

Springmead Newsletter

No. 12 ~ 2023/24



Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to see our very youngest children shine on stage this week. Their obvious enjoyment at performing was evident throughout and their beautiful film radiated fun and understanding of this old, old story.

Taking pleasure in learning sits at the very heart of our curriculum. We all learn best when we are happy and enjoying what we are doing, we remember more, we are more engaged, fun ignites our curiosity and confidence in finding out and being involved. We can see this clearly with the Nativity film and performance. As I sat with the nursery listening to Mrs Offer read to the children this week, another version of the story, this time through the eyes of a donkey, children filled in the missing words that she placed in the narrative with knowledge and understanding, confident and willing to share, debate and make connections. It is heartwarming that children have gained such detailed familiarity in this traditional, important story.

We are excited to announce that this morning the BBC have been in touch to ask if they can use our Nativity film in their news programmes at some point soon. We will keep you in touch.

Sally Cox



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Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

Diary Dates at a glance

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.

The next week is very busy, please check the dates carefully. We are currently adding dates to the online calendar.

Terms and Conditions

We have updated our Terms and Conditions please follow this [link](#)

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



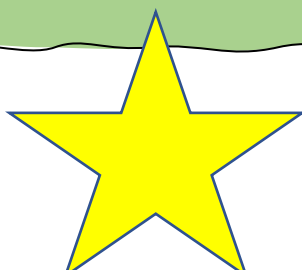

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

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)

This exciting annual competition in Bath takes place in March. It is a wonderful event to be part of. 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.

It has come to our notice, that there is a clash with our residential trip for our older children and group classes. Poetry and Creative writing classes are unaffected.

Please do complete the form by next Friday, the 15th December to enter Creative Writing and Poetry Classes.

Details were sent out last week by ParentMail. 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!



You may take photos and film through the performance, 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

Elf Run for Dorothy House – what a success!

We have had a great week celebrating all the hard work that Dorothy House Hospice provide for families by running a course at the school field.

Despite the weather, delaying the Early years and KS1 fun run, the children ran, jogged or walked the course with smiles on their faces for such a worthy cause.

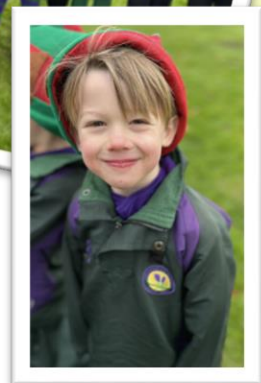
I will be collecting up any final donations on Monday next week if there happen to be any late sponsorships. The final total raised will be announced on next weeks' newsletter but at the moment we are just over £1000! Amazing!

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 – Year 3 and 4 Football vs Beckington (CANCELLED)



Sports News



Sports News

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>



Swimming News

On Friday our Year 4 swimmer represented Springmead School, as a part of the South West team competing at the ISA National finals in London. He led off the 4x50 free relay in the year 4 category, in a fantastic time. Then was chosen to swim up an age group in the 4x50 free relay for the year 5 age group! It was a fantastic experience for him to be competing at a national level event at the London Olympic pool, and we are incredibly proud of how well he did, and the maturity he demonstrated.



Super swimmer of the week: Cora for taking some big steps in her water confidence and perseverance.

PERFORMING ARTS

The Music Buzz word this week is harmony – a word used to describe a vocal or instrumental part that accompanies the melody.

What an exciting week we have all had with another one to come next week! Rehearsals for the Candlelit Carol Service are well underway, with choirs and groups fine tuning their pieces, classes learning their final words, and readers familiarising themselves with the important text they will share with us on Monday evening.

The Carol Service is always a beautiful, poignant event in our school calendar, and this year will be no different. I have seized the opportunity to showcase several soloists, and the Springmead Community Choir, back by popular demand, will also sing a Christmas song!

Every Key Stage 2 child plays a vital role in the Carol Service, and following the tradition of nine lessons and carols, it helps children to prepare not only for the important day itself, but also for other events and performances. We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Carol Service on Monday evening.

Rock School had an amazing session on Tuesday, recording their song with Luke. This time, instead of taking the song apart and recording all the parts separately, we have been experimenting with live performance recording: moving different players to different spaces; experimenting with distances between players and mics; mixing up the tempi and dynamics. It's been a real blast!

