

# Springmead Newsletter

## No. 8 ~ 2023/24



Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents,

We had a triumphant Showcase evening last Friday at the Athenaeum Theatre, which showcased a host of performing arts through the school and included so many children. At times it was moving to see such young children sharing their dedicated practice and passion in both individual and group performances.

I laughed at humorous poetry and marvelled at the poise and confidence of singers, gymnasts and dancers. I hope that you agree that our new community choir was a fantastic addition this year – how wonderful for children to see parents take part too. Events such as this are due to the gargantuan efforts of staff, teachers and parents. A true collaboration. I know you will join me in sharing my pride for this fabulous performance spectacular. More photos, taken by Jon at David Wiltshire Photography during rehearsals are available to [view](#) here.

As we move towards Remembrance Day this Sunday, I am sure that you will have admired this year's Nursery and Reception classes installation of poppies, creating a weeping window. Each year these classes add to the poppies, so the whole school, feels a connection to this piece. *Sally Cox*



Springmead School

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**Forfar**

Part of the Forfar  
Education Group

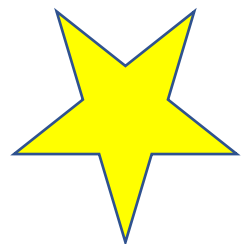
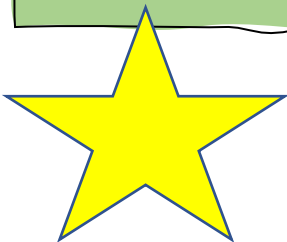
## CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

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 14<sup>th</sup> 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



### The Big Learner Relay and Springmead School

In collaboration with [The Big Learner Relay](#), we are very pleased to have been offered the opportunity to join forces to build awareness of Children in Need. Parent and SSA member Nicola, parent of Poppy and Caleb says,

“You may have seen my spotty learner car during your school runs and been wondering what it is for! Over the last 9 years driving instructors have come together **to raise money for Children in Need**. Under the helm of Louise Walsh, a driving instructor from Southampton, who unfortunately passed away in August. Lou came up with the idea of getting instructors to join together to raise money for this worthy cause turning their cars spotty, getting their spots sponsored and relaying a learner driver top box with Pudsey, in convoy around the country over a 2 week period with the last leg on **Children in Need** day. Every year over 3000 miles were travelled during the 2 weeks, 12 hours per day, with a new “Lead” instructor and learner driver every hour.

During the pandemic, we were unable to relay but we were able to take the “track and trace” concept to another level! Our aim was to drive a route tracked by a specially developed app to reveal a giant Pudsey mapped out over many miles across the whole of the mainland UK. This year was to be the final year we undertook this task, but due to unfortunate loss of our leader Lou the physical relay has been cancelled. Lou accompanied the Pudsey top box on every single mile and without her at the helm the team decided to not take the relay on the road. They have asked us to honour Lou through her passion and to raise as much money as possible.

In my efforts to raise as much as we can this year, **I am offering all children at Springmead to get involved with “sponsoring a spot” on my spotty car.** My car will be parked up, on the driveway, at the front of school, on the morning of **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** for the children to **sign their spot** when donating their Children in Need mufti day money. All staff and family members are welcome to join in with this event. I have had more spots delivered so will be going very spotty over the next few days! I did contact Pudsey and Blush to see if they would be able to join us, but they are very busy that day and are unable to make it.”

**Children are invited to participate in our Children in Need fundraising activity on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November by wearing mufti and writing their name on a spot for a cash donation.**

Please dig deep for this worthy cause!



# Sports News

## Year 1 and 2 PE lessons

The year 1 and 2 children have started a dance unit of work that will continue until the end of term. They will be making different shapes with a streamer, moving a streamer in different ways and using their bodies and a streamer to express an idea. As the lessons develop the children will explore unison, canon and mirroring.

## Year 5 and 6 Girls Hockey Fixture vs Heywood

On Wednesday afternoon the year 5 and 6 girls headed to Heywood School for a hockey meet. The children were split into 2 mixed teams and played an 8-a-side game each. They were rotated on and off after 10 minutes and played 2 10 minutes halves. I was super impressed with the girls' determination and resilience. Even though they didn't win their games, they played their absolute best the whole time. Heywood's hockey coach commented on the girls' strength when making contact with the ball and could tell that they had worked hard passing and hitting the ball.

The Heywood children nominated **Evie and Mabel as players of the match**. Well done, girls!

