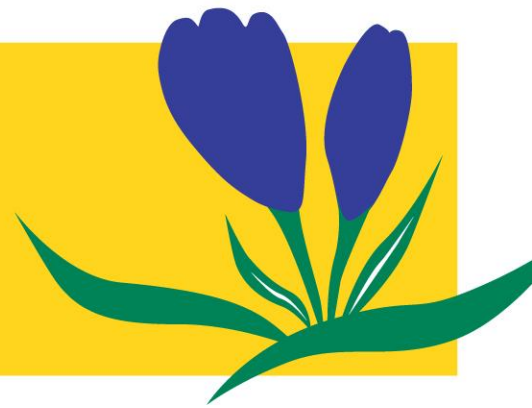


# Springmead Newsletter

## No. 4 ~ 2023/24



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents,

As I write this, our Year 3 class are out on their Springmead Award walk enjoying the delights of the season. Nature provokes children: giving them questions and curiosity about their world. They begin to understand our planet by directly participating in it. Working and living in a rural area, such as ours, means that the seasons are very close to us.

Standing with the Nursery children this week, waiting for storm Agnes to unleash herself on Beckington, which fortunately didn't occur, we watched the leaves as the trees swayed, just as the tips are beginning to change colour. Helping children focus on the minutiae of the natural world is part of who we are at Springmead, we notice and share what we see – from the large worm we found on Tuesday in the willow den, to watching in interest at gardening club's vegetable plot progress, all help us all to be mindful and find a sense of peace in the increasingly busy world that we and our children inhabit. We need these moments appreciating nature, it's a fast track to lessen anxiety, refresh ourselves and have a sense of wonder at the beauty around us.

As we move towards our Harvest Festival, at the end of this half term, we begin to give thanks for the abundance in our world and think of others less fortunate. We aim to help, in our own small way, to address and rebalance the inequalities by distributing goods to our local foodbanks. Talking to children, sharing your family's beliefs and values, and how their actions however large and small make a difference, helps shape them into responsible, empathetic individuals that can influence our society in the future. Happy autumn days, everyone.

*Sally Cox*

### Diary Dates at a glance

Friday 6th October - Poetry Competition Final for parents of finalists and Individual School Photos with David Wiltshire Photography

Wednesday 11th October - 5.30 to 7pm - SSA Disco Night  
- Whole School

Friday 13th October - Food Collection for Mercy in Action Foodbanks from 8am. Harvest Festival Service at St George's Church at 2.15pm,

Monday 30th October - Showcase Rehearsal Day

Friday 3rd November - Showcase - Athenaeum Theatre, Warminster - 7pm

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



<https://coffeefundraising.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/cm23064318>

Many thanks to our fabulous Year 6 class for hosting our memorable Macmillan Coffee Morning this morning. Thank you for your generous donations this morning and online.

**We've raised £345.20!**



## Christmas Cards

Our annual Christmas Card information was sent out this week. Money raised from this activity goes towards our Springmead School Association (SSA) which funds events – remember Party in the Park?, as well as purchasing school items that go above and beyond our curriculum. Please do join in as the cards and gifts are lovely – perfect as items to treasure in years to come as well as gifts for family. The deadline is next week, so get decorating this weekend and send back to school for the magic to happen!

## Poetry Results

Here are the finalists in this year's Poetry Competition. Well done everyone who stood in front of your class and performed your poem this week. Not only did you memorise your poem you also had the courage to perform in front of your class. **Parents of finalists are invited to join us at the village hall on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 2:15pm where we will be gathering together for a celebration of poetry!**



<b>Hedgehogs</b>	Florence, Ted, Violet
<b>Rabbits</b>	Arlo, Barnaby, Inès,
<b>Otters</b>	Freya, Milo, Will,
<b>Badgers</b>	Darcey, Holly, Lizzie
<b>Squirrels</b>	Elliott, Ida Mae, Polly
<b>Owls</b>	Ellie, Katerina, Rose, Seth
<b>Foxes</b>	
<b>Eagles</b>	Bea Marshall, Lucy Barker, Asher Belcher





# HARVEST

Our Harvest Festival Day is on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**, the last day of this half term. We have organised a foodbank collection in the morning followed by a church service in the afternoon. The Nursery will be performing their song and will be part of the service. 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 very promptly should they become restless during the service.

