

Springmead Newsletter

No. 10 ~ 2023/24



Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Parents,

We ushered in the new week with fantastic news from weekend activities. The Devizes Eisteddfod was a triumph for Springmead with wins, cups and certificates. Please see Hannah Drury's article further on. Next week we will draw your attention to further performance competitions with our plan for the Mid Somerset Festival where we compete against Bath schools. These opportunities are fantastic for children and appeal to many pupils with the breadth of classes they offer.

Children in Year 3 and 5 were delighted to share their good news that you can read about in detail below – their wins at the National Biathlon Championships. An exciting day for them that will move them forward, hopefully, to the National finals.

We relish our children taking part in competitive events. The deep focus they create in specific subjects or fields, allows our children to showcase their knowledge and skills in that area. Children expand their knowledge gaining a deeper understanding of their subject of interest. By taking part children build resilience and develop a spirit of competitiveness. They learn to handle wins and losses graciously, overcoming challenges, and persevering in the face of tough competition. These experiences contribute hugely to their personal growth and build important life skills. By providing a platform for children to demonstrate their abilities recognises them for their achievements boosting confidence and self-esteem, reinforcing their belief in their own abilities. Being part of the 'bigger picture' for their chosen subject area allows children to meet and interact with peers who share similar interests. They may well attract the attention of professionals, or organisations that can open doors to various opportunities. These competitions provide a target for children to work towards, giving them a sense of purpose and direction. Children can set goals, prepare and practice diligently, and experience the satisfaction of achieving their objectives. This process instills discipline, time management skills, and a strong work ethic in our children, which can benefit them in various aspects of life.

We are very proud of all our children who stand up to be counted and showcase all their incredible abilities. Roll on the next round!

Sally Cox



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Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

Eisteddfod Groups



Diary Dates at a glance

Monday 27th November - Anti Bullying Day wear #odd socks in support.

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

Monday 27th November - 7-8pm - Community Choir

Wednesday 29th November - 8-9am - Community Choir

Friday 1st December - 1.45pm to 3.30pm - Wreath Making Workshop with The Little Flower Co.

Friday 1st December - Year 3 Go Explore

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

Monday 4th December - Whole School Elf Run in aid of Dorothy House

Tuesday 5th December - 9am and 11am - Nursery and Reception Nativity - book tickets through the office.

Wednesday 6th December - Year 6 Bushcraft

Wednesday 6th December - Dorothy House Sponsor money and forms returned to School.

Wednesday 6th December - 5-6pm - Community Choir

Thursday 7th December - All gift shop money and lists into school.

Friday 8th December - Nursery and Reception to Egg Theatre, Bath to see Midnight Mole

Friday 8th December - Year 2 Trip to Bath

Friday 8th December 8-8:45am - Community Choir

Monday 11th December - 7pm - Carol Service - Years 3- 6

Tuesday 12th December - 9am and 11am - Year 1 and 2 Nativity - book tickets through the office.

Wednesday 13th December - Christmas lunch

Thursday 14th December - Gift Shop for all children

Friday 15th December - Party Day - Christmas jumpers/ party wear - please bring coats.

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



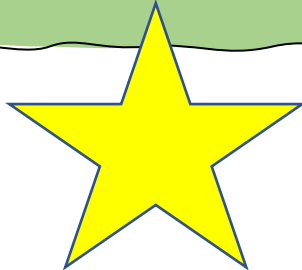
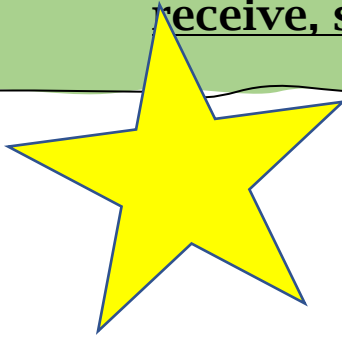
CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

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. Thank you so much to families who have donated already.**

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 -by **Thursday 7th December** 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.



Social Media

We are aware that children in our older years are using social media and in particular Instagram. We understand that some children's accounts are monitored by parents, but please be vigilant. The advice is always to keep an open dialogue with your children about their viewing, their posting and how to keep safe. As adults we are able to discern and set algorithms to positive content by steering clear of unwanted material. But children do not have the skills and understanding we have and if their interest is piqued by particular content, the platforms are set to offer similar images, text and accounts. This makes it very difficult for children to navigate away from unsuitable and damaging content. The NSPCC have written this [guide](#) to setting up Instagram safety features and general guidance for parents.