## **Autumn Term Fixtures**

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

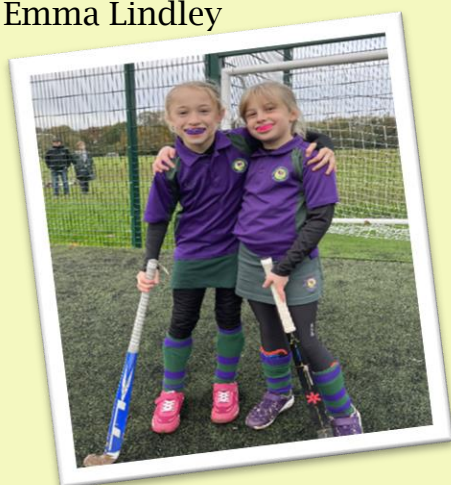
**Monday 27th November** - Year 3 and 4 Girls to Stonar - Triangular fixture with Heywood (away)

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

**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

We are building up excitement after the success of Showcase with our Eisteddfod entries.

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)

This week's Music Buzz Word is DYNAMICS - The musical word for Volume

Please come along to watch our talented pupils as the Eisteddfod events welcome an audience for all performances.

Hannah Drury

## Poppy Appeal 2023

Thank you for all the donations for poppies from families. Thank you to Year 2 for selling the poppies to classes and staff



### PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	Ava - Excellent singing with Mrs Drury. Keira - Excellent singing with Mrs Drury.
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Edith - Creating a lovely colourful sparkler picture. Violet - A brave and marvellous performance at Showcase.
RABBITS (Y1)	Inès- For Showcase. Arlo - For Showcase. Cora - For Showcase. Margot - For Showcase. Izzy - For Showcase. Ada - For Showcase.
OTTERS (Y2)	Otto for such enthusiasm learning about the Gunpowder Plot. Will for writing a fantastic story called The Secret Boat!
BADGERS (Y3)	Molly for being a fantastic potential Estate Agent with excellent persuasive skills. Caleb for demonstrating great teamwork whilst building a Roman road.
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Annie for always being her best self. Owen for great concentration during cookery. Matilda for her creative and descriptive sentences on 'The Strange Ship'. Tristan for his determination with column subtraction.
FOXES (Y5)	Harriet Wesley - for writing a conversation using the correct punctuation. Scarlett Baker - for hard work in maths lessons.
OWLS (Y5)	For everyone in Owls who did a wonderful job performing at Showcase last week, well done you!
EAGLES (Y6)	Alfred - Being a wonderful monitor on the Sevington trip. Evie - Great understanding of fraction work in maths. Jessica - Super organisational skills.

# Parking

Can we please remind everyone that parents/grandparents etc cannot use Castle Corner for vehicular access. This may seem strange but it is a planning condition that was agreed to stop congestion in this part of the village. We have also had instances of buses not stopping on the Frome Road as cars are parked in the bus stops. We have neighbours who monitor arrivals and departures. PLEASE, please ensure if you have another adult dropping off or collecting your child, ensure that they have to park on Frome Road or elsewhere...just not Castle Corner or the bus stops.

## 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)**

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

## Christmas Cards and Santa Sacks

Christmas card ordering is now closed, but Santa sacks are available to order until December 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:office@springmead.com), by  
Friday 17th November.



# Class Highlights

## DUCKLINGS

What a poppy week we've had. We found out about Remembrance Day by watching the beautiful CBeebies video. The children were entranced. We spent time planning our poppy shop as all week the older children have been arriving with poppies to sell and the nursery have been fascinated to buy them. Children had noted that parents are wearing poppies. We are now set up and have our own poppy factory to buy and sell our own. We've decorated our shop with poppies made in a variety of media. Children have explored form and texture. Our large-scale project is a huge hit with all that see it at the front of the building. We've begun to learn Christmas songs ready for the Nativity film. Filming begins next week, when the donkey arrives on Wednesday! We can't wait!

Here's some films from the week -

<https://youtu.be/OM5n2XlMpfc> Poppies

<https://youtu.be/gcv3crzbvii> Nursery activities

<https://youtu.be/qFqtclOnaGI> November walk

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



# HEDGEHOGS

This week we have been thinking about Remembrance Day. We watched a great short from Cbeebies to introduce the concept of what Remembrance Day means and the importance of it. It sparked a super discussion with the children, and they have loved the Year 2 children coming round to sell the poppies and they can all hopefully tell you who the money goes to help.

