

Springmead Newsletter

No. 10 ~ 2023/24



Friday 1st December 2023

Dear Parents,

With the decorations up it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas, the school looks beautiful! Over the next two weeks curriculum lessons carry on unabated but they will take on a distinctly seasonal flavour. John Forsyth, Forfar CEO, is visiting the school on the morning of Tuesday 12th December he is looking forward to meeting with staff and parents, please do get in touch with me if you would like an opportunity to speak with him, either individually or in a group.

This week we will publish our extra-mural booklets for the forthcoming term, we have many, many clubs on offer over the course of a week. Clubs are carefully selected and timetabled to allow the children to choose from a wide range of disciplines, before school, at lunchtimes and after school. As a school we ask children to sign up to a minimum of two clubs, one of which needs to be a sports club (giving our children another opportunity for fitness during the week as well as time spent on favourite pursuits).

At the heart of our rich extra-mural provision is the 'Seize the Day' mantra. In the classroom we learn how to be effective learners, with the Building Learning Power program, through clubs and activities we get to use those transferable learning skills time and time again.

Over this weekend we will be thinking of Angelo, Year 4 and wishing him all the very best as he competes, on behalf of the school, at the ISA National Swimming Final in London.

Sally Cox



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

Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

The next two weeks are incredibly busy, please check the dates below carefully.

Diary Dates at a glance

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.

Tuesday 5th December - Mid Somerset Festival entries open.

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.

Friday 15th December - Mid Somerset Festival entry closes for Years 1 to 6.

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

URGENT APPEAL – Please scour your cupboards for any last-minute items for our gift shop. It isn't too late to donate.



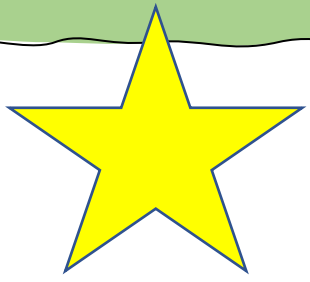
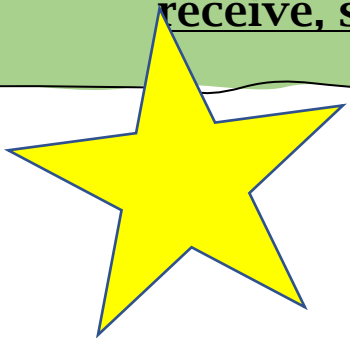
CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

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.



Mid Somerset Festival 2023 Classes (for Year 1 –Year 6)

Details were sent out by Parentmail yesterday. This exciting annual competition in Bath takes place in March. **It is a wonderful event to be part of.** We regularly have over fifty children taking part in the poetry performance, choirs, musical theatre or Rock School, drama and creative writing classes. **Entering the festival is exciting and a positive challenge. Invaluable life skills are developed through taking the plunge and being part of something bigger than our school.**

Please do complete the form, which will be sent out on Tuesday, by Friday 15th December to enter Creative Writing and Poetry Classes.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact me as soon as possible at jdickson@springmead.com

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 is 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.

Further information went out in last week's newsletter and to classes.

The challenge is to make sure that your display is no bigger than a shoebox!





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

Last Thursday afternoon two teams of Year 5 & 6 footballers made their way to Strode College to take part in the Mendip area football tournament. The tournament included schools from across the area and of varying sizes. Both teams played in three matches and represented the school impeccably – demonstrating great effort, skill, respect, and sportsmanship. Particularly pleasing performances came from Elliott, Noah, Rufus, Angus and both volunteer goalkeepers Devon & Josh.



Sports News

Dorothy House Elf Run – On Monday!

We are back again for this **seasonal charity event supporting Dorothy House**. Children's **sponsor forms have been sent home**.

'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

KS2 Hockey Club

This week the children enjoyed a range of competitive attacking and defending activities.

The first activity involved the children being split into 4 teams. Each team was assigned a colour cone. They then had to locate 5 cones in an area matching their colour and dribble around them. Once they had completed that they could tackle the opponents and try and knock their balls out of the area. They must also make sure they protect their own ball from being hit out.

