

Springmead Newsletter

No. 14 ~ 2023/24



Friday 12th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

What a beautiful sunny start we have had to our New Year. Blue skies lift the soul as we begin to think of rebirth, renewal and creation. Despite the biting cold, there are shoots and bulbs sprouting in the garden. Our joint assembly with the village school yesterday focused on this as we shared the story of the very first snowdrop – whose bravery and determination allows us the first sign of spring, a time when we look forward and plan for the year ahead. You will see from the articles further on, that we have much to look forward to. We are proud and thrilled that Johanna Robinson has qualified as a Thrive Approach Practitioner – she has worked hard on her training and is now implementing processes within the school to support children's mental health. Mental health was one of the focuses for our inset training day on Monday. It is an important aspect of Forfar Education's schools that children and staff feel supported and listened to.

Other news this week has been around our new bouldering activity sessions for our older children. Climbing is a great hobby which builds a huge range of skills. In the South West there is great climbing to be had both indoors and outdoors. Our philosophy is to give children a range of experiences to try out to develop a can-do attitude.



Sally Cox



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Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

There's always something to look forward to...

Diary Dates at a glance

Tues 16th January - Year 6 - Football session-
Selwood
Mon 22nd January - Year 5 - Football session -
Selwood
Wed 24th January - Boulder Rooms - Years 5 & 6
Fri 26th January - Science Fair - Year 3 to 6
Tues 30th January - Mendip Cross Country League
- Years 3 to 6
Tues 30th January - Open Morning for new parents.
10am to 12 noon. Invite friends and family.
Wed 31st January - SSA Meeting - 8.30am. All
welcome
Wed 31st January - Yr 5 Girls and Boys Netball and
Hockey @ Stonar
Mon 5th February - Yr 3 and 4 Girls Netball and
Boys Hockey @ Stonar
Mon 5th Feb - Online Safety Week and Childrens
Mental Health Week
Wed 7th Feb - Boulder Rooms - Years 5 & 6
Wed 7th Feb - Chinese New Year lunch
Thurs 8th February - Night Hike - Yr 3-6 - 6.15pm
Fri 9th February - Performance Platform

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

More sports dates are below – these dates are for school events.

Activities such as class activities are on our online calendar [here](#).

Please find the 2024 to 2025 Main School Term Dates [here](#).

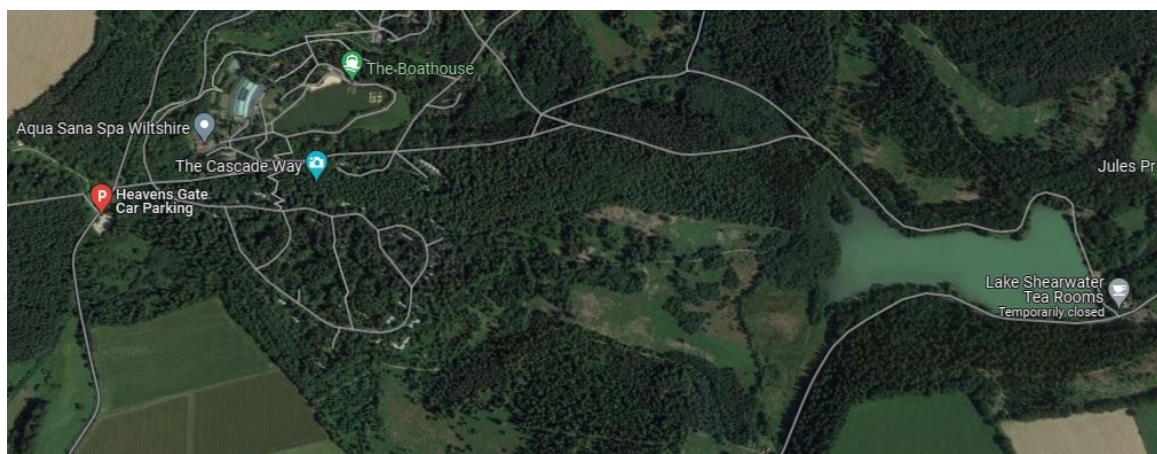
We are just waiting for clarification of the Nursery Term Dates which will be slightly altered. Thank you for your patience.



