain a bit more about our Music Extension clubs and the way we operate our invitation-only clubs across the school...

We are very lucky at Springmead to have a vast array of talented children in all disciplines, and it is this privileged position that leads us to develop our extension club's provision. Extension clubs are run by specialists in the area, and pupils showing talent in that specific discipline are invited to attend. However, we are restricted on the number of pupils who can attend each club, which may be due to the limited space available, or perhaps specific projects taking place in those clubs. Therefore, whilst all children who fulfil the brief to be invited will receive such an invitation, the places are often allocated on a first come, first served basis, with the first responses gaining the first places.

We understand that it can be very disappointing when a child is invited to a club but is then not allocated a space, and we hope that you can understand the constraints at our end in running these extension clubs and activities.

Thank you all for your patience, I am very much looking forward to working with these talented youngsters this term!

**Hannah Drury**





# Sports News

Welcome back!

Here are a few things we have been up to this week in PE...

Squad training for selected pupils started on Wednesday morning.

This week we developed our football skills:

Year 1 started their new 'games' module - kicking, passing and dribbling.

KS2 children are working on Football and Hockey in PE this term.

In Sports lunchtime club we practised target throwing and hoops.

Amid lots of excitement, the extra-mural clubs began this week with all the autumn sports now underway, in curriculum lessons and through a plethora of clubs.

Here is a list of the extra mural clubs this term

KS1	KS2
Playground Games	Playground Games
Sports Club (lunch time and after school)	Cross Country
Football	Hockey
Gymnastics	Fit & Healthy
Healthy Kids	Squad Training
	Football
	Karate



with bean bags

Please take a moment to check that you have all these items in your child's PE bags.

Purple and green polo shirt

Quarter zip splash top

Black base layer

Zipped track pants

Long green and purple hoop sports socks

Ankle length white sports socks

Trainers

Green shorts or Green skort

Year 3 - 6 Hockey stick, Mouth guard\* and Shin pads

Small towel to keep in PE bag

\*Children need to wear a fitted mouth guard while playing hockey; we strongly recommend mouth guards are professionally fitted by a dentist.

**Emma Lindley**

# Swimming

We had a great first week back in the pool, the children approached their lessons positively and with enthusiasm. Each group was set mini challenges and the children responded confidently. Whilst the children were working through the challenges the teachers were busy assessing skills and understanding. We will continue to assess and make changes to swimming groups, where needed, over next couple of weeks.

Can parents please ensure that children have suitable swimsuits and goggles and ideally swim hats too. Trying to swim without goggles makes it more difficult to be able to demonstrate correct skills and technique.

## Swimming Day Clothing

It is essential that children's socks, pants, shoes, goggles... indeed everything, is very clearly labelled on swimming day. It is distressing not to be able to find your own underwear (we have over 40 children in each changing area, in rotation and their clothes are very close to each other). Please help empower your children to be as prepared as possible so that they have a positive experience. We would also encourage girls to wear socks rather than tights on swimming day!

**Super swimmer of the week: All of our new students for having such an amazing and confident start to swimming at Springmead.**

If you would like to speak to a member of the swimming team, please feel free to call Sarah Cozens at school between 9:00am and 10:00am every Thursday, alternatively you can email her on [scozens@springmead.com](mailto:scozens@springmead.com). For pastoral issues related to swimming, please speak to the class teacher as they are around much more during the week.



# Class Highlights

## DUCKLINGS

What a great first few days we have had. Emerging friendships are forming as children begin to feel settled and get to know the nursery routines, staff and resources. For lots of the new little ones, separating from parents is a huge step, they need the security of familiar adults to build positive relationships with. Our nursery staff are highly experienced in supporting these important moments. Role play games, painting, exploring the school grounds, our new French session with Madame Finch, practicing our jumping in the hall, trying out all the nursery activities, books and toys are a focus for our bright, inquisitive class.

Next week, we've made plans for a village walk. We're going to be busy!