Another activity worked on the children's reaction time and speed. 2 teams of children were lined up and numbered depending on their place in the line. The teacher called a number, threw a ball, and the 2 children run as fast as they can to get the ball. If you get to the ball first you become the attacking and your job is to dribble the ball towards the goal and score! The other child's job is to defend the ball and to hit it out of the area in order to 'score'.

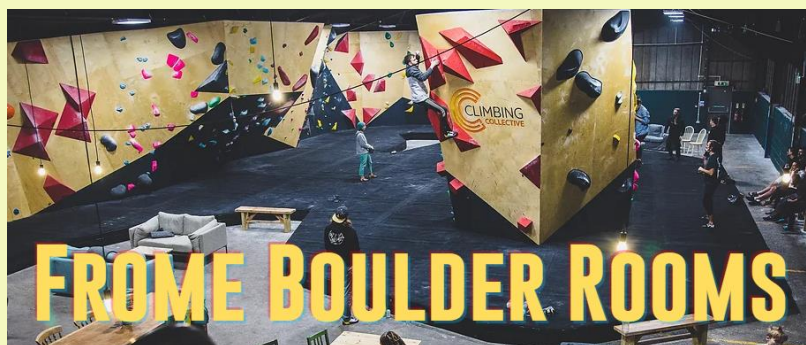
Year 5 and 6 Boulder Rooms

In PE lessons, after Christmas, the Year 5 and 6 children will all have the opportunity to attend a session at Frome Boulder Rooms. There will be a charge for this exciting event, please let us know if you would like to opt out.

The session will take place in January or February and aims to build climbing knowledge and skill, teach about safety when climbing and using the centre and further develop confidence and technique on the wall.

It is really important that all the children are registered prior to arrival. This can be completed by parents by following the link below:

<https://www.fromeboulderrooms.co.uk/house-rules>



Fixtures

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

Autumn Term Fixtures

Monday 4th December – Elf Run

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

Swimming News

Club swimming

We have seen a lot of improvement in many of our students in their swimming. This is something we are very proud of, and would like to see continue. For those who would like to progress their swimming even further and begin doing competitive swimming outside of school.

We are very lucky to have several different options available in the local vicinity for anyone wishing pursue swimming down the club route.

Most local is **Frome Swimming Club**, which has an entry point of stage 10 to join their squad structure.

Warminster Swimming Club has an entry point of stage 6 into their squads

Bradford on Avon swimming club has an entry point of stage 1 for lessons and a pathway into their squads

Trowbridge Swimming Club has a club entry point of stage 1 for lessons and a pathway into their squads

Team Bath AS Swimming Club Has an entry level of stage 6/7 in their pathway squad, which leads into their performance squads.

If you are unsure of where your child might be best suited, please email me at scozens@springmead.com to discuss.

Super swimmer of the week: Violet M for great determination and fantastic progression.

PERFORMING ARTS

The **Music Buzz Word** this week is MELODY, a musical word used to describe the 'tune'.

I thought it would be nice to publish the results of all the Devizes Eisteddfod entries From two weeks ago. The Eisteddfod offers children the opportunity to perform and compete in a friendly, but professional environment, and gives performance the chance to receive some often incredibly insightful feedback from the adjudicators on the day. This year, we offered the children the opportunity to be entered into musical theatre solo classes, musical theatre duet, instrumental solo and many group classes. Miss Brown and I also selected various items of artwork from across the school and entered the children's work to represent Springmead in the creative arts class.