What3Words Locations:

Drop Off : [memo.subway.coil](https://www.memo.subway.coil)

Collection: [cyclones.impact.soaps](https://www.cyclones.impact.soaps)



Childrens Mental Health and the Thrive Approach

In the world we find ourselves living in today, **children's mental health** in England is a topic of growing concern and importance. Despite increased awareness and efforts to address mental health issues in recent years, many **children continue to face significant challenges**. Factors such as academic pressures, social media, family dynamics, and economic stressors can contribute to the rising rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues among the youth. Access to timely and effective mental health support remains a significant issue, with long waiting times for services and limited resources exacerbating the problem. Initiatives and campaigns have been launched to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and promote early intervention, but there is still much work to be done to ensure that every child in England receives the necessary support to 'Thrive' emotionally and psychologically. The collaboration of schools, communities, and healthcare systems is crucial to fostering a more holistic approach to children's mental well-being.

That's where the Thrive Approach comes in at Springmead.

The **Thrive Approach** is a holistic and child-centred method designed to support the emotional and social development of children in primary schools. It focuses on helping children develop the essential skills they need to thrive, both academically and emotionally. The approach recognizes that a child's emotional well-being is fundamental to their ability to learn and engage in school life.

Through the Thrive Approach, I will assess and address the social and emotional needs of each child, providing targeted interventions to support their individual development. By creating a positive and nurturing environment, the Thrive Approach aims to enhance children's resilience, self-esteem, and emotional regulation. This approach encourages a collaborative effort between parents, teachers, and the school community to create an atmosphere where every child can flourish not only academically but also emotionally and socially.

Johanna Robinson

Holiday Club Update

With our move to a 50 week nursery we were able to reintroduce food into our Holiday Club provision over Christmas. **This was very well received with the children enjoying the food and the parents enjoying the convenience.**

From February half term, we will include food in our provision for all children. There is a cost implication to this, and **the rates will now be as follows;**

8.00am to 8.30am Free

8.30am to 3.30pm day £32.00 per day

3.30pm to 6.00pm after club care £4.00 per ½ hour

We also recognise that our holiday club is becoming more popular, although the numbers vary significantly over the course of the week. We need to be able to staff our provision effectively to give the children the best opportunities. To do this we need to encourage early booking, hence, from now on we are introducing a tiered fee.

For February half-term, bookings must be made within the next two weeks to take advantage of the costs above. Going forward, these rates will be secured if booked up to one month before the holiday starts.

If booking within 1 month of the holiday start date rates charged will be;

8.00am to 8.30am Free

8.30am to 3.30pm day £38.00 per day

3.30pm to 6.00pm after club care £5.00 per ½ hour

And if booking during the holiday period;

8.00am to 8.30am Free

8.30am to 3.30pm day £45.00 per day, including food

3.30pm to 6.00pm after club care £7.00 per ½ hour

These charges relate to children registered at the school. Please make all bookings by email to

Office@springmead.com

Children who are not registered at the school will be charged £5.00 extra per day on top of the rates above.

Science Fair - Science in a Shoebox 2024

Friday 26th January

We are getting close to our annual Science Fair. By now all children in Years 3 – 6 should have planned and begun to prepare their entry. Please do speak to class teachers with any questions or worries.

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.

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



Sports News

What a positive afternoon we had at the Boulder Rooms, Frome. The session was led by Lewis, who was engaging and knowledgeable. We started with a team game where children had to pass the ball along the line whilst holding a position on the climbing wall. The children demonstrated excellent teamwork and communication

After this we headed to 'the island'. The island had a range of boulder courses for the children to explore. They started with the easiest of routes '1' and progressed through to some '2's and 3's. Everyone was able to work at their own ability but was instructed and encouraged to find routes to the top.

Lastly, the children were able to explore the rest of the boulder rooms and complete other challenges set by Lewis.

