

Springmead Newsletter

No. 7 ~ 2023/24



Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents,

As we wait with great anticipation for our glittering Showcase evening tonight, we are delighted to share with you the news that over the half term holiday, Ilka Brown, our artist in residence and I attended the Independent Schools Association (ISA) South West Regional Art Competition in Cornwall where Springmead pupils' art entries were placed 1st in three categories, a remarkable achievement. With over 80,000 schools in the South West region our talented artists shone. These pieces will now be put forward to the ISA Autumn Study Conference where the national finals will be held next week. In the meantime, as we wait for results, enjoy the [virtual gallery](#) of the 7 ISA National regions and spot our deservedly winning art work.



The art department at Springmead has been gathering momentum over the last few years, with specialist teachers, inset training and our invitational clubs allowing some of our best pupil artists to have time together, inspiring each other, learning skills and honing techniques, all while under the watchful guidance of passionate teacher artists. Our enrichment week focus was art this year and introduced new ideas, a study of the history of art, and time spent with a working artist sharing their skills and life as a creator.



Our first art exhibition this summer, was a fabulous celebration of our whole community's passion for creative arts and this has been continued, through the building of our exciting art studio. We can't wait for the finish line to be in sight and to continue the amazing work that occurs each day in our school in this new specialist space.

Autumn is certainly here – I hope you have all had the chance to enjoy the beautiful profusion of fungi varieties that are decorating our front garden this week. In other news, we are beginning to plan for the festive season ahead, and have planned for a new event, a joint partnership with Little Flower Co - a wreath making workshop. Please do see the poster further down.

Sally Cox



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Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

Winning Art Work



Billy in Year 6 – Highly Commended

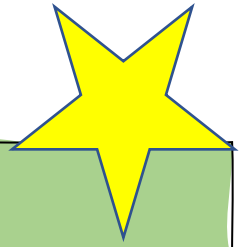
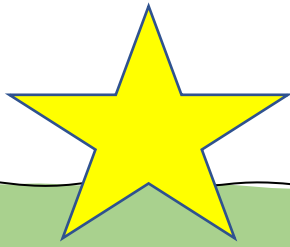


Ellie in Year 5 – Highly Commended



Arthur in Year 2 – 2nd Place





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.

Children in Need, Friday 17th November

Children are invited to participate in our Children in Need fundraising activity on Friday 17th November by wearing mufti for a cash donation.

Please dig deep for this worthy cause!



Sports News

Year 3/4 Hockey fixture vs Beckington

On Monday afternoon the year 3 and 4 hockey club (and squad) children welcomed the Beckington First School children to Springmead for a hockey meet.

We began with a simple passing drill, partnering up the Springmead and Beckington children with each other. A great ice breaker!!

After making sure that the children could hold the stick correctly and understood the safety rules, we started an 8 a-side match. I was really impressed with the teamwork and resilience from all the Springmead children. Some excellent passes and tackles were made throughout the match. The score ended Springmead - 4 - Beckington - 1.

Year 1 and 2 Sports afternoon lead by Year 5 children

On Wednesday, during PE, the Year 1 and 2 children took part in a range of activities led by the lovely Year 5 children.

Blindfolded obstacles courses, shuttle ball, foxes and chickens and many more activities were on the agenda explained beautifully by the older children.

The 1st and 2nd Years relished being mixed with children from Beckington School and even bumped into friends and family.



Fixtures

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

Autumn Term Fixtures

Tuesday 7th November – Mendip Cross Country League – Shepton Mallet

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

Thursday 23rd November – Year 5/6 SASP football tournament (selected pupils)

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)



Emma Lindley

PERFORMING ARTS — HANNAH DRURY

Here we are in one of the most exciting weeks of the performing arts calendar at Springmead... Showcase week!

All of the groups and soloists have been busy putting the final touches to their performances, warming up their vocals, tuning their instruments, perfecting their dance moves... And you will get to see it all on Friday night! We are so excited to share it with you, and know that you will feel suitably proud of all the young people who have given so much to produce their very best performances!

This week, our Buzz Word has been more a Buzz Phrase... Performance Etiquette! This seemed like a suitable topic this week, and is something that we can take pride in. It is one thing to stand up on stage and sing, play, dance, act... But it is another to do it with poise, professionalism, and confidence. From the moment of entering the stage until the final bow, a performer is in the spotlight. We ask a great deal of our young people to simply perform, without considering all of the additional expectations. Will they remember to bow at the end? Will they smile during the dance? Will they be blinded by the lights, and cover their eyes? Until we are there, on the stage, with our audience, in our costumes, under the lights, we don't honestly know how it will go. That is what gives us the adrenaline rush of performing.