The [Online Safety Bill](#) which is going through parliament at the moment aims to make social media platforms accountable for the content they host. But still, at the moment, it is very much unregulated and needs a high degree of caution when it comes to protecting our children's childhoods and the way they see the world.

Anti-Bullying Day

This Monday we will be raising our community's awareness of anti-bullying through a morning assembly and lessons in class. Children are welcome to wear odd socks in support of the day.

Lost Shoes

Jack Tucker in Year 4 has lost his school shoes - they are named and size 4. Please check your child's shoes - particularly in Year 5 and 6. He last had them on Monday before cross country.



Science Fair - Science in a Shoebox 2024

Friday 26th January

Beckington Village Hall



As old hands know, one of the major highlights of the Springmead Calendar is the annual Science Fair **for Years 3 – 6**. Again, this year it is taking place in January, so the three week break at Christmas would be a great time to get started!

All children in Years 3 – 6 have the opportunity to present a science project to younger children, 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 rehearse 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 Friday 26th January between 8:00am and 8:30am. During the morning, they will be able to share their projects with peers. **Parents are invited to the Science Fair between 2:00pm and 3:00pm.** Projects and children can be collected from the village hall between 3:00pm and 3:30pm.

NO school bags are needed on this day.

Children will come back to school for lunch and a change of pace!

After school clubs will run as usual for those wishing to attend.





For Nursery children, **if this is not your child's usual day**, please bring them into nursery, at 8.30am ready for their performance at 9am. Ideally, we would like children to perform in both performances so we will happily keep them for the second performance too. Please collect them at 12 noon.

Before each performance, for half an hour, we will be serving mince pies and coffee. We will be delighted to see you there. This is a great opportunity for a class pre-Christmas get together. Don't forget to book your tickets

from the office for your child's performance. We have allocated two tickets per child, but there may well be more available for other family and friends, please ask. You may take photos and film through both Nativity events, as there is no official filming, but please don't use flash or disturb our young performers. Photos and film must only be shared for private family use and not on social media.



Our beautiful candlelit carol service will be held at St George's Church, Beckington, led by our Prep department. Arrangements for the evening are as follows:

All children in Years 3 - 6 need to be seated in their place in church by 6:50pm. Children should be in full school uniform with fleeces, fleece side out for this occasion please. Please do not arrive before 6:45pm 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 in 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!

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. You do not need tickets for this event but there will be a retiring collection for the heating and upkeep of St George's Church so please bring a donation.

Sports News

South West Schools Biathlon Championships

On Sunday we had 4 of our children representing Springmead at Regional qualifiers held at Millfield School. It was an exciting albeit windy and chilly day, and all 4 children put in phenomenal performances throughout the day.

In Year 3 we had Hebe, Charlotte and Lizzie competing. The 25m swim was first and all 3 girls were in the same heat and were off to an amazing start with all 3 girls going faster than their previous best times. Then they went outside to take part in the 400m run. Charlotte was up first and stormed through winning her heat in an impressive time. Lizzie and Hebe followed in the next heat working really hard and securing themselves a great finish place. After that the points from both the run and the swim were added together and Charlotte was placed 3rd overall with 1760 points, Lizzie placed 9th overall with 1574 points and Hebe finished in 15th place with 1280 points. As a team of 3 their points were **added together and they won the team event!**

Iggy competed in the year 5 age group and he did amazingly well in a very competitive category, he improved his time in the 50m swim and also showed immense determination in the 800m run working hard on the back straight of the second lap. He finished in 29th position overall once the points were added together.

All of the students showed great sportsmanship, and we are very proud of all of their results. There are several other qualifying events going on around Great Britain over the next few weeks, and once all of the results have been compiled **a ranking list will be released inviting the top competitors to compete at the National finals** held in bath in March of next year. We hope to see some of our students names on that list and will update you with who has made it to the finals.

Super swimmer of the week: Harrison for showing fantastic energy and enthusiasm for swimming.

