

# Springmead Newsletter

## No. 13 ~ 2023/24



Dear Parents,

Christmas time is a magical time in school. The excitement has been building all week. On Monday we celebrated the season at St George's Beckington's beautiful church - Carols by candlelight - voices raised in traditional song is something very special - memory making. Our beautiful Pre-Prep Nativity play on Tuesday was a triumph, written by our own staff. John Forsyth who attended was bowled over by the children's obvious enjoyment, their singing, their comedic timing and the slickness of their lines. We respect his opinion as we were the 9<sup>th</sup> Nativity he had attended. More pictures are available on [Flickr](#).

Thank you to everyone who made our gift shop event such a success. Your generosity was incredible and the children took such care choosing for their friends and family. They all listened carefully to the story of Christmas giving. Our SSA committee worked tirelessly to set up, they became personal shoppers for the youngest children and then packed it all away again. Incredible. We are very grateful.

In other news, below you will find information further on from our annual parent survey. We were delighted we scored so highly. Below are a selection of photos from events this week. Please do keep up with children's reading over the holiday and take the opportunity this Christmas, however long or short your break is, to rest and spend time with loved ones.

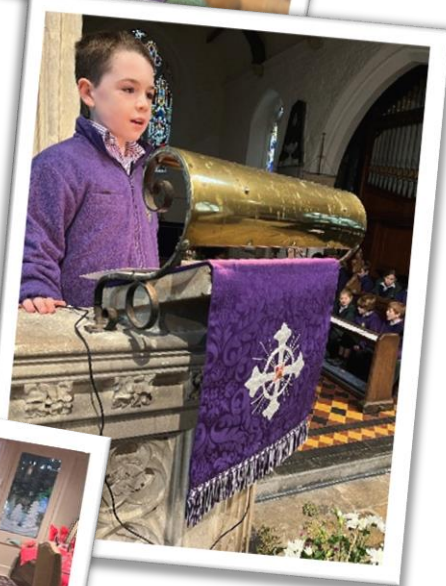
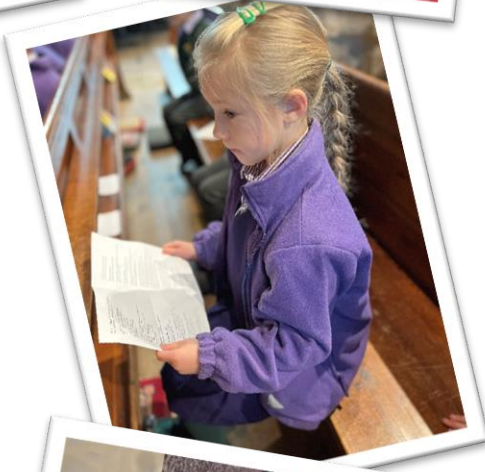
Merry Christmas everyone.

*Sally Cox*



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**Forfar**  
Part of the Forfar  
Education Group



## Eco Committee

Welcome to the newly formed Springmead Eco Committee. Aside from the excitement of being selected to represent their class and getting a lovely badge, these children have shown a passion for environmental issues.

We'll be starting with the small steps we can make both in school and at home once we start our meetings after the Christmas break. Look out for tips and advice in the New Year's newsletters.



## Science Fair - Science in a Shoebox 2024

Friday 26th January

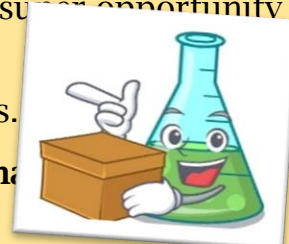
Beckington Village Hall

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**



It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

# It's Christmas Time!



**A Parent's Guide to Social Media**



**A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures**



**A Parent's Guide to Gaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming**



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



**A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming**



**A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers**



**A Parent's Guide to Fake News**



**A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings**

## It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

**Parents** please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

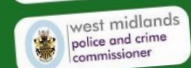
Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: [info@skipsed.com](mailto:info@skipsed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

**Skips**

[www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)

Developed in partnership with



# Sports News

## Elf Run for Dorothy House – what a success!

Wow, well done Springmead School, we have raised a **magnificent £1,785** for Dorothy House. Thank you so much to everyone that donated to this amazing charity. You are all amazing!