Hannah Drury



PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	Ben - Participating in group singing games. Josie - Excellent singing whilst practising our Christmas songs.
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	All Hedgehogs for excellent listening and speaking skills in phonics.
RABBITS (Y1)	Harry - For learning his lines Ada - For being a great scientist.
OTTERS (Y2)	Milo for being such an excellent narrator in our Christmas play! Otto for reading his lines with fantastic expression in the nativity! Will for great enthusiasm for the nativity!
BADGERS (Y3)	Holly for working hard on being focused and being her best self Charlotte for working hard on paying attention to detail in her written work
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Elliott for his understanding of the Trojan war Freya for her confident sewing skills Ida for her contributions to PSHE lessons
FOXES (Y5)	Angus - for brilliant story ideas using themes explored in the class novel Ava - for fantastic effort and achievement using fractions
OWLS (Y5)	Seth- for listening carefully to feedback to develop and improve his writing. Josh- for using similes and powerful adjectives to create an engaging setting description. Devon-for his enthusiasm and willingness to think outside the box in Maths.
EAGLES (Y6)	Merle - Super effort with her bushcraft journal. Ava - Great effort when working with metric and imperial units of measurement. Bea - Her positive involvement in maths 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 Thea Zeph Holly H Mathilde	Hebe Inès Charlotte Arlo Angelo	Ruby Iggy Cora Elliot. B
Sapphire Izzy Otto Matilda Mary Flor Freya. G	Reuben	Amethyst Alfred. M
Diamond Florence. M		Copper Corinne
Bronze		Silver
Platinum		Gold
Gold Plus		

We are now offering a hot lunch option during holiday club, as we are keen to move away from packed lunches. At some point soon our own lunches will be fully reinstated and will become the Holiday Club standard lunch. Food will be based on our school menus. Tea, 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



Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS AND HEDGEHOGS

We loved performing our Nativity songs this week and premiering our Nativity film to parents. This year during filming children explored lots of different roles, trying out parts and costumes to understand story building and characterisation in more depth. As practitioners, being reflective is an important part of our role. Both classes are deep in Christmas activities using the season as a stimulus to learning.

The Christmas Journey <https://youtu.be/bXocfZKLd-s?si=UnjNNua7TcArgkIa>

Photos taken by Jon at David Wiltshire Photography
<https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjB61qV>

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



RABBITS

What a busy week again! Although the elf run was cancelled on Monday it was definitely worth the wait. At the same time as raising money for this amazing cause the children had lots of fun.

The Rabbits have all been so good during our Christmas play rehearsals and have been true professionals learning not only their lines but following and remembering the ever changing stage directions, props and so on. We really cannot wait to show you all what we have been working on, on Tuesday.

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



OTTERS

The children have been excitedly preparing for the Christmas nativity, polishing off dance routines, rehearsing lines and cues and singing their hearts out. They have thoroughly enjoyed the rehearsals and worked so well together alongside Year One. You're in for a treat next Tuesday!

In R.E, the class looked at Christianity and what it means to be a Christian. They had some very interesting conversations about believing in things that you can't see, such as the wind, electricity and the air. They each wrote three questions that they would like to ask God and as usual their imaginations were wonderful! Here are a few of the questions they would like to know:

Do you have a house?
Why can't I eat cake every day?
Why isn't everyone kind?
Why can't we see you?

They had great fun on their Elf Run and were very proud with themselves for running all that way and raising money for such a good cause.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

Another busy week for Badgers getting to grips with times from over 1000 years ago. It is a tricky thing to sort dates when hundreds, tens and ones have to be considered, not to mention being waylaid by the fascinating facts on each picture. With Christmas fast approaching various artistic skills have been called into action to create the traditional end of year calendar designs, cards and labels. Following instructions is one of those funny things which can be bendy, you might follow them just about and that might be ok but when trying to log onto the new, super fancy laptops, precision is the word. Missing a capital letter, space or symbol can hinder access to anything and is down to the operator. It was a brilliant learning session and what stars the Badgers are.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



SQUIRRELS

We are coming to the end of our Science topic on dangers to living things. Earlier this week, we have been looking at how changes to environments can impact living things. I have been blown away by the Squirrels' passion for our planet, and understanding of how different natural and manmade disasters can change environments and impact living things and ecosystems.

The children chose whether to work independently or collaboratively, taking ownership over their learning.

Well done, Squirrels... last little push before the Christmas festivities begin!