Sports News

Springmead and Lumiar School Football afternoon

For the year 5 and 6 PE lesson this week, Lumiar School joined us for some football.

The children were split into 2 groups and for the first part of the lesson took part in some football related skills and drills.

In Miss Lindley's group we practised dribbling the ball from side to side, using both our left and right foot to control the ball. We also played an attacking and defending where a player had to protect their 4 cones whilst others tried to kick the ball at them to knock them down.

The second half of the session was spent playing a mixed game. The children had a chance to put their skills into practise.

At the end of the lesson it was great to receive feedback from the children who said they 'loved making new friends and playing football with them.'

Sports News

Hedgehogs gymnastics

This week the hedgehogs spent their PE lessons in the hall exploring the climbing equipment.

We also practised forward rolls and star, pencil and tuck jumps off a bench!

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Negotiate space and obstacles safely, with consideration for themselves and others;
- Demonstrate strength, balance and coordination when playing;
- Move energetically, such as running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing.

Fixtures

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

Autumn Term Fixtures

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

Monday 4th December - Elf Run

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



Sports News

Dorothy House Elf Run

We are back again for this **seasonal charity event supporting Dorothy House**. Children will be receiving their **sponsor forms next week**.

'We have **teamed up with Santa this Christmas** to bring you a fun-filled fundraising event but, just like the big man, we can't take on the festive season alone! We need Elf recruits to get active this December and take on the Dorothy House Elf Run!' – Dorothy House

- **The Elf run will be held in school on Monday 4th December.**
- The children will complete a 'fun run' dressed in elf hats to raise money for Dorothy House.
- The Elf hats have been kindly gifted to us by **Dorothy House so we are asking for a £1 donation for the hats in aid of this excellent charity.**
- Nursery, Reception and KS1 classes will complete their run in the morning and KS2 classes in the afternoon. Please make sure children have their PE kits in school on this day.
- In addition to the donation for the hat we are asking children to collect as many sponsors as they can. Please dig deep as every little helps.

Please return all sponsor forms and sponsorship money to Emma Lindley by Wednesday 6th December. If you have any questions please email elindley@springmead.com

PERFORMING ARTS

This week, the **Music Buzz Word** is text/lyrics. Relevant only in singing, a focus on the text is a great way to enhance performance with deeper understanding of the meaning.

What a week we have had in the performing arts department!

The children absolutely excelled themselves at the Devizes Eisteddfod on Friday and Saturday, where our various ensembles placed admirably among the top three.

On Friday, Choral Group came second in a very stiff competition against many other schools in the area, and Saturday saw a 2nd place for Rock School and the coveted Trophy for our musical theatre group who performed their medley of songs from the Wizard of Oz. We also had a number of soloists across various classes, and came away with several second and third places, and first place medals for Ellie and Mabel in the duets class.

I can't begin to explain how proud I am of the children for making such a mark on the festival, but I even had other schools and adjudicators come up to tell me that their Professionalism, etiquette, and support for each other, and others was evident.

More exciting news: back by popular demand after their fantastic performance at the showcase, the Springmead community choir will be performing at the Carol service in a couple of weeks. It's not too late to join us and we would love to have more members. I have tried to plan the rehearsals in order to maximise availability and in the hope that most people will be available for at least one rehearsal. Please remember there is no pressure to attend all of the rehearsals, and singing is good for the soul!

Community choir rehearsals:

Monday 27th Nov, 7-8pm

Wednesday 29th Nov, 8-9am

Wednesday 6th Dec, 5-6pm

Friday 8th Dec, 8-8.45am

Come along for singing, laughter, camaraderie, and friendship...

Carol Service - Monday 11th Dec, 7pm.

Hannah Drury

PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	Jack for putting your own socks and shoes on. George B - Using the scissors correctly to cut out your picture. Isma for writing your name by yourself and great story ideas when creating a book. Esraa for always following instructions and being kind to others.
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Violet for super fine motor skills creating a diva lamp out of clay Florence for excellent acting in our Nativity film- great characterisation.
RABBITS (Y1)	Freya for such beautiful handwriting Arthur for focusing so well in maths
OTTERS (Y2)	Freya for such beautiful handwriting Arthur for Focusing so well in maths
BADGERS (Y3)	Lizzie for demonstrating perseverance with challenging questions and work. Maddie for working hard being your best self and taking care with the presentation of your work
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Annabel for her great understanding of symbolism at Christmas Jack for his detailed character description Alexander for always being ready to learn
FOXES (Y5)	Aubrey - brilliant work using multiples of ten Katerina - fantastic contribution to science lessons investigating forces
OWLS (Y5)	Rose- for her excellent work in Maths last week. Violet- for always following the Springmead way and being a great role model for others.
EAGLES (Y6)	Elliott - for being supportive of others and a great role model. Danny - demonstrating super mathematical thinking. Milo - great questioning skills.