## Year 3 and 4 football

This week the year 3 and 4 children played a round robin of football games on Monday afternoon. They use all the knowledge and understanding of teamwork and tactics and applied it to their games.



# Sports News

## Sports Club

In sports club this week the children used the Archery equipment.

We split into 3 groups and competed to score as many points as they could. The children relished in this competitive element and were cheering their team to hit the bullseye and score 5 points.



## Swimming News

### Assessments

This week the swimming assessments will be going out. This is an opportunity to see how the children are progressing and what they have been working on in swimming. Please note that we do not solely teach to pass the awards. We work on many skills to try and help the children to become good all-round swimmers and be able to pass the minimum curriculum standard of swimming 25m unaided by the time they finish year 6.

When we are assessing the swimmers, they need to be able to demonstrate the skill asked of them at the time and over several lessons in order to show they are secure in that skill. If there is a Y on their sheet, this can indicate they have shown the skill, but not consistently, or is capable of doing the skill, they just were not able to when specifically asked to do it.

*Sarah Cozens*

## PERFORMING ARTS

Wow! I can't even begin to tell you how incredibly proud I am of every child in this school! I have had the great privilege of working with hundreds of children over the years, and I have never experienced school singing to the standard that these children produce time after time!

Most of you will have joined us for one of the many Christmas events over the last week or so: the Nursery and Reception Nativity last Tuesday; the Candlelit Carol Service for Key Stage 2 on Monday evening; or the Year 1 and 2 Christmas Production on Tuesday. And I know you will agree that the standard, once again, surpassed that of previous years.

But why do we feature singing so heavily? Singing is my passion. Singing is my livelihood. Singing is my career. But the most important thing to remember, is that singing really is good for the soul, as proved in all of our Christmas performances and services.

The church wardens at St George's asked that I share with you the sum of the generous collection at the end of the Carol Service which is used to cover the heating and lighting costs, and the general upkeep of the beautiful building. Thank you so much for your generosity in raising over £285.

As we move into this festive season, remember to sing: sing to make your soul happy, for 'tis the season to be jolly! (Fa la la la la la la la la!)

**Hannah Drury**

## PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	For all the Ducklings for their enthusiasm for Christmas.
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Ted for super focus and motivation with his reading Thea for super maths skills - thinking about more and less
RABBITS (Y1)	To all Rabbits for wonderful performances in our Nativity
OTTERS (Y2)	Mathilde - painting such a beautiful Christmas tree Harrison - for working so hard in maths on additions and subtractions.
BADGERS (Y3)	Lizzie for beautiful reading at the Christmas Carol concert Charlotte for beautiful reading at the Christmas Carol concert
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Polly for her beautiful Christmas sewing Florence M for her great work multiplying three numbers
FOXES (Y5)	To all the Foxes because every single person has read a book they were inspired to read from their reading of the class novel
OWLS (Y5)	Ava-her great work with Fractions. Matilda- her excellent effort in Maths. Isaac- his creativity in his story writing.
EAGLES (Y6)	Lucy - great organisational skills. Lily - super methodical and mature approach to her work.

## Parent Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you so much to parents who took time to complete the questionnaire a few weeks ago. We have collated the data, presented to the Forfar Board and are ready to share with you our findings. It gives us an important opportunity to stop, listen, reflect and respond. As educators being reflective is an important aspect of what we need to do to make changes and improve. **We are pleased to have had an overwhelmingly positive survey for both the Nursery and the Main School, displaying a very high degree of satisfaction for parents in the education and wider school services that we offer at Springmead**

### **Parents were highly satisfied with:**

- Their child's academic performance
- Our response to parent concerns
- Our trips and activities
- Our food and nutrition, although we could have less refined sugar.
- Our safeguarding
- Our events
- Our staff
- Our wrap around care provision
- Our leadership
- Our parent consultation process and reporting

### **Parents were less satisfied (but still relatively happy) with:**

- Finances
- Our communication
- Holiday club activities
- Sports facilities

### **Plans to improve:**

**Finances** - We are working closely with Forfar Education to address parent's concerns with our finance administration. We recognise that we need to improve financial transparency, communication and billing.

