

Springmead Newsletter

No. 9 ~ 2023/24



Friday 17th November 2023

Dear Parents,

We are hurtling towards the Christmas time of term, my particular favourite time of year. Being part of a school that embraces this important Christian festival and illuminates the darkest part of Winter with joy and light through song, performance, worship, events and decorations, alongside reflecting on how very blessed we are in our little corner of the world and the peace we enjoy, moves me, as I am sure it does for all our families. This newsletter is packed with important, unmissable dates and detail for you and your family to be part of our celebrations, please note them carefully. A Springmead Christmas is a special time.

We have received the results of the ISA Area Swimming Competition and we delighted that some of our young swimmers are off to London to the final. Please see below. Congratulation to these children. We await eagerly the next stage for them.

Results are just coming in from the Devizes Eisteddfod! See below for Hannah Drury's write up. We are feeling very proud.

In other news, thank you to all the fantastic contributors to our Parent Survey this year - we have been sent the results in the past few days. We are delighted that we accrued an exceptionally high score for parent satisfaction across the board which is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the whole team. Your reflections on our school are deeply important to us, and we will share our responses in time, make changes, plan for the future and implement new ways of working where we feel it is appropriate and proportionate. Comments were supportive and held a light to small areas where we know we have work to do. At Springmead, we have always had a reflective practice, essential in education, to learn to know how to do better and work towards goals steadily adapting and changing when needed. It is a privilege to be leading our vibrant, ambitious community.

Sally Cox



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Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

Diary Dates at a glance

Wednesday 22nd November - Open Morning - 10am to 12 noon. Please invite friends or family who may be interested in starting their child with us.

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

Friday 24th November - Year 5 Thanksgiving Event

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 - Year 5 and 6 Girls Hockey vs Stonar (away)

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.



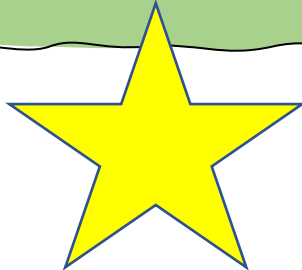
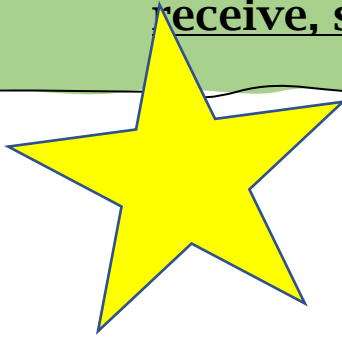
CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

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.**

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.



Children in Need

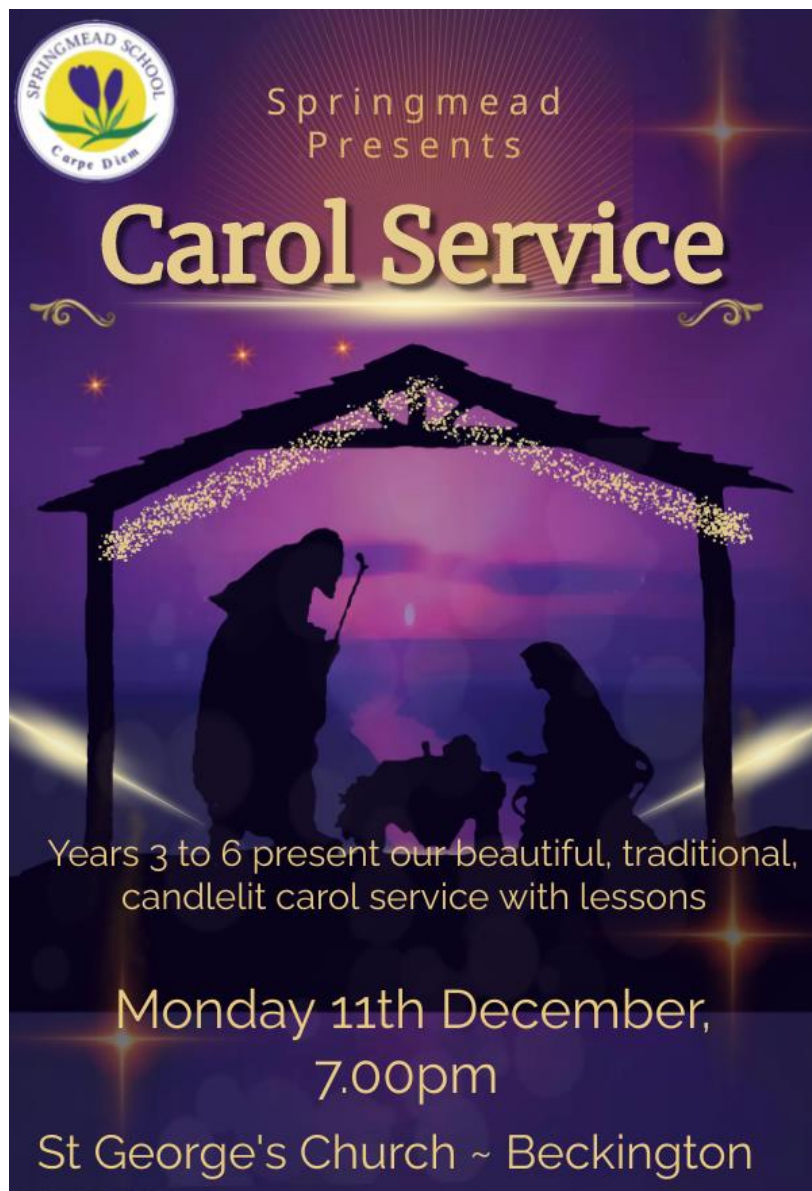
Many thanks to parent, Nicola Newman for linking us in with The Big Learner Relay and letting us make her car even more spotty! We have raised £273 from our families generous donations.