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 Thea Zeph Holly H Mathilde	Inès Charlotte Arlo Angelo	Ruby Flor Iggy Cora Elliot. B	Izzy Freya. G
Sapphire Otto Matilda Mary	Reuben	Amethyst Florence. M	Alfred. M
Diamond Corinne		Copper	
Bronze		Silver	
Platinum		Gold	
Gold Plus			

We are now offering a hot lunch option during holiday club, as we are keen to move away from packed lunches. At some point soon our own lunches will be fully reinstated and will become the Holiday Club standard lunch. Food will be based on our school menus. Tea will comprise of sandwiches, crudites and fruit. If you would like to book the lunch/tea option this must be booked at the same time that you book your place. Lunch and tea costs £7.50.

Holiday Club charges for children registered at Springmead School:

Before holiday club - 8.00am to 8.30am - Free

8.30am to 3.30pm day - £24.00 per day

8.30am to 1.00pm morning - £15 per session

12.30pm to 3.30pm afternoon £15 per session

3.30pm to 6.00pm after club care £4.00 per ½ hour





Christmas Wreath Making Workshop *at Springmead*

Friday 1st December
1.45 to 3.30pm
£50 per person

Springmead
School

and:

The Little
FLOWER Co.

We are delighted to offer our parents and friends of Springmead, the opportunity to join our wreath making workshop hosted by Springmead, working with The Little Flower Co., Frome. The price includes all materials and refreshments. You will take home a beautiful professional wreath to hang. There are very limited places available. Please book with Kim, office@springmead.com, by Friday 17th November.

Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS

As we get to grips with the Blossom app, growing in proficiency and confidence, we are trying out new features that it offers. The new aspect to the software introduces developmental markers that we can record alongside the 'Golden Moments' observations that we share with you. Children's progress fits into age bands in the 7 areas of learning. These age bands are refined into Emerging, Developing and Secure levels so that we can see how children progress with us. The document they come from is called [Development Matters](#) and it is the result of the most recent research and knowledge of child development. It is a very interesting document and will give you clear markers of your child's development. Look out for comments with the observations we send home.

In others news, we have almost finished filming our Nativity, we just need to put it all together! The film, accompanied by songs and a tableau will be premiered to parents on Tuesday 5th December at both 9am and 11am. Virtual tickets costing £5 are available from Kim, in the office, by email on office@springmead.com.

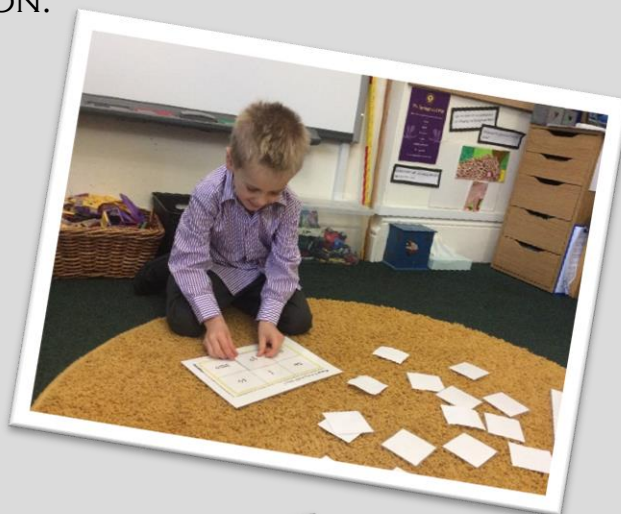
SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



HEDGEHOGS

This week in the Hedgehogs we've been lucky enough to have Norland Nanny Miss Sanders join us, which has brought about much excitement and glee. Not only have we been learning our 'tricky words' and having a go at writing numbers one to ten, but we've started our Christmas cards, painted our handmade Diwali lamps in beautiful bright colours AND begun filming our Nativity alongside our Nursery friends. It's been a busy week (as ever) but with an added sprinkle of festivity, it's been a very exciting place to be! Well done, Hedgehogs.