Fixtures

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

Spring Term Fixtures

Wednesday 10th January - Boulder Rooms

Tuesday 16th January - Selwood Football

Wednesday 17th January - Boulder Rooms

Wednesday 24th January - Boulder Rooms

Monday 29th January - Selwood Football

Tuesday 30th January - Mendip Cross Country

Wednesday 31st January - Year 5/6 Netball and Hockey @ Stonar

Monday 5th February - Year 3/4 Netball and Hockey @ Stonar

Tuesday 6th February - High Five Netball Tournament (selected pupils)

Wednesday 7th February - Boulder Rooms

Wednesday 21st February - Boulder Rooms

Wednesday 21st February - Claysmore Cross Country (TBC)

Tuesday 27th February - Mendip Cross Country

Monday 4th March - Year 5/6 Netball @ Selwood

Monday 11th March - Year 3/4 Netball and Hockey @ Warminster

Tuesday 12th March - High Five Netball Tournament (selected pupils)

Tuesday 19th March - Mendip Cross Country

Wednesday 20th March - CLIVE LEWIS TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL

Boulder Rooms



Swimming News

Getting back into swimming

As we are in a new year now many children will have had a break from swimming over the Christmas period. Over the next couple of weeks we will be revisiting some of the skills the children have learnt, to get them back into good habits and enable them to progress further.

We will be continuing to focus on working on good technique and skills, as well as the criteria for the assessments. This allows the children to build a well rounded foundation of swimming skills to allow them to continue to grow as a swimmer. To ensure that children reach their full capabilities in swimming we do recommend that they swim outside of school swimming lessons as well. Swimming is a sport that requires a considerable amount of training, in order to be fully competent. With the understanding that swimming is a life saving skill we do hope that as many of the children as possible can continue their swimming journey outside of school in conjunction with our lessons.

PERFORMING ARTS

Music Buzz Word - TEMPO: This is the musical word for Speed, and refers to the speed at which a piece of music is performed.

Over the coming weeks, our Buzz Words will focus on Tempi (the plural for Tempo)

Exciting Music Exam Results:

The following pupils passed their LCM Musical Theatre Exams and the results reached us over the Christmas break...

Violet M	- Grade 3 - PASS
Darcey	- Grade 3 - MERIT
Ava C	- Grade 3 - MERIT
Poppy	- Grade 4 - PASS
Rose	- Grade 4 - DISTINCTION
Mabel	- Grade 4 - MERIT

Owen has also just passed his Trinity Grade 3 Piano exam with DISTINCTION.

Congratulations to you all - All that hard work has certainly paid off!

Hannah Drury

Snow Plan

If the school needed to close for snow disruption, we would post this onto Tapestry and Blossom as soon as a decision could be made. Snow is nearly always localised and communication to fact find before a decision can be made takes time. 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.

Parking

Please can we remind **all parents to park on Frome Road** and walk around to Castle Corner or the pupil's entrance at drop off and collection times. **Please park safely**, in accordance with the Highway Code and consideration of pedestrians including children and other parents. **Thank you for your cooperation and consideration to the safety** of our school community as well as the School's planning permission.

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

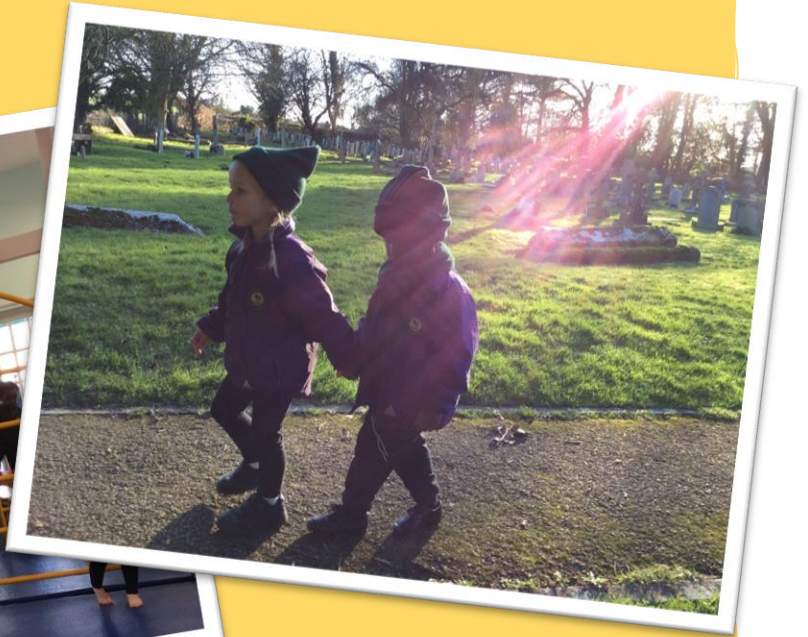
Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS

Nursery life has been full of energy – we think the cold weather gets everyone excited! We've been for a village walk, created a classroom cave and even rescued a (toy) dog from a tree!

