

Springmead Newsletter

No. 6 ~ 2023/24



Friday 13th October 2023

Dear Parents,

We have reached half term after achieving so much together. We can feel the ‘buzz’ around the school as each class, as well as our whole community, enjoys and celebrates together each event, lesson, success, club and everyday life at Springmead.

On tours this week, I shared with prospective parents that ‘there is always something to look forward to at Springmead’. This, I feel, is the essence of Springmead: an anticipation, a hope and a joy in all we do here. This week, the school trip to a Bristol Mosque for our Year 5 class provided children with the opportunity to explore new environments, learn about a different culture and gain a deeper understanding of the world around them. The generosity of families for our Harvest Festival not only brought the school community together but also taught the children the importance of gratitude and giving back. Through collecting food donations and organising charity events and awareness days, the children have learned about empathy, compassion, and the value of helping those in need. Our parent consultations this week celebrated academic achievements – children who are excelling and working hard in their studies were acknowledged, fostering a sense of accomplishment and motivation. This recognition not only boosts their self-esteem but also encourages them to continue striving for excellence. Our sporting success has been another aspect that has contributed to the children’s overall development. Through participation in various sports activities and competitions, the children learned the importance of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance. These experiences not only promote physical fitness but also instil valuable life skills that can be applied in different aspects of their lives.

All our busy school and community activities not only contribute to academic progress but also shape well-rounded individuals ready to face the challenges of the future.

Enjoy your half term: keep reading each day, visiting places of interest, get outside in nature. Meet friends and family – talking and sharing - make time to be together with people you love.

Sally Cox



Springmead School
Castle Corner, Beckington, Somerset BA11 6TA
01373 831555 office@springmead.com www.springmead.com

Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

Thank you so much for your generosity this morning for our foodbank collection for Mercy in Action's Action Pantry. The team were bowled over by our collection - it has gone straight to Bath to be distributed to people struggling with food insecurity.



Our Harvest Service this afternoon was thankful, moving, full of music, song and community. Thank you to Hannah Drury and Charlotte Munckton for creating a wonderful service for children, parents friends and staff. We were delighted to have James Shone, our School Chaplain share his story and message.



Poetry Results

As TS Elliot said, 'Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood.' This rings true, from the talent illustrated at our Poetry recital last Friday. The forms, themes, meaning, humour, rhythms and rhymes explored by the children in such detail, were moving at times. They were a pleasure to listen to.

Over the last few weeks, nearly every child in the main school has learnt and recited a poem in front of their class. Last week's final was a competition - sometimes in life we face competitions, learning to win and lose are equally important. As parents and educators, we need to give our children the opportunities to feel and experience both. In the famous words of Winston Churchill, 'Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.' It is for these very reasons that school's balance the need for competition alongside non-competitive events.

Our thanks to judge, Pamela Price for judging the competition with knowledge and understanding. It was not an easy task.

Hedgehogs - Violet

Rabbits - Arlo

Otters - Will

Badgers - Holly

Squirrels - Ida-Mae

Owls and Foxes - Katerina

Eagles - Lucy



School Council Update

Our School Council members this term are:

Florence, Violet, Alfred, Cora, Zeph, Freya, Holly, Hebe, Tristan, Oliver, Matilda, Rose, Lily and Rafe.

The following points are an overview of the meeting of the School Council last week.

The members were keen to discuss plans for a trim trail for the garden area and progress towards this. The SSA are still raising funds for the equipment from their fundraising, from family donations, the disco and the Christmas gift shop.

Further Suggestions by members – responses by teachers and leadership team in italics:
A climbing trip to the Boulder Rooms in Frome – *Emma Lindley is currently making arrangement for dates for small groups of our older children to take part in sessions. We have an annual climbing wall event for all children.*

More games printed on the playground like Snakes and Ladders. *These are surprisingly expensive to have printed on the playground and therefore we will purchase some large outdoor games with the leftover money from the SSA playground equipment fund. Mrs Boyden will arrange this.*

Gymnastics club for KS2 – *we will investigate this.*

Bouncy Castle as a class reward – *We have a bouncy castle at Party in the Park.*

Reward for winning house – *extra 15 minutes of play time agreed for winning house.*

Talent Show Club – Part of drop-in-clubs.