**Holiday Club activities** - Now that Nursery have moved away from Holiday Club and is running 50 weeks a year, we are planning to relook at each aspect.

**Sports facilities** - We are planning to provide some optional rich sporting activities and opportunities as well as an overhaul of our sporting event program.

**Communication** - We are currently implementing ISAMS, a comprehensive school management system that will, when fully functioning, improve our communication by removing the need for Parentmail. From ISAMS we can email directly and share reports. This weekly newsletter is your most important avenue for keeping on top of what is going on in the school - it is long as we are a busy school and it collates everything going on. We will begin each newsletter with a table of events for the half term, this will be adapted as situations change. Our new websites are under construction, these will have a clear concise diary function.

We continue to use Blossom and Tapestry to communicate class information. To contact any member of staff please email them directly with important child information. If you are unsure of any information or who to speak to email Kim in the office and she will forward it. Email addresses are [firstinitialsurname@springmead.com](mailto:firstinitialsurname@springmead.com). Our policy is to respond within 48 hours to your query. Ring the school between 8am to 6pm to pass on information or talk to staff. We will always ring back by the next day or please leave a message if it is urgent.

# 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> Thea Zeph Holly H Arlo	Hebe Inès Charlotte Angelo	<b>Ruby</b> Iggy Cora Elliot. B Mathilde
<b>Sapphire</b> Otto Matilda Mary Flor Freya. G	Reuben	<b>Amethyst</b> Alfred. M Izzy
<b>Diamond</b> Florence. M		<b>Copper</b>
<b>Bronze</b> Corinne		<b>Silver</b>
<b>Platinum</b>		<b>Gold</b>
<b>Gold Plus</b>		

## Snow Plan

If the school needed to close, even during the holidays, unlikely, but possible, we would post this onto Tapestry and Blossom as soon as a decision could be made. Snow is nearly always localised, often schools need to close as roads are treacherous. We may also close early if severe weather is forecast, to enable staff and families to get home safely. We would also ask class WhatsApp groups to let parents know, but we recognise these groups are not always complete with all parents.

# Class Highlights

## DUCKLINGS

We are full of Christmas cheer in the nursery, with the children delighting in all their discoveries of the season. The gift shop is a new concept for this class as many discuss what toys they are expecting themselves. They begin to think of others, which is easy for some and a struggle for others. We have many gentle conversations about this theme to support them to understand that they are thinking about their families as they shop. For other adventures from this week please watch the videos. The children loved their visit from Father Christmas!

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY

<https://youtu.be/FjOnw9xPvr4>

[https://youtu.be/IZWbmGT\\_H\\_4](https://youtu.be/IZWbmGT_H_4)



# HEDGEHOGS

What a truly fabulous term we have had in Hedgehogs! I cannot believe how much the children have achieved in such a short time. We are becoming readers, writers and mathematicians. Become fully part of the Springmead community. We have become performers and film stars by entertaining our friends and family with our wonderful nativity and most of all we have had the most fun together as a class.

This week the children thoroughly enjoyed the gift shop, Christmas lunch, a special visit from Father Christmas and had a great time watching the Yr 1 and 2's brilliant Christmas production and we are very much all looking forward to party day, today. We had a lovely trip down to the church with the ducklings to see the beautiful Christmas tree, the advent crown and nativity scene and looked for the story of the first Christmas in the stained glass windows.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas full of love, family and joy. Happy Christmas, everyone.



CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON

# RABBITS

Wow, wow, wow...

Thank you all for coming to watch the Christmas performance. We were so proud of each and every one of the children. They all played their parts so well. They learnt their lines, the songs, the moves and a bit of history along the way.

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



## OTTERS

Year Two had a fantastic day out in Bath last Friday. They started off with a walk up from Queen's Square to Number One Royal Crescent. They were greeted by Emily, who played the role of the maid of the house.