 Mercy in Action

## Helping those in need

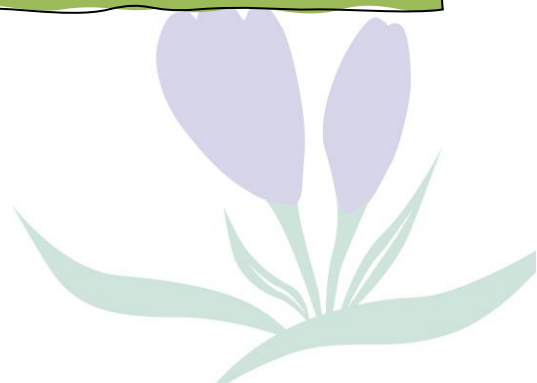
Mercy in Action are supporting people struggling to make ends meet in Bath who are in urgent need of help. We are asking all families, for our Harvest Offering, to fill a carrier bag with longlife milk, couscous, chickpeas, jam, honey, dried fruit, bulgar wheat and sardines in oil. Other larger items needed are toiletries, loo rolls and nappies. Many, many thanks for your help.

Bring your bag into school on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**, from 8.00-8.30 to Castle Corner, outside the school building to the Mercy in Action van.

## HARVEST Service

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**  
2.15pm

Parents are invited to join Nursery to Year 6 at their Harvest Service at St George's Church, Beckington. Please park on Frome Road with consideration, and walk to the church. Children are free to go home after the service. No bags on this day, please. After school clubs will be running.



Springmead SSA Presents



# Disco NIGHT

**Wednesday 11th October**

Two separate discos  
(older and younger  
children) plus quiet chill  
out space available

*Nursery to Year 6*

5.30pm to 7pm / TICKET £6 [includes  
drinks and snack]

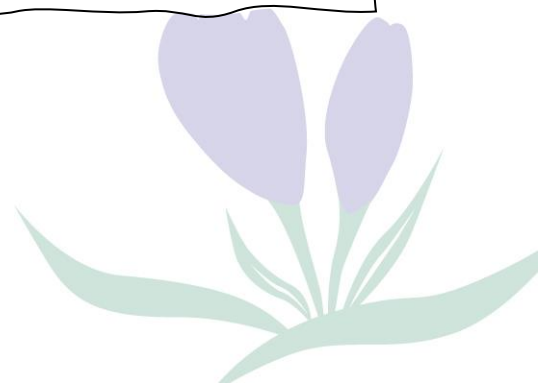
To book tickets, please email Kim in the  
office. We will be offering  
glo-facepaints to children. To opt out  
please tell Kim when you book.

**Discos by Carpe Diem Entertainment**

## School Photographs

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October

David Wiltshire photography will be in school on Friday morning taking individual photographs. If you have a nursery child who isn't usually in on that day, and you would like them photographed please speak to Shirley Offer to organise timings.





## Springmead School Association (SSA) Update

The SSA meet once a term to spend bids from family donations for items that go above and beyond the curriculum as well as plan events. The term's money is halved – one half going to **short term bids** and the other half to **medium term plans**.

We had a great meeting with our fabulous SSA members who brought their warmth and enthusiasm with them. We decided on bids by staff and agreed:

- **Thrive resourcing** – Johanna Robinson, our own member of staff, is training to be a [Thrive](#) practitioner. Thrive is a social and emotional wellbeing course that can help children individually on a one to one, in groups and whole classes.
- Extra resources for **KS1 Construction Club**
- **Small world play** items for Early Years
- **Playground break equipment**
- **£75 Golden time for Year 5 Foxes and Owls** classes as they had to split money last time.

We discussed our upcoming events – the **Disco** on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, and the **Gift Shop** on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. **More details will follow** about the Gift Shop to those new to Springmead.

Next term we plan to have a **Bingo Night** (date to be confirmed) a special event for **Children in Need** and a new exciting initiative to **bring a little competition** to classes through the school, **Penny Wars**.