We are so proud of the results, and of all the efforts that were made by the children on the day and in preparation for such an event. Here is the full list of results for solo, duet and art classes:

Musical Theatre Solo (school years 3-5):

Darcey - Commended
Violet - Commended
Ava C - Commended
Rose - Commended
Mabel - Distinction (2nd place)

Musical Theatre Solo (school years 6-7):

Poppy - Commended
Evie - Commended

Musical Theatre Duet (school years 3-5):

Mabel M and Ellie B - Commended (1st place)

Piano Solo (Preparatory/Initial grade):

Violet M - Outstanding (2nd place)

A4 Art - 2D (School year 1-2):

Zeph - Distinction (**medal winner**)
Corinne - Commended
Alfred - Commended

A4 Art - 2D (school years 3-4):

Mary - Outstanding (**runner up**) medal winner
Jack - Outstanding (**runner up**) medal winner
Annabel - Commended
Annie - Commended

A4 Art - 2D (school year 5-6):

Bea M- Distinction (**medal winner**)
Henry - Commended
Alfred - Commended
Danny C - Merit
Danny C - Commended
Billy - Merit
Ellie - Merit

Huge congratulations to everyone who took part across the two days, and to all of the supportive families for helping them to get there.

Hannah Drury

Eisteddfod Art Work



PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	Jack for putting your own socks and shoes on. George. B for 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)	Lewis for working really hard on writing his name Ted for fantastic acting skills and storytelling in our Nativity play.
RABBITS (Y1)	Margot for amazing maths subtracting parts from whole numbers. Bronte for great independent work.
OTTERS (Y2)	Howie for great work on mapping his journey line across the world. Zeph for super joined up handwriting
BADGERS (Y3)	Beau for paying attention to detail with her Anglo-Saxon village and job description Hebe for being focused and enthusiastic in class discussions
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	James for his creative thinking in English William for great work on part whole models in maths
FOXES (Y5)	Iggy - working hard on editing creative writing Kara - fantastic team work in science
OWLS (Y5)	Sophia- for her fantastic, creative ideas in our English discussions. Noah- for his wonderful reflections about what he is thankful for on our Thanksgiving Day.
EAGLES (Y6)	Asher - Great reflection on his maths learning. Rafe - Super effort and determination during hockey in PE. Delilah - Accurate science work recognising characteristics of animals.

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	Freya. G
Sapphire Izzy Otto Matilda Mary	Reuben	Amethyst Florence. M	Alfred. M
Diamond Corinne		Copper	
Bronze		Silver	
Platinum Gold Plus		Gold	

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, served at 4pm, 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 Holiday Club

Bring a packed lunch and drinks or book in for our hot food and tea for £7.50
Please don't bring nuts due to allergies

Full day 8am to 3.30pm
Extra hours available. Current prices are below.

Christmas Crafts, fun and games

Mon 18th Dec - Fri 22nd Dec
Closed Christmas week, we reopen
Tuesday 2nd Jan - Fri 5th Jan

Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS

The Nursery have had a busy week as we finished off filming for our Nativity along with getting ready for our stage performance. The children are enjoying putting actions to the songs in a musical week, exploring Christmas music with instruments. The elves' workshop is the place to be in the nursery where children can role play making presents, wrapping them up and filling the stockings. We have also presented ideas to the children as they explore the ideas of perfume and potions through the gifts from the Kings. Mixing coloured water, foam and different ingredients- looking at the properties of, solids, liquids and gases and giving children the language to talk about their experiences. They love it.

Films: <https://youtu.be/g9QVSiBNOG8>

<https://youtu.be/XBfEnjF6tPo>

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



HEDGEHOGS

We have been learning all about advent this week. We used paper plates to make our own advent wreaths with candles. We also learnt that each candle meant something different...peace, hope, love and joy. We are very excited for the countdown to Christmas!

As part of anti-bullying week we used the story of Our House by Micheal Rosen to spark discussions on kindness and inclusion. We made our own house using the big construction, we worked as a team and made a house that everyone could play in. We even had a visit from the Kindness Elves...they left us a special story and when they visited they left us a task to complete. We sent hearts to some of the grown ups in the school with messages to make them feel good about themselves. We are hopeful that the elves will visit again and we can continue to help them spread some love and kindness.

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON, RECEPTION.



RABBITS

We are very busy as you can imagine with not only fantastic learning, but performing and various festive craft projects.