THIS WEEK'S FILMS:

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/2LexOW1cGF](https://youtu.be/2LexOW1cGF)

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/WBVyOO6DHV](https://youtu.be/WBVyOO6DHV)

[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/22CiiKhSAAO](https://youtu.be/22CiiKhSAAO)



SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY

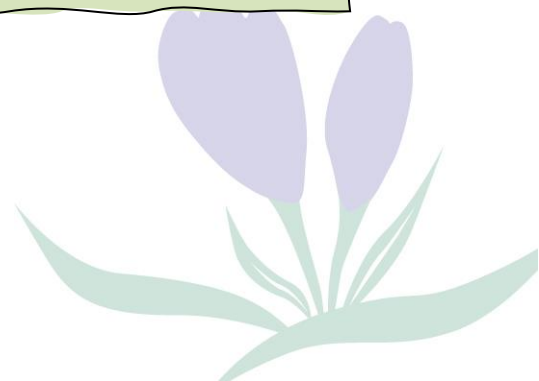




## HEDGEHOGS

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year in Hedgehogs. We have been busy with our Autumn theme of 'Celebrations' and have starting with celebrating ourselves! We loved reading 'The Big Book of Families' and discussing different families, discussing what makes a family a family. We put our drawing skills to the test and drew our own families, thinking carefully about some of the key features of our favourite people. Excellent work. Hedgehogs. We have also been very busy in maths, thinking about measuring and comparing our heights and the size of our feet... who do you think has the smallest feet?

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON, RECEPTION.



## RABBITS

What a fantastic start to the year. The new rabbits are full of enthusiasm and have an enormous zest for learning whilst having fun too. They have become familiar with their new classroom and where things are and the new routines Year 1 brings. It has been a hot week, but this has not deterred them and they have worked and concentrated through the heat. I, Miss Haigh and Miss Daymond are really looking forward to the rest of the year with these fantastic Rabbits.



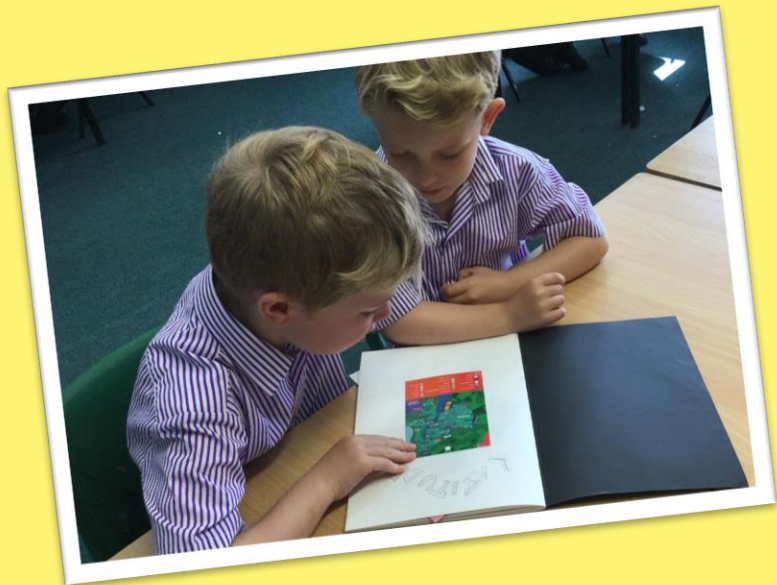
JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



## OTTERS

What a wonderful week back to Springmead! The Otters loved sharing their summer diaries and listened intently to each other about the adventures they got up to.

They have begun learning about The Great Fire of London, jumping back in time to 1666. They looked at the structure of the building and the conditions of London at the time and painted some super Tudor houses for our display!



GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



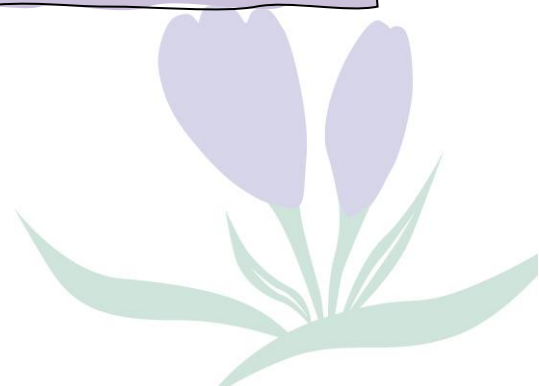


## BADGERS

The new Badgers have leapt into their new class with enthusiasm, energy and vigour. It is all new and there is so much to remember. With best paws forward, everyone is keen to learn, loves to help and give everything a go. Whether it be maths, poetry or taking part in Karate or punctuation, the Badgers are giving it their all. What an exciting year ahead and a great start to life in Year 3.



JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



# SQUIRRELS

It was lovely to welcome the children back after the summer holidays. The highlight of this week was our art lesson. In English, we have been looking at fables; one key fact we learned, was that all of them include animals as main characters. With that, we made our own animal portrait tile using chalk pastels. The children used different techniques and skills to create their animal; they drew outlines with the chalk like a pencil, blended the colours to soften them, and learned how to add depth, tone and detail with darker markings and combined colours. Both Miss Brown and I were so impressed with their efforts and determination.

Despite the VERY warm weather this week, the Squirrels have powered through and fully embraced the new school year.

Miss Robinson and I are looking forward to the year ahead, and we know the Squirrels are going to be just brilliant!

A super first week, Year 4.



STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



## OWLS

Wow Owls, what a fantastic first week! You have all settled in wonderfully to Year 5 and it has been such a pleasure to observe what a warm, bubbly and enthusiastic class you are. We started this week by looking at 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse' and reflecting upon the message that everyone can achieve goals with enough determination and resilience. I then watched as you all poured these values into each new challenge you faced this week, leaping over hurdles such as roman numerals in Maths, modal verbs in English and even having a go at remembering the 50 states of America in Geography! It's been a pleasure spending the first week with you Owls, here's to the year ahead!



LYDIA ADAMS, YEAR 5





## FOXES

The Foxes have had a fantastic first week, and we're all looking forward to our first Go Explore session, an English lesson with a difference. We have some exciting areas to explore this term and the children are tackling all the challenges with enthusiasm and a determination to do their best.

We've spent lots of time analysing the poem to be learnt for the poetry competition and had great fun writing our own poems in a similar style and reading them aloud.



JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY, YEAR 5



## EAGLES

The Eagles class of 2023 - 2024 have made a fantastic start to the new year, embracing our classwork and taking to their new role as Springmead Way Ambassadors with gusto! With the added responsibility and greater expectation of being the oldest class in the school, with all the excitement of bushcraft, trips and experiences, with all of the learning opportunities and skill development, this group of children are preparing for a very busy final year at Springmead. After a great first week I have the belief that they are going to be great - maybe even the best year 6 ever!



NICK MUNCKTON, YEAR 6

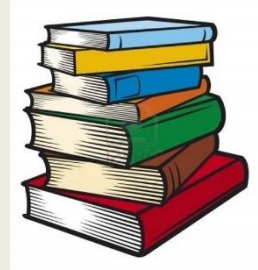


### Reading Scheme and Summer Reading Challenge

To encourage children to read more books the school has an ongoing award programme for Reception to Year 6. There are 10 award levels, each requiring the child to read 10 books. To take part in the award scheme, the children simply complete their forms and



return them to Johanna Robinson,  
[jrobinson@springmead.com](mailto:jrobinson@springmead.com).



When they reach the dizzy heights of 'Gold Award' they will have read 100 books. The award begins again at the start of each academic year. If you have any queries regarding the reading award, please email Johanna Robinson on [jrobinson@springmead.com](mailto:jrobinson@springmead.com)

Please bring completed **Summer Reading Challenge** sheets to the library and collect your House points from your class teacher.



## OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Poppy, in Year 6 has an ensemble part in Warminster's Athenaeum Theatre in their pantomime, Aladdin. Congratulations, Poppy.

Mabel, in Year 5 has a part in Wells Little Theatre's pantomime, Puss in Boots. Mabel took exams over the summer too including Performance Arts Award (PPA) in Musical Theatre Grade 1 (RSL Awards) Distinction. Well done, Mabel.

Scarlett, in Year 5 took her Primary Ballet exams over the summer and achieved distinction. Fantastic news, Scarlett.

Noah, in Year 5 has been retained by the Southampton Academy for the new season. He will continue in his favourite position as a goalkeeper for their u10s Academy team. Brilliant, Noah.

Do please share your child's out of school news and successes with us so we can celebrate, hopefully more opportunities will open up to them now! Do also remind us if we ever forget- it happens! Please email details to and [scox@springmead.com](mailto:scox@springmead.com)

Sally Cox  
**Headteacher**

