

Springmead Newsletter

No. 15 ~ 2023/24



Friday 19th January 2024

Dear Parents,

You may well have noticed in the newsletter over the last few months that there is a trending theme steadily building in a particular area – a stream of arts talented children who are producing very positive results in drama, art and music in the school. Our results have never been as high. The grades last week from the music department were again fabulous, we are so proud to have Grade 3 and 4 instrumentalists as pupils. Our dedication to nurturing talent and promoting artistic development is part of the Springmead vision. We recognise that the variety of disciplines we offer, inspire each other, and our openness and supportive environment builds confidence. The mentoring that occurs from our teachers provides the strongest inspiration: pupils are given personalised guidance and support. These valuable one-on-one interactions ensure that children receive the individual attention necessary to hone their skills and develop their artistic voice encouraging pupils to think outside the box and push the boundaries of what they can achieve.

In other news, please note the new venue for our Science Fair, which will be held at Springmead this year using the dining hall, the new art studio and the school hall. We know how hard children and parents have worked to produce their presentations. As an educator, it is a moving experience visiting the science fair: children talk passionately about their chosen area of science, sharing their experiments with confidence and knowledge.



We are delighted to appoint Maria Keates into the nursery as a senior practitioner working part time.

Maria has a degree in early years education gained at the prestigious Norland College – and has been working at Springmead for some years. Our plan is for Shirley Offer to move away from her role as Nursery Manager, handing over to Maria who will take on the management role from September 2024. Shirley Offer will remain as Head of Early Years and Deputy Head. Nursery parents will have a formal opportunity to meet Maria Keates over the next half term as she gets to know families.

Sally Cox



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Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

Diary Dates at a glance

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. Please 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](#). There was a gremlin in the term dates last week with the wrong week day given for a September 2024 inset day which should have read Thursday 26th September 2024.

Year 5 Transition Meeting

As a school we are committed to ensuring our children are truly prepared for Senior Schools. We always recognise that Springmead is an 'independent' independent school. Parents are able to make clear choices to choose the next school rather than following on within the same one. An informed decision is vital for children's academic and artistic education as well as for the overall wellbeing of the child. There are no 'set' schools for children to attend after Springmead in Year 6. We have good knowledge of senior independent and state schools and can share this with parents.

Our transition meeting for Year 5 parents is scheduled for 8.30 am on Thursday 14th March, we are giving plenty of notice as we appreciate parents coming along to this very important meeting.

Science Fair - Science in a Shoebox at Springmead School 2024

Friday 26th January

By now all children in Years 3 - 6 have planned and prepared their entry.

This year we have a change: we will be hosting the science fair ourselves, at Springmead School, not our usual venue. This new arrangement, using the dining hall, our new art and DT studio and the school hall will provide space, convenience, and a wonderful opportunity to get really involved in an extended science project giving the children an occasion to 'present' to a wide range of people.



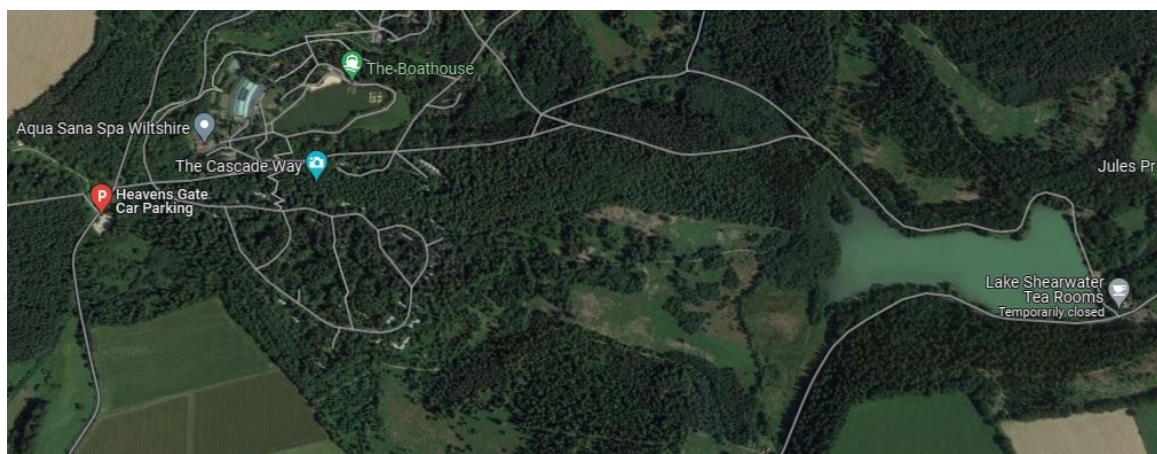
Hats and gloves are in stock at Scholars, Trowbridge. Please purchase directly from them ready for the next cold snap.