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON, RECEPTION.



RABBITS

We had the very best time at the Bristol Zoo project last week. They had a fabulous lesson all about grouping animals in which the children used their fantastic knowledge to answer questions and be animal detectives - solving a very important mission. We then walked around the project and saw giraffes, zebras, lots of primates, linx and much, much more.

It was lovely to tie in what they have been learning in science and moving on there is now more they would like to explore.

They did everyone very proud - well done Rabbits!

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



OTTERS

Year 2 have been working on punctuation this week. They revisited how to write uppercase and lowercase letters using the correct sizes and letter formations, then took a close look at sentences as to where the capital letters should be. The children are all very good at saying where they should go, but when busy writing super sentences in stories, they sometimes slip the mind and get forgotten. It's always good to have a little reminder!

In Geography they have continued to use atlases to locate places around the world. They mapped out journeys across the world, looking at the continents and oceans they would have to travel through.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

This week it has all been hands-on with the Badgers who have been busy sorting a selection of things. In Science, last week it was all about what eats what, and this week it was which food groups are which. Having investigated a selection of the real things by way of foods, including a tin of beans, custard creams from the Roman road experience, apples and bread, the class set to work with cogs whirring arranging the foodstuff into the right sections. There was a great deal of discussion about what, why and where things should go. Handily, the sorting training was put to good use in maths when multiplication was introduced. It can be so much easier using magic beads.

It wasn't all work behind a desk, there was the small matter of an Anglo-Saxon invasion, but that's for another time.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



SQUIRRELS

The Year 4's have been working hard in ICT lessons on coding. They have been working on adding variables to their codes. Variables are used to store information, like game scores and time. A variable is like a box with information inside. You give it a name (like 'score') and then you can get the computer to look in the box whenever you want the information to be used. For instance, you can tell the computer to add a point every time you hit a target in your game or display a message when you get to ten.

They have really enjoyed learning these step by step skills to then apply them to their own games.

Well done!

STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



OWLS

We begun this week thinking about collaboration and compromise as part of our PSHE unit, 'Together Everyone Achieves More'. In our class, the children are awarded with an 'Owl' every time they do something fantastic and show that they are following the Springmead Way. When they have earned all of the Owls, they are given free time that they can spend on activity of their choice. In order to test their collaboration and compromise skills, I set the class the challenge of coming up with the perfect plan for their free time, with the condition that every single child must agree. They got off to a strong start, huddling together to share their ideas. However, they soon realised that everyone competing to say their suggestion in the loudest voice was not a productive way forward! Luckily, it was suggested that they could instead take it in turns to respond to each other's suggestions, drawing on our discussions around 'respectful disagreement' to collaborate and build on one another's ideas. They had to be conscious of their peers' preferences in order to reach a compromise that would work for all. This took some time but eventually a wonderful afternoon was planned that secured every child's vote. Well done team!

LYDIA ADAMS



FOXES

There was another exciting lesson in science this week, identifying the effects of air resistance. The Foxes were tasked to design a parachute by making three models, adjusting one variable to create the most efficient product. We have a class full of designers in our midst....

Maths lessons have provided us with lots to explore using fractions; we're becoming experts on identifying equivalent fractions, converting mixed numbers to improper fractions and vice versa.

But the main excitement this week has been preparing for our Thanksgiving celebrations, learning the history of the event, finding out how Americans spend their day and planning activities and the buffet lunch. Watch this space for photos next week.

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



EAGLES

It's the Eagles turn for their dance sessions with Tiff Lewis at Danceworks this half-term. Although they miss going swimming on a Thursday morning, they are really enjoying the different learning environment and the challenges that come with learning and following dance routines.

'Dance is great! It really gets you moving and sweating, and Tiff is a brilliant teacher' – Rafe.

Although we don't have a Showcase event to see the progress our oldest children are making, the few moves that get demonstrated in the classroom or playground look pretty impressive to me!



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

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
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Accredited Member