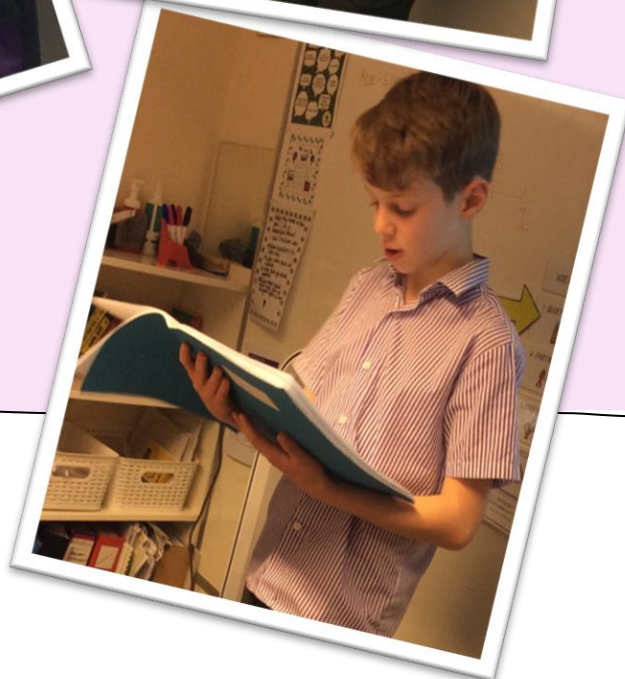
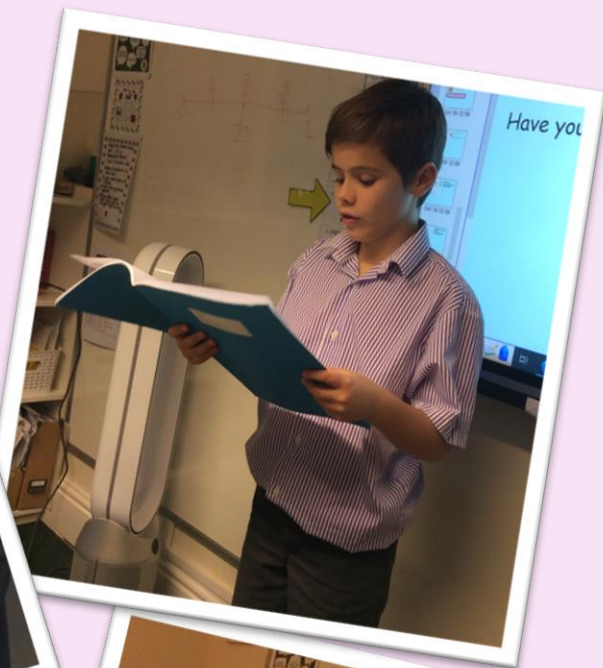
STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



OWLS

This week in Owls we have written stories based on the Christmas advert 'The Bear and the Hare'. The children worked hard to think about how they could use different sentence openers to ensure their writing was engaging, include dialogue to move the story along, and build powerful setting descriptions using figurative language and rich vocabulary. It was wonderful to see the children taking part in lively discussions, bouncing ideas off one another and building sentences that would capture the intrigue of the reader. Well done budding authors! Enjoy a well-deserved restful weekend.

LYDIA ADAMS



FOXES

The Foxes have concluded work on comparing and contrasting themes and characters across two novels by creating their own stories using some of the themes. They spent lots of time sharing ideas, forming plans and developing how their paragraphs would evolve before writing the actual stories. And wow, they have made a fantastic job of it. I'm so proud of how their writing has developed over the term.

We concluded our learning looking at modern history in USA with a debate on the policies of the Republican and Democratic parties, with Owls and Foxes each taking one party, preparing an argument and then posing questions to the other side. We had a free vote at the end of the debate, proof that the children could argue a case despite not necessarily being in favour of what they were supporting.

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



EAGLES

The Eagles completed their first terms bushcraft learning with a session in the woods at Gare Hill. On a cold and damp morning, the sight of the fire in the centre of camp was very welcome, as was the smell of hot chocolate being busily prepared by Mrs Hotson.

Mr Hotson gave the class a tour of the camp and reinforced the safety rules before we began the activities for the day. The session built on the knowledge and understanding from the bushcraft curriculum that the children have studied this term. We began by using knife skills to create a candle holder using hazel boughs and birch bark. Next, we moved into another part of the forest and collected different grades of wood - matchstick thickness to wrist thickness. The children are becoming great collectors of fuel and adhere to the bushcraft rule of 'Hug Size Bundle'. After the collaborative collection we moved to working together to build and start a fire using our skills with the fire steel.

After a delicious lunch of burgers and hotdogs the Eagles completed their session by continuing their skill and knowledge development in relation to shelter building - focussing on the positioning of branches and thatching skills. The class had a great first day in the woods and can't wait to return to our bushcraft sessions in the new year.



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Rose and Ellie in Year 5 are in the Childrens chorus for 'Elf the musical' at The Merlin Theatre in Frome from 7-16th December, Ellie and Rose will be in 5 shows each and it is a sell out production!

Mabel, in Year 5 is in Puss in Boots at Wells Little Theatre performing all next week.

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

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