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.

New Menu

Our new menu is on our [website](#). We choose to serve a 'deconstructed menu' so that children can make their own choices from the widest possible range of nutritious food we offer to create a healthy plate. It allows children to understand food groups and nutrition, view ingredients and have autonomy over their lunch. All children are supported by staff in the choices they make. No lunch is the same in the dining hall. The changes put in place at this time were direct from School Council suggestions.

Sports News

Cross Country Fixture

The cross-country team had a super fixture at Collett Park in Shepton Mallet last week. We were short a few of our regular runners due to illness but we still managed an excellent turn out with a total of 14 participants. The organisers had built a new course which took us on a rather muddy wooded section of the course, the year 5 and 6 runners had to do this section twice! The course finished with a killer uphill finish where everyone had to push hard to keep their final positions.

Annie from Year 4 came back first for the Year3/4 girls, finishing in a strong 25th place out of 124 runners. Jack from Year 4 fought hard at the finish for a brilliant 12th place finish out of a massive 149 runners.

The longer and more challenging year 5/6 race is such a jump up and they are all working so hard on their stamina. Lily from year 6 ran a brilliant race coming 41st out of 99 runners and Milo from year 6 coming home in a strong 51st place out 139 runners. Fantastic!

Congratulations to the team who **all** completed the difficult course and put in 100 % effort, showing determination and a great competitive spirit. Keep on running!

Full results will be posted on the playground board if you would like to check out individual positions.

Charlotte Munckton



Sports News

ISA Area Swimming Competition Results

Last week **Angelo, Ava C, Lily and Owen** represented Springmead at the ISA swimming gala and all of them did amazingly. A special mention has to go out to Angelo who won both of his races on the day.

Angelo along with Ava. C have qualified to represent the South West team at the National final next month in London. Which is very exciting and we wish them all the best.

We also have **Charlotte, Hebe, Inigo, and Lizzie competing in the South West Regional Schools Biathlon** on Sunday. We look forward to hearing how they get on and wishing them luck for the event.

Super swimmer of the week: **Charlotte** for showing great improvement when working on her dives.

Sarah Cozens

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

Sports News

PE Lesson

On Wednesday afternoon the Year 5 children enjoyed a **bench ball tournament** in their PE lesson.

Bench ball is a game played to develop teamwork, hand-eye coordination, and strategic thinking skills. The children were split into 3 teams given them a chance to play against a couple of different teams.

RULES: Team 1 should be in one half of the court, Team 2 in the other. Both teams choose a goalie. The goalie stands on the bench on the opposition's half of the court. Players attempt to throw the ball to their goalie to catch, without it being caught or intercepted by the other team. As teams score goals, the scoring player joins the goalie on the bench. Players pass the ball between themselves until someone decides to shoot, but must stay on their half of the court. The aim of the game is to get all the players of your team on your bench, so that they have more people to throw the ball to.

Well done to everyone in 'TEAM 1' who were victorious and won both rounds of the tournament 😊

Fixtures

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

Autumn Term Fixtures

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)



PERFORMING ARTS

What a morning we have had at the Devizes Eisteddfod... The Choral Group and the Prep Choir were competing against 7 other schools for the coveted title of 'Choir of the Year', and they did us so incredibly proud. Although we didn't come away with a trophy this time, the adjudicator came to speak to me at the end and said that he was so impressed with our groups and their professionalism, both in their performance etiquette and tidiness, but also in their exceptional, heart-felt singing. He also informed me that the Choral Group only got a couple of marks less than the winning choir, meaning we placed 2nd overall. Well done, team. Can't wait to do it all again tomorrow with Rock School and Musical Theatre Club, as well as the various solo and duet classes.