Our **new medium term** plan was confirmed. We will be saving towards a **trim trail for the garden**. Our last **medium term plan**, the **art studio** will be opening shortly.

## Holiday Club bookings

Please book Holiday Club places, as booking is now open to all local children. Email Kim, in the office, [office@springmead.com](mailto:office@springmead.com)



# PERFORMING ARTS

Rehearsals are well and truly underway for our exciting performances and services this term: The children are really enjoying learning their new Harvest songs, ready for the Harvest Festival Service on Friday 13th October, so please come along to see and hear them; Showcase auditions were astounding last week, and the ensembles, groups and individuals selected are busy working hard on their pieces in order to be show ready; and the Devizes Eisteddfod entries list is getting longer and longer - So many groups and individuals will be taking part in this small Arts Festival this year and we are excited to share their talents in the wider community.

The Devizes Eisteddfod offers competition classes for musicians and performers of all ages, so if your young person has lessons either inside or outside of school, please feel free to get in touch with me to discuss whether they could be entered for the solo classes. But be quick as the closing date is next week!

We are planning, with great anticipation, the rehearsals for the Staff and Parent choir at to perform at Showcase and will publish rehearsal dates as soon as we can. I really hope you'll be able to join us for some fun music-making in this group. We have lots of enthusiasm! Email me to let me know you are interested at [hdrury@springmead.com](mailto:hdrury@springmead.com).

**Hannah Drury**



# Sports News

This week in sports club the children got to explore the mini golf equipment. We created 'holes' for the children to aim at and we worked on the stance and grip of the club. The year 3 and 4 children took part in some mini hockey matches in PE this week. They used all their knowledge they have built on over the past few weeks. The children explored passing, dribbling, attacking, defending and shooting.



## Autumn Term Fixtures

**Monday 2nd October** - Year 3 and 4 Rugby vs Warminster (away)

**Tuesday 3rd October** - Mendip Cross Country League - Millfield

**Wednesday 11th October** - Year 5 and 6 Girls Hockey & Boys football vs Warminster (away)

**Monday 30th October** - Year 3 and 4 Hockey vs Beckington (home)

**Tuesday 7th November** - Mendip Cross Country League - Shepton Mallet

**Wednesday 8th November** - Year 5 and 6 Girls Hockey vs Heywood (away)

**Monday 27th November** - Year 3 and 4 Girls to Stonar - Triangular fixture with Heywood (away)

**Wednesday 29th November** - Year 5 and 6 Girls Hockey vs Stonar (away)

**Monday 4th December** - Year 3 and 4 Football vs Beckington (home)

Please let me know via [pedepartment@springmead.com](mailto:pedepartment@springmead.com) if you wish to collect your child from a fixture.

Emma Lindley



# Swimming

Another great week swimming with some excellent progress being shown as we are now in week 4 of the new term.

## Swimming bags

As the weather is beginning to turn, getting colder and wetter, can we ask that parents check that the bags for swimming are big enough to hold everything needed. While they are swimming the children need to have their towel, their shoes and all their uniform, including any coats in their bag. Otherwise, children are having to carry coats, shoes and towels onto poolside, where they often get wet, which can be distressing for children.