Apple Crumble for pudding again – *All agreed with catering team.*

Pizza instead of a BBQ at the party next year – *It would be too expensive and time consuming to cook pizzas.*

Pizza for lunch – *All agreed with catering team. This will be a fresh pizza base with tomato and mozzarella served instead of one of the jacket potato days.*

Whole day learning and dressing up – such as Celts, Romans etc – *Members to discuss with your class teacher. Discussed in staff meeting.*

Growing Vegetables Club – *Johanna Robinson has been running a club. We could extend this.*

PJ afternoon – *Members to suggest this as a class reward with their own teachers*

Baking Club – *Lots of cooking opportunities when the new Art/DT studio has been completed.*

Our thanks to our school council members and Mrs Boyden for their time, care and dedication to Springmead School.

PERFORMING ARTS

Our Music Buzz Word this week: Tempo (the musical word for Speed)

It's been a jolly busy week in the Performing Arts Department, with rehearsals for the Harvest Service, Showcase and Eisteddfod preparations, peripatetic lessons in abundance, and our first Springmead Community Choir rehearsals (please join us if you can!).

We've had lots of fun preparing for Harvest this year, with the children learning songs from a variety of musical styles - Rock and Roll, Folk and Tango to name but a few. As well as focusing on the musical element of this service, the children have showed real empathy in our discussions about the collection for Mercy in Action, understanding and deeply feeling the real message of Harvest.

Peripatetic lessons continue apace, and we have once again, beaten our previous records for the number of lessons delivered weekly. That said, most of the teachers have space for new pupils, so please do get in touch if your child would like to start learning. We have particular availability in Woodwind (Clarinet, Saxophone, Flute and Recorder), and Drum Kit. Music is such a fun, expressive thing to do, and can help to develop those positive neural pathways, while also releasing those delightful feel-good hormones. No matter the age, it's never too late to learn an instrument!

Rehearsal Dates for our parent and staff choir are as follows:

Wednesday 1st November - 8-9am

Thursday 2nd November - 5-6pm

We really hope you will be able to join us. Please contact Mrs Drury to register your interest in taking part. If you have any questions, and in the meantime, have a listen to Harry Styles 'Treat People with Kindness'...

Hannah Drury

Disco Night

What a successful evening – arranged and organised by our excellent Springmead School Association (SSA). Children particularly loved the disco cookies baked by SSA member, Nicole Poa.

Many thanks to all the members who helped on the night.

Digital leaders

At the Digital Leaders meeting, this half term, we had a great discussion about what the job of a digital leader entails, and how to let their class know they can come to them with queries or concerns to pass on to myself or another adult. We discussed different forms a digital presence could take place; TV, gaming, phones, computer, social media etc. and pros and cons children could face with these different platforms. The emphasis was and always will be on being and keeping safe online.

Our thanks to this term's Digital Leaders, Otto, Darcey, Corinne, Iggy, Josh, Ava W, Edith and Ted for their time and commitment, along with Mrs Stickley.

How to order tickets:

Tickets are selling fast – Do not delay! Tickets are only booked through the Athenaeum Theatre.

Follow the link or scan the QR code to purchase tickets and use the code word provided to you, that was sent to you on the newsletter dated Friday 6th October.

(1) ONLINE BOOKING, *a codeword will be required to purchase tickets and a small extra fee applies.*

(2) TELEPHONE BOOKING *is only available via Ticket Source 0333 666 3366, a small extra fee applies.*

(3) BOOK IN PERSON AT THE BOX OFFICE *pay just the ticket price and no extra fees.*

Performers have seats allocated to them, there is no need to book separate tickets.



To visit the Athenaeum Theatre's listing- please follow the link:

<https://www.theath.org.uk/event/springmead-school-showcase-2023/>




CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

The children at Springmead have relished the experience of going to the Christmas Gift Shop and buying presents for members of their family over many years. Going shopping, planning gifts for others, rather than for yourself, is a very momentous event and ties in wonderfully with the Christmas message of giving. **Our gift shop is a valuable event that relies entirely on the generous donations from parents and staff.**

This year the Gift Shop will work as follows:

- The shop will be open on **Thursday 14th December** for children to select presents for their family. Nursery children can buy presents when they are in Nursery that week with our pop-up shop.
- The children and their teachers will gift wrap and label the items.
- **All presents cost £2.50**, children are allowed to spend a maximum of £12.50, on up to 5 presents.
- **Children will be asked to bring in their shopping money** in an envelope marked with their name and the names of the family members for whom they are buying gifts, **the week before the shop opens**. This will help us to ensure we have enough gifts of the right sort!
- Gifts can come into school in carrier bags from now onwards, there is a box in the library, or send them in with your child.
- Money raised from the Gift Shop will be used to buy additional equipment for the children, through the **Springmead School Association**.