The Music Buzz Word this week, is STRUCTURE, a word used to explain the format of a piece of music with language like 'verse, chorus, bridge' etc.

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

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

Hannah Drury

PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	George. H for a fantastic contribution to his French lesson, learning all about colours! ZJ for a fantastic contribution to his French lesson, learning all about colours! Asa for his perseverance making beautiful paper chains.
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Edith - working really hard on her letter formation and handwriting Thea - Super phonics - excellent spelling of your words.
RABBITS (Y1)	All Rabbits for showing enthusiasm for our Nativity
OTTERS (Y2)	Esther for showing sensitivity and understanding towards Remembrance Day Harrison for a great picture of the House of Parliament Bobby for working so hard with his reading and using some great expression!
BADGERS (Y3)	Hannah for making thoughtful links in Science about animals Holly H for being her best self, so enthusiastic on the trip to the Roman Baths
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Oliver for a secure understanding of food chains Angelo for great comparisons of daylight hours in London, the Arctic Circle and Antarctica Woody for great questioning and contributions to discussions on our class trip
FOXES (Y5)	Ellie for fantastic work in maths Reuben for fantastic work in maths
OWLS (Y5)	Mabel- coming to school every day with a positive attitude and a growth mindset. Rufus- always being a thoughtful and helpful friend.
EAGLES (Y6)	Poppy - Great fraction work in maths. Billy - Demonstrating great thinking skills. Henry - positive contributions to class discussions.

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

Daisy Sanders - Norlander



We are delighted to welcome Daisy Sanders to our Reception Class, a first-year student from the prestigious Norland College in Bath. Norland has an international reputation and leads for excellence in early years. We have a strong relationship with Norland College who offer their students placements in our school due to our own standard of Excellent in all areas in ISI inspections.



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

In planning for our Nativity film this year we wanted a 'real' element to it, and this week, we invited Kelly's Donkeys to bring us Dermot the donkey to help us in filming some scenes. All children have had playful teaching points around the Nativity story that guide and model the narrative. Play is built into our provision, to provide concrete experiences for children to explore their own and other characters in the story, the setting and the context, to enable them to act a role. By exploring emotions behind the characters, children develop ideas and a knowledge of the story and relate these feelings back to themselves. Symbolic representation through our small world toys such as our Nativity set along with making our own characters are important in developing children's thinking and understanding.

We produce a Nativity film as this illustrates what the children are capable of best of all. To create scenes, we direct the adults involved to step back, to not be instructive, allowing the children to develop their own dramatic interpretations and see what happens. We prepare the children for the scene beforehand. As the children step into the very informal 'set', in costume, they begin to act, mimicking each other or independently expressing themselves through their prior knowledge and innate desire to recreate roles and pretend.

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

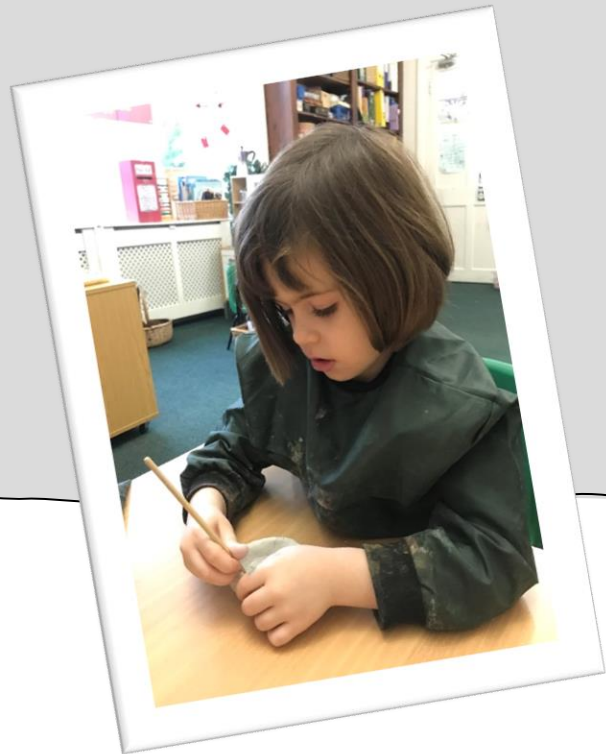


HEDGEHOGS

This week we have enjoyed learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. For homework, last week, the children made a Diwali lantern decoration to bring into school to decorate the classroom. They were all so colourful and bright and look great hung up over the fireplace. Well done, everyone.

We used stories and videos to learn all about Diwali and discovered some wonderful ways Hindu's celebrate including making Indian sweets, which we thought sounded delicious! We loved using clay to make diya lamps which they use to decorate their houses and temples. We had to listen carefully and follow instructions to how to make the lamp. It took lots of strength to squish, roll and smooth the clay. We then used tools to create patterns in our lamps. We had to be very careful not to poke holes all the way through. It was great for our fine motor skills. We can wait until the clay is dry enough so that we are able to paint and decorate our lamps. Happy Diwali!