<https://youtu.be/oMqB8WltkaU>

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



HEDGEHOGS

Happy New Year! What a lovely start to the term it has been. Beautiful weather, chilly but dry! The Hedgehogs have been thinking about their new theme: Winter, Snow and Ice by learning about birds and how to look after them in the winter. We learnt some different varieties of birds which we might see here in the UK and a little bit about the different types of songs they chirp. We went out on our Go Explore adventure with binoculars to do some bird watching and were lucky enough to see a beautiful buzzard, who was circling the woods and stretching his wings soaring over the sky. We decided to encourage more birds to the school grounds so we made some super bird feeders out of orange peel. It was a messy job but great for our fine motor skills and they look great hung up in the front garden. We have our binoculars ready by the classroom window and are hopeful for some extra visitors.

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON



RABBITS

What a fantastic start back! It was lovely to hear all about everyone's holidays and it was so lovely to see everyone.

The children are excited about our topic this term 'Space'. We have already learnt so much this week and are looking forward to our mini astronaut training next week and our 'polar' expedition around the village.

The Rabbits are so eager to learn and already know so much that they love sharing with the rest of the class.

We have started a book of questions they would like to know and when we find the answers we are writing them in to see how much we have learnt. Amazing job Rabbits!



JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1

OTTERS

Year Two were very excited to be at school and enjoyed sharing their Christmas holiday news with each other. It sounds like some of you got up to some amazing adventures and everyone had been paid a visit by Father Christmas!

This term our topic is on 'Remarkable People'. The children discussed what qualities remarkable people have, such as being determined, courageous and creative. They loved reading some new books about lots of different remarkable people. They have been learning all about the interesting life of Frida Kahlo and how, despite lots of obstacles in her way, caused by polio and a terrible accident, she became a fantastic artist.

In English the children have been working on expanded noun phrases, using some super adjectives to describe nouns, and in maths they have begun working on the topic of money.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

With what looks like a scene from GCHQ, with the technology and world maps, the Badgers demonstrated their dedication and focus whilst investigating the intricacies of logging on and a little light coding. The maps were of important locations around the world highlighting the diminishing Rainforests. All this investigative work was following the great chattering excitement of meeting up again after the festivities. The buzz of a new year, a new term and new topics was rippling around the classroom. There was great collaboration and team work in all the activities we have launched this week. A fantastic first week in the Spring term, keep up the good work, Badgers.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



SQUIRRELS

It was so lovely to have the Squirrels back in the classroom on Tuesday!

We shared all our Christmas adventures and what we were looking forward to this term! Although it's a short one, in true Springmead style it's a busy one: Science fair, our new WWII theme, the Mid-Somerset Festival, our Easter production, Go Explores, and our Residential trip to London.

We have had a super first week back, kicking off our WWII theme learning about the reasoning behind Neville Chamberlain declaring war on Germany, the organs involved in our digestive system in Science, factor pairs in Maths, using charcoal in Art and all about states of matter in Geography!

I know myself, Miss Robinson & the Squirrels are looking forward to the term ahead, for the new memories that will be made, opportunities that will be taken and knowledge that will be learned!

STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



OWLS

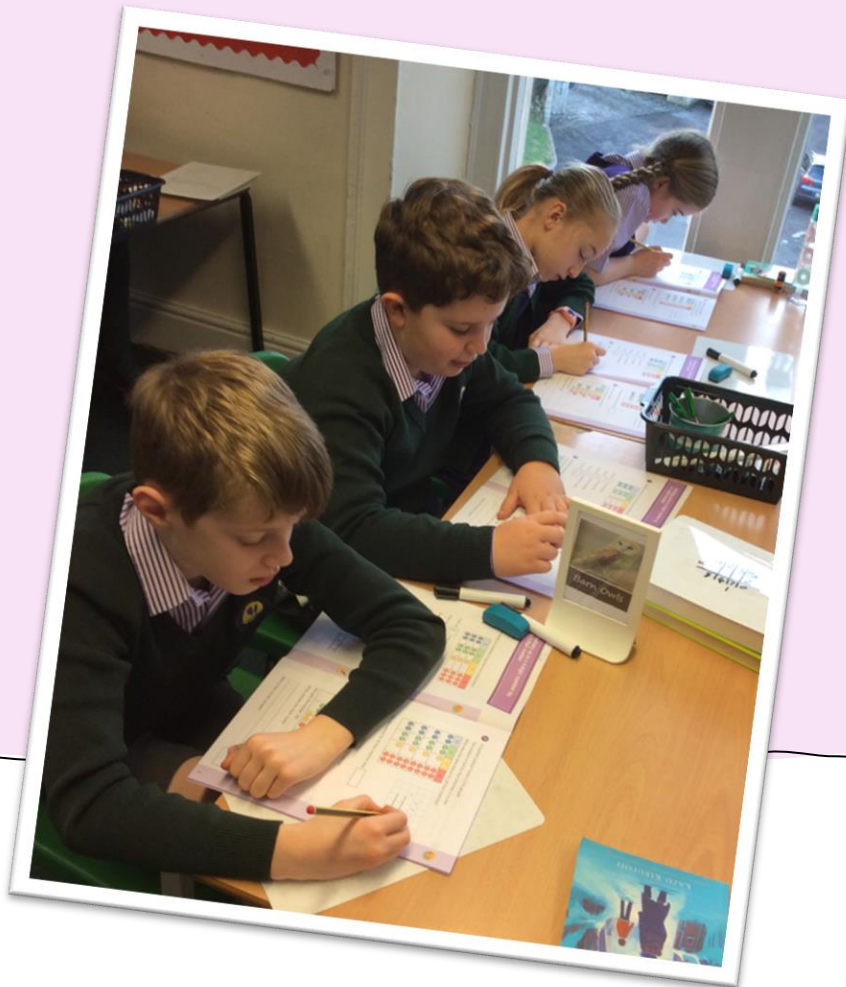
Well done Owls for a super first week back! It has been lovely to see you all starting off the new term with lots of energy and enthusiasm, which I'm sure will continue as we delve into the many exciting opportunities that we have planned for this term.

We have immersed ourselves in our new theme, 'Terrible Tudors' this week, learning all about the War of the Roses and the Battle of Bosworth, as well as diving into our new story, 'Treason' by Berlie Doherty. The children have been hugely engaged by our new topic, having lively class discussions, asking lots of relevant questions to build their knowledge further.

We have also got stuck into our new Maths unit, which is revisiting Multiplication and Division, but with a focus this time on written methods. I have been so impressed by the hard work and resilience the children have poured into learning how to do long multiplication this week- it's not easy but they applied their growth mindsets to get the job done!

Give yourselves a pat on the back Owls and have a lovely weekend.

LYDIA ADAMS



FOXES

Foxes have leapt back in time and are immersing themselves in Tudor times, investigating the Wars of the Roses and how that led to the Tudor period. They have loved the art sessions, using a variety of different papers to create a Tudor Rose, and then using natural materials to sculpture a second one. They have enjoyed the opening chapters of the class novel, *Treason* by Berlie Doherty, which is set in the Tudor period, and are already seeing the learning that can come from reading historical fiction.

In maths we have embarked on long multiplication, and wow, I am super impressed with how quickly they have grasped the concept and are applying their skills. And now they can see the advantages of learning times tables and practising tables using TT Rock Stars!

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



EAGLES

The Eagles have hit the ground running on their return from the Christmas break. They were especially eager to see the results of the mould experiment we setup before Christmas! Lots of mould grew over the three-week break, especially on the bread in warm damp conditions, but the bread kept in cold conditions had no noticeable changes.

A new term always begins with lots of exciting adventures ahead and the Eagles are particularly excited about their residential at the end of the term and with the cold weather finally arriving we are hoping to enjoy some bushcraft sessions in a more wintry arena this term.

This week the class have enjoyed working collaboratively in maths – scale factors, English – vocab sort, geography – British rivers, and computing – HTML coding. They continue to demonstrate great ability to learn with each other and help direct each other as required – showing kindness, consideration, and great knowledge. Each member of the class is able to adapt their strengths to aid and assist their peers – what super Springmead Ambassadors!

NICK MUNCKTON



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to our fabulous pupil in Year 6 who was awarded a Merit in her Grade 1 Musical Theatre Performance Arts Award exam. How wonderful! She also completed the run of Aladdin shows at the Warminster Athenaeum.



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
INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION
Accredited Member