The shop relies completely on donations from parents, gifts should be something your family members would like to receive, such as toiletries, stationery or toys.



Sports News

This week, the year 1 and 2 children have started a throwing and catching unit of work. We began the lesson by comparing different things we can throw and catch and discussing which items would be harder/easier to pass. We then practiced the throwing and catching skills in partners and increasing the distance between each other to increase the difficulty.



Fixtures

Please let me know via pedepartment@springmead.com if you wish to collect your child from a fixture.

Autumn Term Fixtures

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)



Swimming Update

Technique over speed.

While children are learning to swim, it is really important for them to focus on getting technique right rather than how fast they can swim. As if they are able to learn the skills and techniques correctly it establishes good habits, and the speed naturally comes. Whereas if you focus solely on going fast without the correct technique, it is significantly more difficult to correct the strokes once they have become a habit.

We do have some opportunities for those that are already secure in their technique to compete for the school. We also do the house gala at the end of the year for the children to all have a go at going fast, seeing how they have progressed and show off all their skills and technique.

Super swimmer of the week: Rafe for consistently working hard to listen and apply himself when given technique feedback.

Sarah Cozens

PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	Asa - Sharing and playing with your new friends. Margot - your great self-care skills.
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Edith - enthusiasm and motivation for swimming. Lewis - enthusiasm in art club.
RABBITS (Y1)	Jasper - Super maths. Arlo, Barnaby and Ines for great poetry performance.
OTTERS (Y2)	Freya for a good understanding of how we are all unique and special. Mathilde for working hard in maths on number bonds. Milo for engaging and interesting discussions about the Windrush generation.
BADGERS (Y3)	Holly for being on fire in maths. Darcey for writing an imaginative and happy quest adventure.
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Freya for her confident recognition and understanding of fronted adverbials. Polly for her positive contributions to class discussions. Tristan for his thoughtful, descriptive sentences based on the senses. Annabel for her thoughtful and interesting questions and ideas during our science talk.
FOXES (Y5)	Ava - a beautifully designed and executed shield. Iggy - always doing the right thing.
OWLS (Y5)	Noah - his enthusiasm to think outside the box and challenge himself in Maths. Rufus - for coming into school every day with a positive attitude, ready to learn. Sophia - for showing enthusiasm and resilience in our addition and subtraction unit.
EAGLES (Y6)	Milo - Fantastic maths work with manipulating numbers. Rafe - Super sketching of Victorian artefacts. Jess - Great effort with BODMAS. Evie - for being supportive and helpful to adults and children.

THE 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.