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON, RECEPTION.



RABBITS

We are very busy with the curriculum and it is also that time of year when lines and songs are learnt and everyone's amazing acting skills surface. We have started to learn our Christmas play along with Year 2, and the children are doing a marvellous job of becoming their characters. We don't want to give very much away but we cannot wait to show you our Christmas show about a very important star, who waits for many, many years to fulfil its most important role. The play will bring some history and the story of the first Christmas from a unique perspective. Virtual tickets costing £5 are available from Mrs Hobley, in the office, by email on office@springmead.com.

The photo shows an interactive maths session in which the children are now reading maths problems, working out what the question is, then solving it and recording the answer. What a lot of steps!

Fantastic job Rabbits!

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



OTTERS

This week the Otters have focused on learning about our wonderful world. They have been finding out about the seven continents and the five oceans that surround them. They've made some super little books, full of facts about each continent and they have been discussing where they would like to travel to and where they have already been.

The children have begun rehearsing for the Christmas nativity along with Year 1. This year it has been written by Mrs Stickley who has cleverly interwoven the history of man along with the story of Christmas. There are some wonderful characters in the nativity, including Pythagoras and King Khufu!

At any given opportunity, the children in the class ask to read, which is brilliant! They enjoy telling each other about the books they're reading and give recommendations about what to read next. I have never known a class quite like them!

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

It was an amazing day at the Roman Baths with the Badgers having a hands-on experience investigating artefacts, twisting togas into place and some terrific taking of the waters (hot and steamy). There was Latin to learn, archaeological digging, a little light engineering, puzzles to sort and stone spotting. It was so lovely to hear a member of the public saying how beautifully behaved the children were. We had an amazing teacher who directed the fantastic activities, and no question was too much. By the end of the day everyone had experienced something new, collaborated with classmates, and tried their hands at a practical activity. Everyone entered the world of Roman life from long ago and found links to today. History is a great subject for making sense of things today.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



SQUIRRELS

This week in Maths, the Squirrels have been looking at area. The children learnt that area is the space taken up by a two-dimensional shape or surface and measured it practically. For their problem-solving skills, knowledge of the properties of squares and rectangles were revised to support in finding the areas of shapes with parts missing. They then explored the idea that a rectilinear shape is a shape that has only straight sides and right angles and that they need to touch at the sides and not just at the corners. They then worked systematically to find all the different rectilinear shapes using a given number of squares by moving one square at a time, before moving on to drawing their own shapes with a given area.

Well done, Year 4.

STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



OWLS

This week in Owls we finished off our multiplication and division unit in Maths. The children enjoyed learning about cube and square numbers and developing their problem solving skills. We spent a lot of time during this unit thinking about how to tackle multi- step word problems by underlining the key information and thinking about what operation was required to solve it. We also discussed the importance of reading the question very carefully to ensure that no important steps were missed. It was wonderful to see the children applying their growth mindsets with some of these challenging problems as this allowed them to progress and take on the end of unit assessment with confidence and determination.

The children also completed their Native American dreamcatchers in Art this week. They worked hard on these and were very patient with the sometimes fiddly job of carefully weaving the thread to create a pattern.

Well done for bringing all of the energy and positivity again this week Owls, keep being wonderful!

LYDIA ADAMS



FOXES

The Foxes had another practical science lesson on Monday, investigating the correlation between the weight and mass of an object by using scales and Newton meters. They learnt about the work of Isaac Newton and how theories about gravity have changed over the centuries, and were particularly fascinated to learn that Newton made many of his discoveries when he was forced into a 'lockdown' during an outbreak of the plague.

English lessons have led to writing a newspaper article looking at two sides of an argument, inspired by the recent instalments of *Ban this Book*, the class novel by Alan Gratz. They have created some fantastic headlines and are able to justify their comments with plenty of evidence.

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



EAGLES

The Eagles were back with Mr and Mrs Hotson this week, enjoying the last bushcraft session at the cabin this term. With our first day in the woods approaching in early December, the children enjoyed another opportunity to learn about the key skills on bushcraft. Their base of knowledge is building nicely for this group of Eagles and having learnt about knife-craft and fire-craft in recent weeks we completed the important trinity with shelter-craft. Finding out how to work smarter and not harder when shelter building, where to and not to build, how to make ourselves safer, adding comfort (beds and mattresses) and exploring several different styles of shelter was the information packed into our session. We will see how the group are able to make use of this knowledge when in the woods in a few weeks.



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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ASSOCIATION
Accredited Member