I know that you are going to be so proud of every child who steps foot on the stage in Showcase, and as their music teacher, I am absolutely full to the brim of pride and admiration! Photos from the Showcase rehearsal on Monday will be put onto our [Flickr platform](#) as soon as possible, these were taken by Jon at David Wiltshire Photography

For all those involved either as soloists or in groups, here are the Devizes Eisteddfod Competition Times:

Friday 17th November:

10.00am at St John's Church in Devizes - Choirs Class (Prep Choir and Choral Group)

Saturday 18th November:

10.35am at St Andrew's Church in Devizes - Monologue Class

11.25am at Devizes Town Hall - Piano Solo Class

12.00pm at the Devizes Town Hall - Year 3, 4 and 5 Musical Theatre Solo Class

2.00pm at the Devizes Town Hall - Year 6 Musical Theatre Solo Class

3.20pm at the Devizes Town Hall - Musical Theatre Duet Class

4.15pm at the Devizes Town Hall - Musical Theatre Group Class (Musical Theatre club)

4.30pm at the Devizes Town Hall - Ensemble Class (Rock School)

Please remember that we welcome an audience for all the performances so come along if you can!

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

Poppy Appeal 2023



From Monday 6th to Friday 10th November, we will once again be selling poppies to support the Royal British Legion. If you would like your child to have a poppy to wear, please can they bring money into school.

PRAISE CERTIFICATES WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK...

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 Thea Elliott Cora Holly H Reuben	Inès Charlotte Arlo Angelo Iggy Zeph	Ruby Mary Otto Flor
Sapphire Alfred. M Matilda		Amethyst Corinne
Diamond		Copper
Bronze		Silver
Platinum		Gold
Gold Plus		

Christmas Cards and Santa Sacks

The online shop for Christmas card orders closes on Wednesday 8th November. No orders can be processed and returned in time for Christmas after this date. If parents have lost their unique order code, please contact Kim Hobley in the office - office@springmead.com

Santa sacks are available to order until December 1st.
at <https://sforders.co.uk/1AbZ5nYeR> (these raise £3.00 - £5.00 for the school on each purchase)



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

Children have returned to nursery happy and excited about their half term adventures. They have been getting to know Mrs Stone, our new member of the team – and she has been getting to know the children's names, their important likes, dislikes, personalities, friendships, learning styles and development stages. She is absorbing a lot of information. We are very pleased she has joined us.

This week we have had a lovely few days exploring the autumn celebration of pumpkins. Pumpkins are everywhere at the moment, and we feel it is important to reflect children's communities and family lives. We've also looked at books about magical characters including Meg and Mog, Winnie the Witch and Funnybones.

On Thursday, as part of the whole school enrichment day, we focused on creative writing. The nursery looked at nursery rhymes, exploring the rich language, word patterns, history and rhythms they offer.

SHIRLEY OFFER

https://youtu.be/8BOWGMU_RQG



HEDGEHOGS

It's been firework fun this week in Hedgehogs. We looked at various poem and rhymes exploring Bonfire Night and fireworks. Together as a class we made a word bank to describe Bonfire Night. We thought of some fantastic descriptive words, and it made us feel ready for a Bonfire right then! We have started thinking about writing our own acrostic poems, using some of those descriptive words in our word bank. We came up with some very creative ideas. We loved doing some sparkler art, blowing different coloured inks across a page and adding glitter. They were very effective. We also discovered why we celebrate Bonfire Night and we were quite shocked little Hedgehogs at the thought of naughty Guy Fawkes! We had some great discussions on firework safety, which is very important but we can't wait to have some fun on Bonfire Night.

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON, RECEPTION.



RABBITS

We've had a lovely first week back. Lots of excitement around Showcase which we are looking forward to on Friday. The Rabbits did some creative writing on Monday and contributed to a wonderful acrostic poem about fireworks and then drew some fantastic firework pictures. We enjoyed a sports afternoon with Beckington School, which ended with us getting rather wet as we got caught in the downpour! We started our 'Go explore' by having a cosy 'campfire' and marshmallows and some campfire songs and stories. We're looking forward to what the rest of this exciting term has in store for us.



JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1

OTTERS

Otters loved becoming busy little authors on Monday on our 'Creative Writing Day'. After listening to the wonderful story by John Burningham called 'The Magic Bed'. The children shared ideas of where they would like to travel to if they had a magic bed and what they would do when they were there. I absolutely love the way children jump straight into writing their stories, given free rein to see where their imaginations take them! Landing in the jungles looking for treasure amongst the animals, crashing into caves under the sea, flying off to Disneyland where rides malfunctioned and riding on dolphins were just some of the ideas that they wrote about. They enjoyed reading their stories aloud to the class, who all listened attentively.

The children had a great time on their walk around the village on our Go Explore session. They gathered leaves that had fallen and had fun threading them together. Simply being outdoors in the fresh air, spotting signs of autumn and Halloween decorations, creating games to play in muddy fields and returning to school to some of Ms Pinchin's delicious pancakes, made for a memorable morning.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

Demonstrating terrific teamwork and using road building skills from 2,000 years ago, the Badgers created two fine examples of Roman roads. Who knew the long-standing engineering creations could be replicated using biscuits, custard and a selection of small chocolately nibbles. Also imagine doing maths without actually noticing! All that measuring, estimating and problem-solving. Prior to the assembling of ingredients, the class investigated the various engineering stages to build these magnificent roads which we can still see today, not forgetting that all roads lead to Rome.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



SQUIRRELS

The Squirrels have come back from a very well-deserved rest and hit the ground running!

They blew me away with their Hip Hop dance for showcase and their culinary skills when making the infamous Greek dish - Spanakopita.

The national curriculum states that;

‘As part of their work with food, pupils should be taught how to cook and apply the principles of nutrition and healthy eating.’

As we made our way through the recipe, we discussed why leaving frying onions in a pan and wandering off to read a book isn't a good idea, how to crush garlic, the importance of seasoning, and of course, the importance of hygiene when cooking for ourselves and others. Once the filling was made using onions, garlic, spinach, feta and ricotta, it was time to tackle the filo pastry! With it being so thin and fragile, the Squirrels learned quickly that they had to move fast, folding their mixture into little triangular parcels!

Luckily, we got them into the oven in time, and they were able to take home their warm, Greek inspired, delights - alongside all the lessons learned along the way.

STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



OWLS

We had a great first week back in Owls class! We began our week with rehearsals for the much-anticipated Showcase. It has been wonderful to see so many of the Year 5 children express themselves through performance and give 110% to practising and perfecting their acts. We hope to see as many of you as possible on Friday night as we come together to celebrate their hard work!

We also got stuck into learning about Native American history as we brought a microcosmic North America to our classroom! The children put on their explorer hats to venture around the areas of North America and note down their discoveries.

Well done for all your hard work navigating a busy first week back, Owls, have a relaxing weekend.

LYDIA ADAMS



FOXES

Monday was a very creative beginning to the new week, with rehearsals at the theatre and an opportunity to use their creative writing to become authors and begin their own stories.... some of them have written short stories and others have embarked on a novel. Who knows, perhaps we going to have some published writers in years to come.

The Foxes are getting excited about this half term's projects, investigating forces and exploring the history of the United States. We have already started our new class reader, another modern novel set in America, and quite quickly they could spot some similarities with this one and the book we completed before the break. They are developing a real ability to think 'out of the box' and can use examples to clarify the point they are making.



JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY

EAGLES

The Eagles spent Wednesday afternoon with Mr & Mrs Hotson exploring fire. In the morning the class learnt about the science and history of fire, its importance through time, different ways to create, carry, store, and feed a fire successfully before a picnic lunch and a spot of entertainment provided by Wilbur the Labrador demonstrating diving and retrieval skills in the pond, much to the delight of the Eagles!

After lunch it was time to knuckle down to the important stuff once again with the practical element of the session working as a team to use the bow drill to create an ember from which a fire could start and then individual practise with the fire steel attempting to light the birch bark tinder.

After each session the children return to school and record their learning and their bushcraft journey in a journal that builds over the year and provides the theory element of their bushcraft assessment.

NICK MUNCKTON



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Following Seth's September Step challenge, he walked in total 140 miles (363,000 steps) and he ended up raising £472.00 for the foodbanks.

He went shopping for them and then delivered the goods to his local foodbank over half term. An incredible achievement, well done, Seth.

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