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

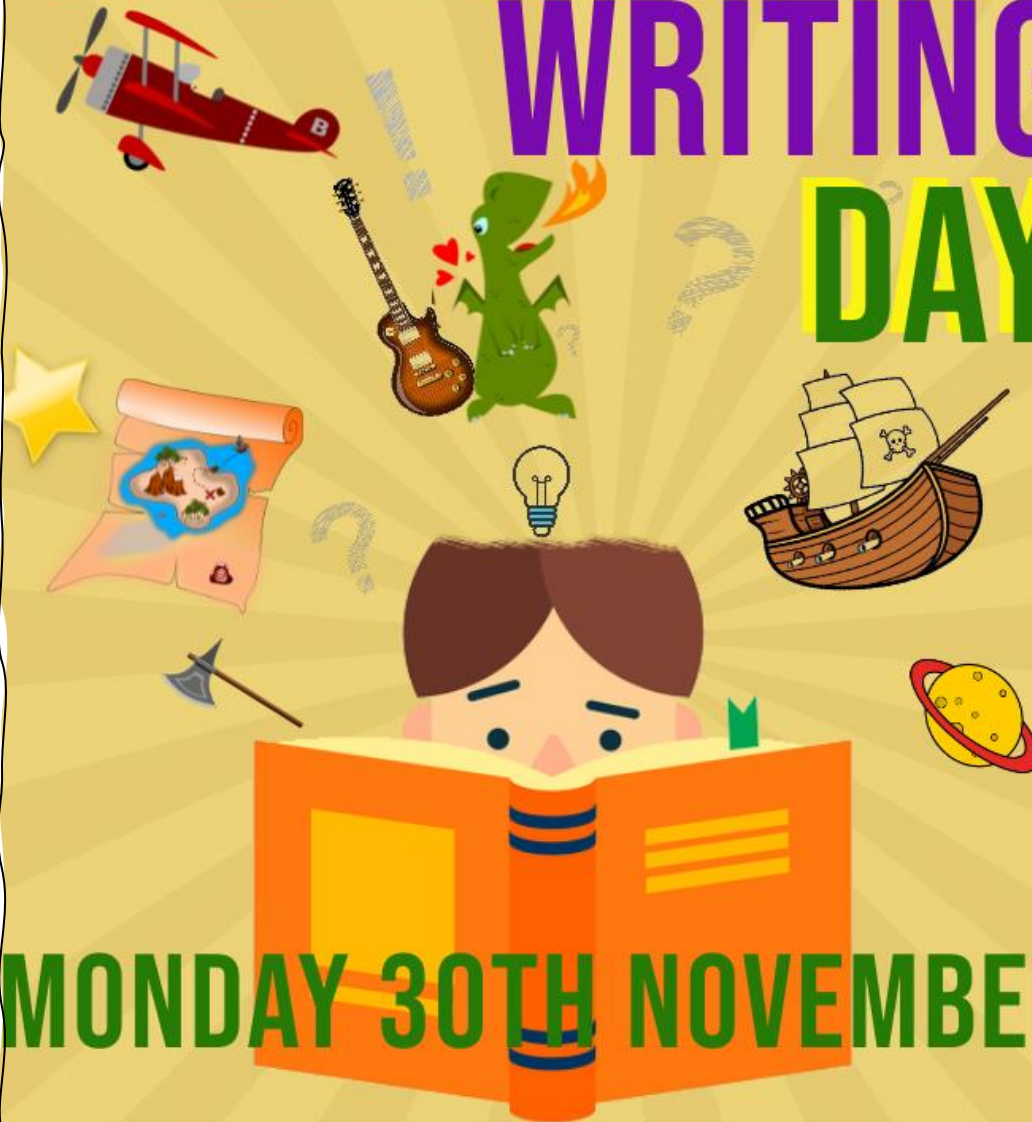
Emerald Izzy Flor Thea Elliott Cora Holly H Reuben	Inès Mary Matilda Charlotte Arlo Angelo	Ruby Mary
Sapphire Corinne		Amethyst
Diamond		Copper
Bronze		Silver
Platinum		Gold
Gold Plus		

CREATIVE



WRITING

DAY



MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS

Our nursery environment is always child centred, supportive, and engaging but one that children can access independently for themselves. Nursery life is different to home - with many children to look after, practitioners focus on supporting children to become independent - putting on their own shoes and socks, finding the hook to hang up your own coat, recognising your name on your drawer so you can put your own bag away, all are important skills in becoming independent - growing self-esteem, organisational skills and resilience. To help children manage these tasks, practitioners break them down into smaller steps to make them less daunting. Children at first, manage the last steps, so the illusion is created that the whole task has been completed independently - next time a further step for the child is added and so on so eventually the whole task is completed by the child. Practitioners know to create a sense of fun and sparkle into mundane jobs and are quick to add magic through a game or distraction to encourage children to stay on task. We use the well-known 'Magic Coat Trick' in Nursery which makes putting on your coat an easier job. Sometimes we all need a bit of magic!

SHIRLEY OFFER



HEDGEHOGS

Can you believe it, Hedgehogs you have completed your first half term at school and what a brilliant half term we have had! We have been particularly focusing on our letter formation this week and trying hard to write simple words, using the sounds we have learnt so far. We are becoming more independent by the day, and we have made wonderful progress with our phonics already. Well done, Hedgehogs.

We have also been doing lots of activities to help strengthen our hands and fingers which we know will help us with our handwriting. We each have our own mini sparkly playdough pot which we use to pinch, squish, squeeze, splat and press and we do it to music. It's lots of fun. This week we made our own autumn inspired salt dough which was a sensory sensation as we added nutmeg and cinnamon to the dough. We used our fine motor skills to mix it and squish it into a ball, patted it down and used leaf cutters to create some shapes which we will dry out to decorate our autumn tree. Happy half term, Hedgehogs.

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON, RECEPTION.



RABBITS

Lots of learning and growing in Rabbits again this week. We have just started a new block of learning in maths starting with learning parts of whole numbers.

They all did a tremendous job in their first 'big' story write of year one. We have some great aspiring writers. The children also started to design and make their boxes for their Jack in a Box and began to create their family and or friends linked together to go on display.

Rabbits class were also really well represented in the poetry competition - amazing job to all involved. We loved watching everyone perform brilliantly.



JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1

OTTERS

Otters have embraced all things autumnal this week. They have been learning how the use of similes and adjectives bring stories and poems to life and wrote some super autumn poems. They thoroughly enjoyed their Go Explore session down in the wildlife area and on the Beckington Loop. They looked for signs of autumn and watched leaves falling off the trees. They loved being outdoors, running in the fields and playing in the stream.

On World Mental Health Day, the children focused on what to do when they're worried. I reminded them of the importance of talking to someone about how you're worried. They went on to make some very funny fingerprint Worry Monsters!

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

Go Explore is such a great way for everyone to experience a whole plethora of subjects. The Badgers' senses were put to the test resulting in hearing several birds, seeing so many different plants, thinking about how the landscape has been formed, trying to avoid touching the stinging nettles and tasting the obligatory emergency snack. The Badgers spent time imagining what it must have been like in Ancient Britain when looking for a safe place to strike camp. It was also a time to practise dangling from branches and clambering amongst the undergrowth. Relating the landscape to maps, the young cartographers tracked the Roman roads throughout the UK.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



SQUIRRELS

October is Black History Month in the UK. The aim of BHM UK is to focus on promoting and celebrating the contributions of those with Caribbean or African heritage to British society.

As a class, we looked at the arrival of The Empire Windrush Britain, which brought 500 migrants from the Caribbean to Tilbury Docks in Essex in 1948. Britain was just starting to recover from World War Two back then, and many of these people answered an advert to come to Britain where there were lots of different jobs to do. However, when the passengers landed, they didn't always get the friendly welcome they had hoped for. Many of them experienced racism and discrimination and often found it hard to get proper homes to live in or to make friends with British people. It wasn't always easy for the new arrivals to get jobs. Some companies said they didn't want black people to work for them. Following on from this, we explored the 1963 Bristol bus boycott protest over the refusal of the Bristol Omnibus Company to employ non-white people. Following the peaceful boycott, the company overturned their decision. The event marked a significant moment in the UK civil rights movement. The Squirrels thought carefully about how life would have been for these migrants and shared their very empathetic thoughts and feelings on this matter. It was a lovely discussion session which brought up some very interesting questions, comments and discussions, which was lovely to be a part of.

STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



OWLS

We had a wonderful last week of term in Owls! We had the opportunity to visit a Mosque in Bristol on Monday, which was a great way for the children to consolidate their learning about Islam. It was wonderful to see how curious the children were to discover more- listening carefully to the Imam as he guided them around the Mosque and explained some of the traditions and teachings that Muslims follow. We also had the opportunity to think carefully about the similarities and differences between Islam and Christianity when we visited the Church this week for our Harvest Festival rehearsals! I hope the children all get lots of rest over the half term break and give themselves a pat on the back for all their hard work as they've settled into Year 5 over the past few weeks.

LYDIA ADAMS



FOXES

The Foxes began their week with an extremely rewarding visit to a beautiful mosque in Easton, Bristol. They had a guided tour around a brand new extension to the mosque and were totally engrossed during the presentation from the mosque's Imam and tour leader. They had plenty of questions and lots to offer from their own studies in school and had the opportunity to sample dates as part of our mid-morning snack. We took our picnic to Eastville Park, enjoyed lunch in the sunshine and discovered a fantastic source of conkers.

World Mental Health Day gave us the chance to explore a plethora of ways to look after our own mental health and some quiet time to investigate whether mindfulness colouring is an activity that might help us sometimes.



EAGLES

With the first half-term concluding, our Springmead Ambassadors will have completed 1/6 of their final year at the school! The time is just racing along, and the Eagles have had a busy and exciting six weeks with Bikeability, Bushcraft, the MacMillan Coffee Morning, the Poetry competition, Wiltshire Air Ambulance 1st Aid and the Showcase Auditions! As much as the class enjoy all the opportunities outside of the classroom, they have been equally happy in the classroom learning about BODMAS, Charles Darwin, the subject and object of a sentence, Willam Morris and OS Maps. With so many more experiences and opportunities to come, the Eagles have set a great foundation for the rest of the year and after a well-deserved break, I am sure they will come back refreshed and raring to go!

NICK MUNCKTON



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Both Rose and Mabel, in Year 5, have achieved Distinction in their Grade 1 Modern Theatre dancing exams. Another amazing achievement for them both.

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 scox@springmead.com

Sally Cox

Headteacher



Forfar
EDUCATION

ISA
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION
Accredited Member