**Super swimmer of the week: Ted Harbour Cowles for showing great determination.**

**Sarah Cozens**



## PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

<b>DUCKLINGS</b> (YN)	Ava for her enthusiasm on the hall equipment and climbing frames. Rafferty with working hard to be successful putting his shoes and socks on independently. Isma for great problem-solving skills tying the scooter boards together to make a train.
<b>HEDGEHOGS</b> (YR)	Violet for sharing her 'All about Me bag' so confidently. Lewis for excellent listening skills and following instructions during our cookery session.
<b>RABBITS</b> (Y1)	Alfred for always being his best self. Harry for great enthusiasm in maths. Inès for amazing contribution during class discussions.
<b>OTTERS</b> (Y2)	Esther for working hard on estimating numbers on a number line. Howie for a fantastic effort in English on his phonics, despite a having a very wobbly tooth!
<b>BADGERS</b> (Y3)	Mary for magical mathematical moments. Hebe for being a first class first aider and asking good questions.
<b>SQUIRRELS</b> (Y4)	William for his concentration and dedication in dance. James for his dedication and participation in dance. Annabel for her thoughtful contributions to PSHE lessons. Woody for great questions in Science.
<b>FOXES</b> (Y5)	Katerina for creating a fabulous story. Scarlett for demonstrating kindness and forgiveness; elements of the Springmead Way
<b>OWLS</b> (Y5)	Seth for his insightful contributions to class discussions. Devon for always following the Springmead Way and doing his best to be his best self!
<b>EAGLES</b> (Y6)	Asher for super effort précis-ing a longer text. Henry for great work with common multiples. Danny for lovely artwork, inspired by William Morris.



# THE SPRINGMEAD READING AWARD

Please send a photograph of reading award sheets to Johanna Robinson  
([jrobinson@springmead.com](mailto:jrobinson@springmead.com)) by Wednesday each week, for inclusion in the  
newsletter.



**Emerald Ruby Sapphire Amethyst Diamond Copper Bronze Silver**  
**Platinum Gold Gold Plus (over 100 books)**

<b>Emerald</b> Izzy Flor Thea Elliott Cora	Inès Mary Matilda	<b>Ruby</b> Corinne
<b>Sapphire</b>		<b>Amethyst</b>
<b>Diamond</b>		<b>Copper</b>
<b>Bronze</b>		<b>Silver</b>
<b>Platinum</b>		<b>Gold</b>
<b>Gold Plus</b>		





# Class Highlights

## DUCKLINGS

As the Autumn begins the children in the nursery explore the season with rich hands-on experiences. Through nursery walks, our grounds, nature study, trips to the field and around the village they begin to see patterns in the seasons. We draw their attention to the change in temperature since the summer, the months of the year, the need for warmer clothing, their own experiences of going to bed in the dark as evenings draw in, the work of local farmers with crops and animals, the changes in nature and finding out about native animals that are beginning to hibernate. We introduce the language of time too: yesterday, tomorrow, last year, next year, first, next. By helping little children recount their own experience of events in the past and to come in the future they explore the abstract concept of time. These concrete markers of familiar special times bring an awareness of the passing of time - past, present and future. Over the next two weeks our focus will begin to be on harvest, farms and food culminating in joining in with the rest of the school at **Harvest Festival** where the children will sing the song they have been learning, performing in **front of family and friends**.

This week's films:

<https://youtu.be/pvX8SEJwy6k?si=RdFO1dq5mua6hLa0>

<https://youtu.be/v5uB5POdNro?si=eLUVA42BxIpbN5mh>

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



## HEDGEHOGS

A real highlight for the Hedgehogs has been doing some cookery. After our outdoor adventure last week, collecting blackberries, we decided to make pear and blackberry crumble. Yummy! The children were excellent at following instructions, and we learnt lots of new skills. We used peelers to peel the pears and knives to chop it into pieces and learnt the technique of rubbing the butter into the flour to make the crumble topping. I was super impressed with their skills. They were very proud to each take home a crumble they had made, and we hope they were all enjoyed.

We continued working on our fine motor skills but this time using scissors. We loved looking through magazines for facial features to create our own funny face. We cut out eyes, eyebrows, lips, teeth and hair to create our own individual faces. We had to demonstrate super concentration skills. If anyone has any old magazines, they have finished reading with do pop them into Hedgehogs as we love to cut out and create!

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON, RECEPTION.



## RABBITS

This week we continued finding out about old toys and the Rabbits enjoyed looking at and comparing some old toys with new ones they may have. They loved the growling teddy bears and the jack in a box!

They also really enjoyed the visit from the air ambulance. They learnt how to put someone in the recovery position and asked lots of good questions. Well done, Rabbits!



JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1





## OTTERS

The children loved making apple crumbles, honing their culinary skills, peeling, chopping and rubbing butter together for the crumble mix. The school smelt wonderful as we made our crumbles on the same day as the Hedgehogs, clearly gearing up for the return of The Great British Bake Off!