They changed straightaway into their finery and learnt all about life in Georgian Bath. They toured the house, which was beautifully decorated for Christmas, and they had to locate certain items in each room - including finding a little mouse that was hiding! After the tour, the children learnt a dance and then made some dance cards, finishing off by putting them in an envelope and using sealing wax and a stamp. After lunch in Victoria Park, they walked down to the Abbey, where they listened to a concert being rehearsed and then had a tour guide inform them about the different stained-glass windows. The children were very respectful and listened quietly to the chaplain as she said prayers to everyone in the Abbey and were touched that a prayer was said for all the children at Springmead school. Their behaviour was excellent and was commented on by many of the people we saw.

The children were very proud of their Christmas nativity performances and rightly so! What a lovely end to the busy autumn term. I do hope you all have a very happy Christmas and wonderful new year.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



## BADGERS

It has been a busy last week for the Badgers what with practising 'Speedy Boarding', waiting in an orderly fashion to take part in a Christmas adventure to meet a visitor from afar, sleigh at hand on the roof and an undercover Elf assisting. What an exciting time to meet such an icon, and what a relief to find out every one of the Badgers is not on the 'Naughty List'. There was an inkling that things were looking positive because the class has been working so hard that it was recognized in the number of Badger points awarded. Not only has the regulation ten been met but there are two Badger points in credit, ready to start the new term on a positive note. What a fantastic first term with everyone focusing and doing their best. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the Badgers and there are exciting times ahead in the New Year.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



## SQUIRRELS

The festive feeling ramped up a notch this week throughout the school, and it was no different for us here in the Squirrels. Between the carol service, Christingle making, the Christmas Gift Shop and a visit from The Big Man himself, it's been a magical time for all of us. We placed special emphasis on the symbolism of each part of the Christingle, and discussed how God's love reaches each 'corner' of the globe - which nicely led us onto our research on Christmas customs around the world, where the Squirrels worked in pairs to learn about traditions in Finland, Australia, America and more. Miss Robinson and I have loved our first full term with you, Squirrels - have a beautiful Christmas and we'll look forward to hearing all about it in the New Year!

STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



## OWLS

Well done, Owls for a fantastic final week! We have been busy finishing off our Maths unit, completing our end of term assessments and writing the ending to our stories, as well as enjoying lots of Christmas fun! On Wednesday the children got to see a special bearded visitor who came bearing gifts...! This was followed by a delicious Christmas lunch. The children then got to choose gifts for their family and friends from our Christmas gift shop on Thursday. This was a great opportunity for them to think about how we can show people we care at Christmas time- giving what we can and most importantly, spending time with loved ones. Well done Owls for a wonderful term, I hope you all have a lovely Christmas break.

LYDIA ADAMS



## FOXES

Work Hard, Play Hard has certainly been our mantra this week! These fantastic children have pushed themselves to finish topics, conclude areas of learning and do assessments, and on top of that they excelled themselves in the Carol Service. We've also had lots of time to have fun with their friends, eat an incredible Christmas lunch, learn new games, enjoy their class reward, shop and wrap gifts for friends and family, and meet our special visitor! They should be very proud of an amazing week of work and play.

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



## EAGLES

The Eagle have had a brilliant first term of their final year at Springmead. They have thrived on the extra responsibility asked of them as Springmead Ambassadors, enjoyed the learning opportunities in the classroom and loved those experiences outside of the classroom, including bushcraft, bikeability and showcase.

The final week of term is always a mixture of happy relaxation and rushing around finishing off tasks! The Eagles have enjoyed finishing the class text - Little Badman and the Invasion of the Killer Aunties, completing art and DT projects, tackling festive word fun activities, completing our report writing task, playing football, and a few little assessment activities!

They have all well and truly earned their three-week Christmas break, where they will relax and recharge ready for the Spring Term.



# OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

One of our Year 4 Squirrels, Polly, competed in a gymnastics competition at the Wiltshire School of Gymnastics and came 2<sup>nd</sup>. She had to perform routines on Bar, Floor and Vault.

A fantastic achievement.

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