We had a great lesson about using our sense of taste this week. We spoke about all the different types of tastes and the foods they come from and that we also use other senses of smell and sight to taste. We experimented with different flavoured crisps and tried holding our noses and the not to see what a difference it made. They all have a fantastic palate!

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1

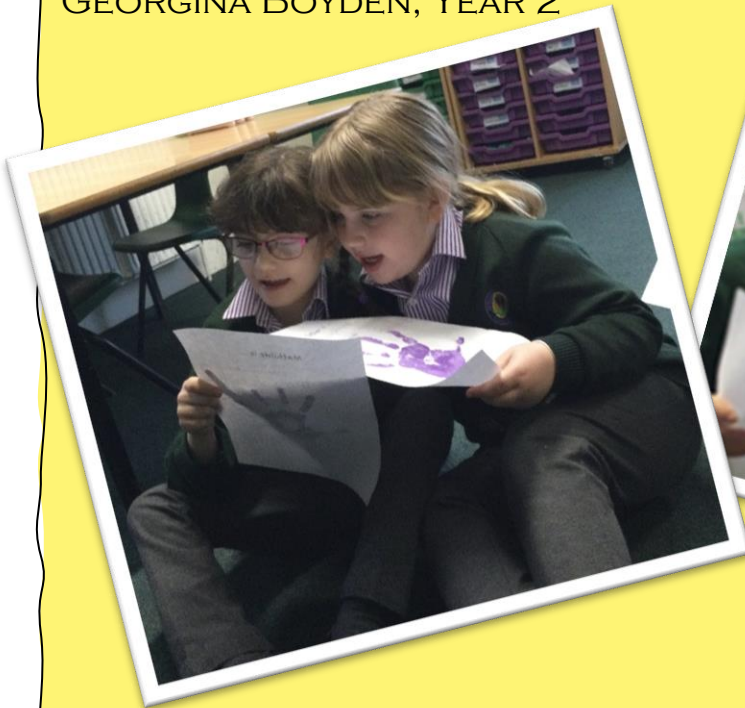


OTTERS

During Anti-Bullying Day, the children talked about what bullying is and how it affects us. As with all mental health issues, we discussed the importance of talking to someone that they trust about how they are feeling. They also questioned why people bully others, and despite the long list of reasons why people may bully, they understood that it is never acceptable.

After reading the lovely book by Tom Percival called 'Perfectly Norman', the class talked about why it is good to be unique and that wearing odd socks, or in the case of Norman, flying with beautiful wings, should be celebrated and not hidden away. During our circle time, the children took turns to say something kind about the person they were sat next to, which was very uplifting for all. They then painted their hand and made a handprint, which the children then each wrote something kind about their classmates. If children and the adults around them treated each other with such kindness and compassion, the world would be a better place for all.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

The Badgers have been making headlines this week. Having raided the library, each Badger investigated a selection of non-fiction books to find out what they were all about. How can you tell if a book is non-fiction or not? Headlines, chapters and sub-titles were spotted and then using skimming skills, a fascinating fact was quickly found and shared with the class. There was more sharing in maths as everyone got to grips with the difference between sharing and grouping. Handily there were some jolly gems to hand to help. Gems, amongst other things, were one of the reasons Britain was so popular in Ancient times. So using more maths skills, and with rather large numbers, the young historians worked out the order of the dates and made a time line for the arrival of the Vikings. Brilliant work, Badgers.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



SQUIRRELS

In Year 4, we have started looking at the Trojan war as our exploration into Ancient Greeks slowly draws to an end. The children found out about the ongoing feud between the Greeks and the Trojans, how Paris - a Trojan Prince, took Helen - a beautiful Queen married to King Menelaus away and the giant wooden horse was used to end the war between the two countries.

With this information under their belts, the children will eventually complete their own diary entry from the perspective of one of the 30 soldiers inside of the horse. This week in English, we have been looking at what the term 'diary entry' means to them and if they could name any famous diaries or diary authors. We then looked at notable examples from this genre, and discussed important features found in diary writing, highlighting and annotating these in our books. These are all skills that will set the children in good stead as they continue their English journey in the upper school.