In SPaG the focus has been on the structure of sentences. Remembering where to use capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks, can be quite tricky.

This week in history, the class focused on the rebuilding of London after The Great Fire. They looked at the Declaration King Charles II made in 1666, where he pledged to rebuild London and the children became budding architects, designing a street in London. They also sketched some detailed pictures of Sir Christopher Wren's design, St Paul's Cathedral, which look excellent!

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



## BADGERS

What a week for the Badgers! One minute everyone was leaping into action, following instructions and carefully positioning bodies in a comfortable recovery position and the next it was time to re-create the times and vibes from when the Romans invaded about 2,000 years ago. Both activities involved working together and finding solutions to problems. Getting into character as the infamous Boudicca and daughters, everyone worked in groups imagined what it would be like and how would they feel having a Roman Centurian delivering the news that all land and goods would be removed immediately. How rude! The intrepid actors gave sterling performances as they demonstrated angst, hurt and anger about their situation.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



# SQUIRRELS

In maths this week, we have been looking at Roman Numerals; a numerical system composed of seven Latin letters. They are, from lowest to highest: I, V, X, L, C, D and M.

The Squirrels learned some very important rules when using Roman numerals. They are usually written in order, from largest to smallest and from left to right, but more than three identical symbols never appear in a row. Instead, a system of subtraction is used: when a smaller number appears in front of a larger one, that needs to be subtracted, so IV is 4 ( $5 - 1$ ) and IX is 9 ( $10 - 1$ ).

They worked hard on applying this rule to larger numbers.

Well done!



STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



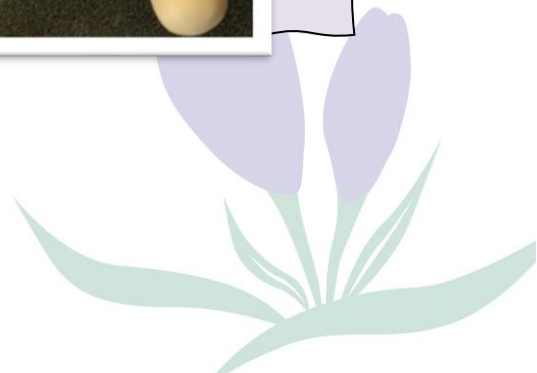
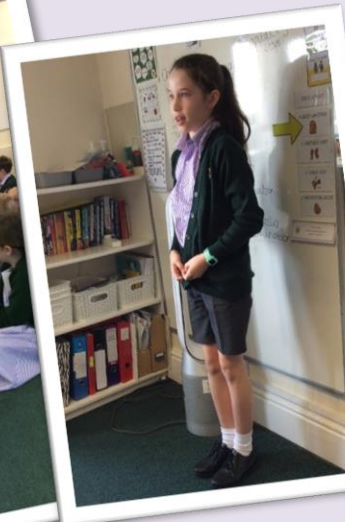


## OWLS

We began this week in Owls with a discussion in PSHE about the different emotions we may experience every day and how we can manage emotions that are uncomfortable or overwhelming. We highlighted the importance of sharing our feelings with others and being confident to label the emotion we are experiencing and reflect on what has caused it. We then discussed the strategies that may be used to improve our mental wellbeing, such as exercise, spending time with family or friends and ensuring that we are gentle and kind to ourselves.

In English this week we have been looking at newspaper reports, with a specific focus on using direct and indirect speech. The children did a great job at remembering all the different speech punctuation and even learned a new song to help them remember! We have also got stuck into our new unit on Addition and Subtraction in Maths, looking at mental strategies and column method. Well done for another excellent week Owls, enjoy your weekend!

LYDIA ADAMS, YEAR 5



## FOXES

Foxes are maintaining their focus and working hard to cover all the curriculum, with individual English targets, group presentations for geography and science, and an assessment as we complete our first maths topic.

I'm super proud of them for suggesting we use recycled cardboard to create privacy screens, though I'm not sure how long they'll last! Nevertheless, it's so lovely to see how environmentally aware they have become.