We had another super Go Explore session in the rain, again! We avoided the worst of the morning weather and headed off to explore the church and sport some poppies. We took time to look at the memorial and marvelled at the beautifully knitted poppies hanging in the entrance way of the church. We made our own giant poppy in the grounds using leaves and sticks, it was a great collaborative task. We then went on a further walk to look for sticks for our poppy craft...we got a bit muddy but we had lots of fun out and about!

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON, RECEPTION.





## RABBITS

These are our finished Jack-in-a-boxes that we have made during our history topic 'Toys'. The children have had a great time making them.

All of the Rabbits involved in showcase were just so amazing. It's a brave thing to do, and they did a fantastic job!

We've been learning about Remembrance Day and the children wrote some very poignant sentences made from poppies.

They also created some very beautiful autumn tree paintings which will look lovely hanging up in the classroom.

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



## OTTERS

This week the children continued to learn about Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot. They were fascinated to find out about what happened to Guy Fawkes after he was locked away in the Tower of London and thought of reasons why he called himself John Johnson when he was caught. They made 'Wanted' posters for Thomas Percy, the King's bodyguard, and thought the way that he was described in the original message that was written when King James I was searching for him, was interesting - such as being a tall man, with short legs, big feet and a broad and white speckled beard! They drew some great pictures of the Houses of Parliament with fireworks, celebrating the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot.

The children have also been learning about the importance of Remembrance Day. They showed a good understanding of why they were selling poppies.

They have been working hard in maths, working on adding and subtracting in 10s.



GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2





# BADGERS

It has all been about paying attention to detail this week with Badgers. The year started with an investigation into the latest thing in property in Ancient Britain, a Celt Roundhouse and moved onto one of the many things which the Romans brought to Britain, amazing architecture and a luxury lifestyle. With the rise of riches came the demand for vast villas, just to prove your influence and importance. Hence the Badgers began their new careers as early Estate Agents. Who could persuade potential buyers first to visit, and then buy one of twelve magnificent villas available for purchase? Which had the best location? Are the latest features included, such as fantastic frescos, enclosed courtyards, flushing toilets, a culina and the latest technology, the hypocaust heating system? The Badgers also turned their paws to designing and making some marvellous mosaics using all the maths and art skills available. It is a tricky thing to make a circle using small squares. Excellent work, Badgers.



JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3

## SQUIRRELS

The Squirrels were very excited for their first school trip of the academic year. They headed to the Holburne Museum in Bath, where they took part in a 'Going Greek' workshop.

Firstly, they were given some information on how the museum came to be, and the travels of Mr Holburne himself, who had a real eye for artefacts.

Afterwards, they explored the museum and in particular a Greek inspired plate, and vases, sculptures and art, depicting different mythical creatures such as centaurs and satyrs.

It was then the Squirrels' job to create their own mythical creature, or use one they'd previously learned about as inspiration for their ceramic plate. They used POSCO pens and ceramic paint to make their amazing creations.

With the session completed, it was time for lunch and some exploration and play in Sydney Gardens.

Both Miss Robinson and I were very impressed with the children's enthusiasm, curiosity and politeness. Even members of the public remarked on their manners.

Well done Year 4.

STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4

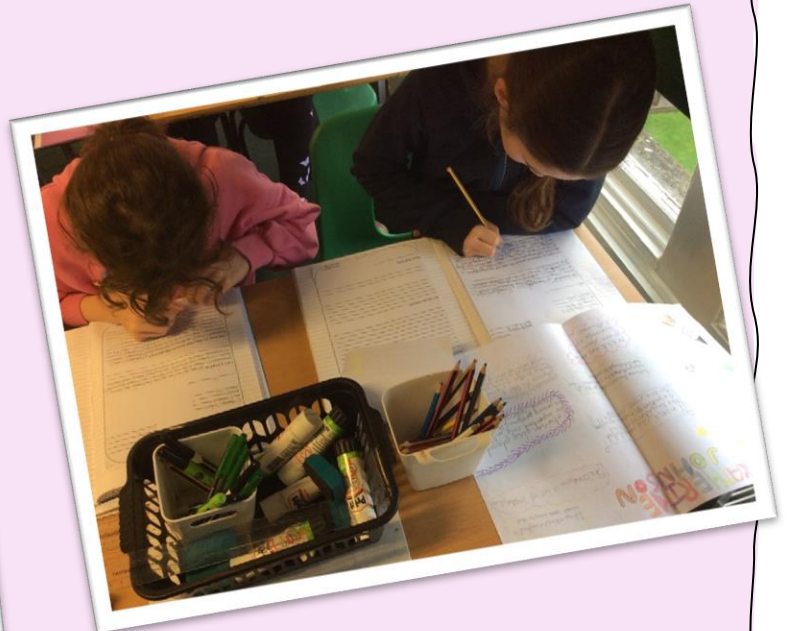
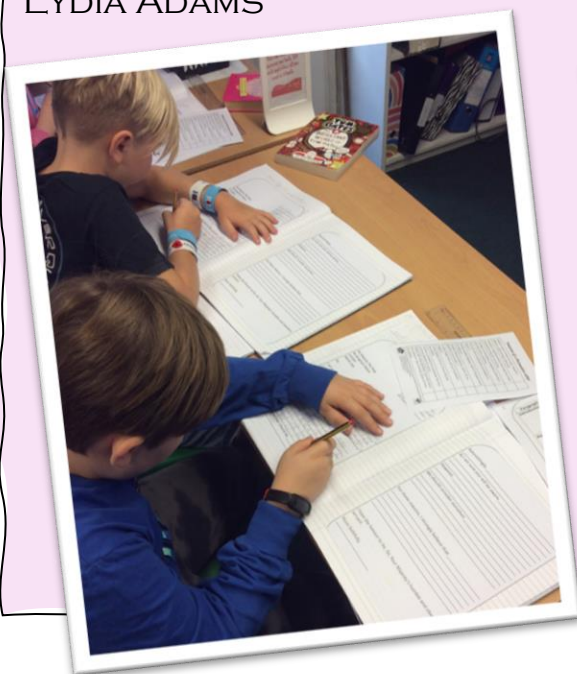


## OWLS

This week in Owls we have been focusing on persuasive writing! The children were given the task of writing a letter to the King persuading him that Katherine Johnson should be awarded with an Honour. We started the week by analysing a persuasive letter and identifying key features that an author might use to persuade. The children then built on this in their comprehension lessons as they looked at a range of persuasive texts and answered questions about what they had read to ensure a good understanding. They also explored fronted adverbials and modal verbs in their grammar lessons and thought carefully about how these could be applied to enhance their writing.

After spending this time re-familiarising themselves with the world of persuasive writing, it was time to plan! The children all engaged in a lively discussion about the achievements of Katherine Johnson and how these could be presented as a coherent, well evidenced argument to the King. Once their plans were complete, they were ready to write! Next week we will spend some time peer-assessing our work and reflecting carefully on how we can make edits and improvements so that our writing is the best it can possibly be. I hope this gives you a glimpse of all the hard work that Owls pour into their writing units and how it all pieces together to build a fantastic final piece! Well done budding authors, enjoy a well-deserved weekend of rest.

LYDIA ADAMS





## FOXES

The Foxes have really enjoyed our maths lessons this week, investigating prime numbers, square numbers, cube numbers, and multiplying and dividing by 10, 100, and 1000. They have got immersed in the problem solving activities and really embraced putting their new skills to the test.

Inspired by our class novel, *Ban this Book* by Alan Gratz, they are keen to read the book that has been banned in the novel. And let's face it, what 9 or 10 year wouldn't want to read a book banned by adults! Unbeknown to them, the banned book is absolutely fine, and we now have three copies which are being read as soon as one becomes available.



JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



## EAGLES

The Eagles went on a time travelling adventure on Monday as they spent the day at Sevington Victorian School.

Dressed in their finest Victorian clothing and clutching their lunch in brown paper bags the children set off full of nerves and excitement.

The children spent the day in role as a Victorian child from lining up in lines according to gender to only using the toilets at selected moments and no morning snack - very different to schooling in 2023!

The Eagles had a fantastic day, learning lots but were glad to return to normality and life at Springmead.

NICK MUNCKTON



# OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

From parents of Ava in Year 5 and Inès in Year 1, "Ava passed her last ever colour belt grading in the Korean martial art of Taekwondo last weekend, and is now eligible to try for her adult level black belt in March. Gradings are a very challenging and extended process that involve technical displays, long choreographed sequences of fighting manoeuvres called 'patterns', language exams in Korean, and a number of sparring bouts against other students. If Ava now passes her 3 black belt assessments, she will be the youngest student ever to do so in her club's history. She was highlighted for her outstanding performance at her recent grading, and was awarded an 'A' pass by the presiding Grandmaster, which is extremely rare at this level. Her little sister, Inès in Year 1, also passed her final junior belt and her next grading will be at regional level in front of around 150 other practitioners." An incredible achievement, well done, Ava and Inès

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](mailto:scox@springmead.com)

Sally Cox

**Headteacher**



**Forfar**  
EDUCATION