Well done, Year 4 - another very fun week!

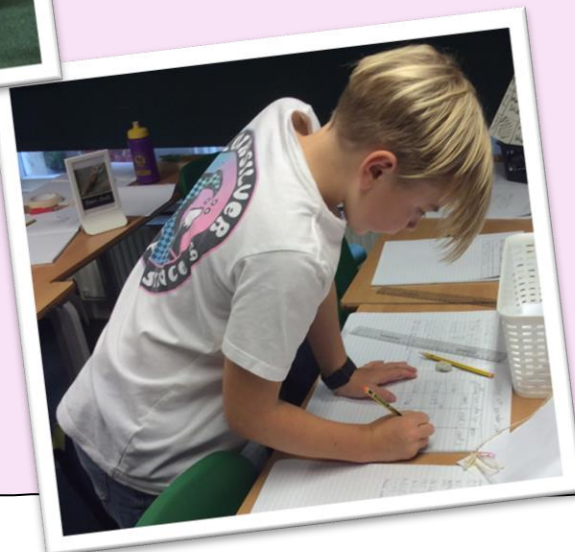
STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



OWLS

We were scientists in Owls this week! The children thought carefully about how to plan a fair test. We discussed the importance of only having one variable (the thing you are testing) and keeping everything else the same to ensure accurate results. We also recognised that it would be important to repeat the test to ensure that our results were as accurate as possible. In our experiment this week, we wanted to test whether the size of a parachute would affect how quickly it reached the ground. The children hypothesised that the larger parachute would be the slowest to reach the ground, as the larger surface area would create more air resistance. Once they had thought carefully about how to carry out their test, the children worked strategically to observe and record their results. It was wonderful to see such accurate measurements taking place and the children then drawing conclusions based on what they had found. Apart from one anomaly, the results confirmed the children's hypothesis and what they have learned about forces so far this term. Great work budding scientists!

LYDIA ADAMS

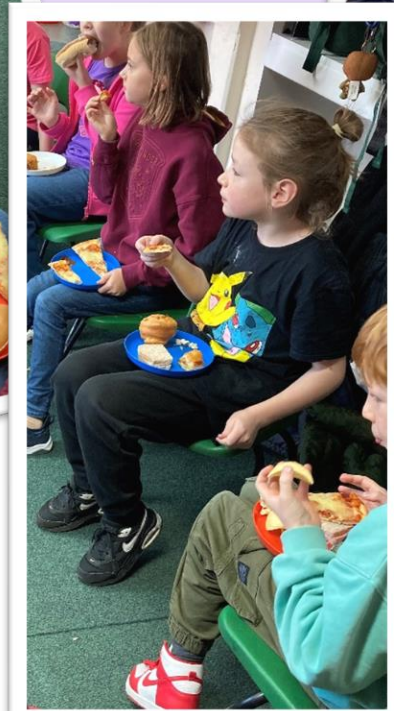


FOXES

One of the highlights of our studies of America has to be last Friday's Thanksgiving celebration. The children went to town on their interpretation of American school uniform, and provided a fantastic array of US inspired food to share amongst the two Year 5 classes. There was history, culture, games and lots of fun had by all.

This week we are looking at modern American politics. We're finding out how the government operates at a state and national level and how the election system works. We're discovering what the two main parties believe in, trying to understand where these ideas have come from and preparing for a debate next week.

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



EAGLES

As we approach the end of the first term, the Eagles have been taking time to reflect on their mathematical learning so far this year. Their positive approach to maths and support they give to each other has really helped the group to make great progress. The importance of their times tables knowledge and skills has become evident as we have explored more complex multiplication problems, working with fractions and converting measurements – all the time spent working on Times Tables Rockstars is certainly paying dividends! The mathematical highlight of the term has been our work on order of operations and in particular the BODMAS song!

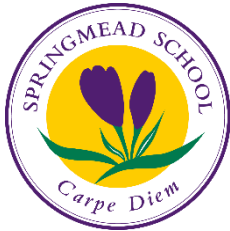


OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

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