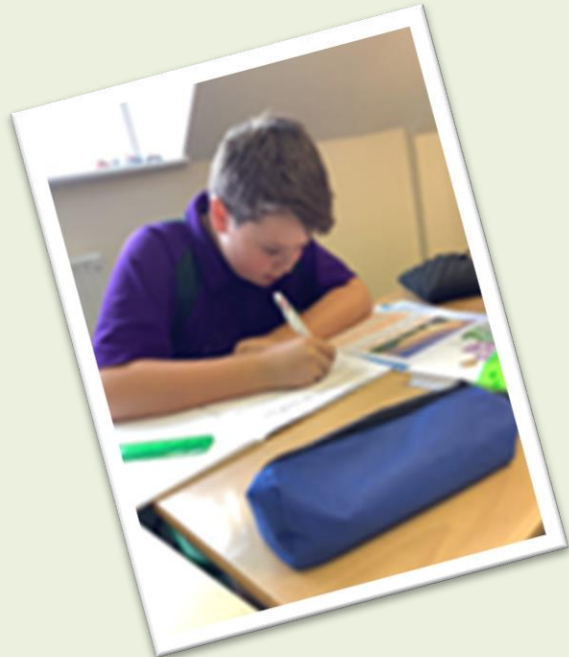
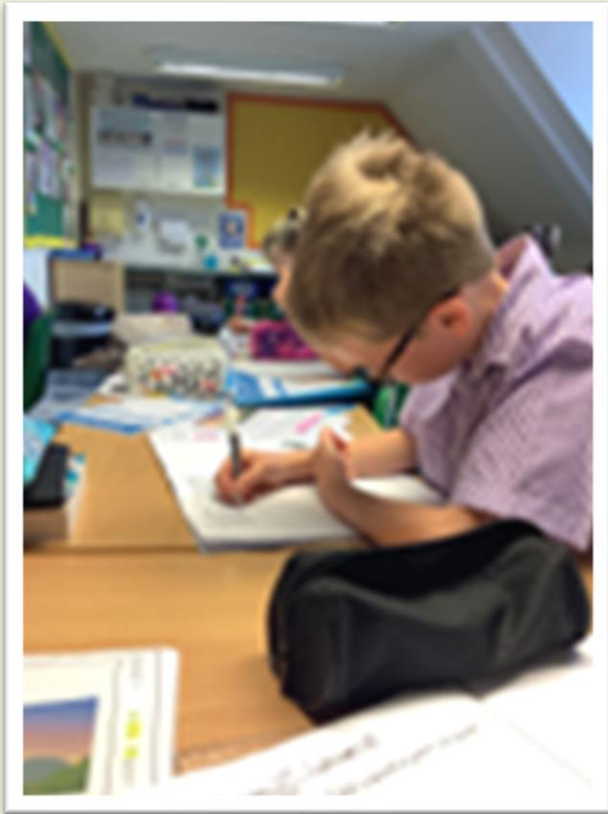


JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY, YEAR 5



## EAGLES

After a couple of weeks where they have been out and about with Bikeability and bushcraft, the Eagles have been confined to the classroom this week. In particular, the children have been embracing all elements of the English curriculum; Challenging words with unusual letter patterns in spelling, Comprehension work relating to Coventry Cathedral, writing linked to their science work on evolution & inheritance and Charles Darwin's fantastic journey around the Galapagos Islands and enjoying the class reading text - Holes by Louis Sachar, which we really can't get enough of!



NICK MUNCKTON





# OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Ava, in Year 5, competed in the South West Taekwondo Championships along with approximately 400 other competitors, and hundreds more spectators. As one of the youngest red belts in the country, hoping to grade for her adult black belt early next year, Ava had to perform patterns or fight against girls many years her senior. Despite this, she fought brilliantly to ultimately lose by only one point in sudden death extra time of the sparring gold medal match. Nonetheless, she was awarded the Silver medal in Individual sparring, and later that day secured the Gold medal in tag team sparring when the opposing finalist team had to withdraw.

Do please share your child's out of school news and successes with us so we can celebrate. 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**



**Forfar**  
EDUCATION

**ISA**  
INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOLS  
ASSOCIATION  
Accredited Member