What3Words Locations:

Drop Off : memo.subway.coil

Collection: cyclones.impact.soaps



Our Performance Platform is an informal opportunity for some of our performers who have individual peripatetic lessons, in or out of school, to take to the stage. In addition, all pupils in Years 1 and 2, and Choral Group will join these children at the Village Hall to perform group pieces.

Our hope is that the occasion will 'inspire' the younger children, and their parents, who may be considering embarking on peripatetic lessons over the next few terms.

Children selected to perform may not have had an opportunity to perform as a soloist at any other time this academic year, and those who play multiple instruments may be asked to perform on their second study instrument. Due to time constraints not everyone will have the opportunity to perform at this event. Children who are invited to perform as soloists will be informed during the next week.

For parents whose children do not yet play an instrument, this is a good time to come and see what our youngsters are achieving through individual music and drama lessons and through lots of practice at home. After the concert, we will be sending out a letter to parents about children starting individual music or drama lessons.

Please email info@springmead.com to request a seat. Whilst there is no charge there is limited space, you will be informed if your name is on the list and will be signed in at the door.

Children will be free to leave with their parents after the event.

Children not performing will be at school in the afternoon. Clubs will run as usual.

Hannah Drury



Holiday Club Update – Please book ahead, to take advantage of pricing!

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.

Springmead School Association: Meeting at 8.30 am Wednesday 31st January

The Springmead School Association (SSA) comprises a voluntary group of parents and school staff. The committee consists of:

- the Headteacher
- teaching and non-teaching staff members
- parent members

The role of the SSA committee is to enhance the education of all pupils at the School and Nursery by providing extra amenities, which would not be catered for within the normal school funding. In addition, the committee aims to provide opportunities for pupils and their families to meet and socialise this is achieved through running a small number of events throughout the year.

We have an existing highly supportive and effective group but we are always keen to welcome new parents.

The group will meet just two more times this year, to decide how money raised is spent and to plan a few key events, so it really will not be too onerous.

If you are interested in being on the committee the next meeting is on 26th January at 8.30 on in the We look forward to seeing you there.

Swimming News

Swimming hats

When swimming, a useful piece of kit is a swimming hat, as it keeps your hair out of your eyes/face. This is particularly beneficial for those with longer hair as having your hair move across your face whenever you are trying to breathe can be very off-putting.

It can also impact the overall technique, as a swimmer is more likely to lift their head to breathe rather than roll to the side to avoid this happening. This impedes the swimmer's progression as it completely changes the body position in the water once the head is lifted.

School swimming hats are available to purchase, and the swimming teachers are on hand to help anyone who needs assistance to get their swimming hat on correctly.

Super swimmer of the week: Isabella for fantastic focus and great technique.

Sarah Cozens

Performing Arts

Music Buzz Word: Allegro

Following our theme of Tempo (speed), Allegro is a word used as a tempo marking in music to indicate that the piece should be FAST.

Sports News

This term in PE....

Year 3-6 Netball and Tag Rugby

This week the year 3 and 4 children experienced their first lesson in Tag Rugby. They played numerous tagging games, re-capped on how to throw a rugby ball and practiced some small attacking and defending games.

The year 5 and 6's have kicked off with Netball. This term we are focusing on 'High Five' Netball. This is a fantastic version of netball which means that the children rotate positions and practice timekeeping and scoring.

This afternoon we also practiced 'footwork' and shooting.



Year 1 and 2 Gymnastics

Year 1 and 2 are enjoying gymnastics in PE.

The year 1's have been bouncing bunnies, jumping kangaroos and skipping lemurs. We have practiced lots of different ways of jumping and we are looking forward to creating our own jumping routines.

The year 2's have started an under the sea balancing unit. Independently, they create an anchor, shell and rock balances. The children's focus was to make their balances strong, control and held for 3 seconds. We then shared them with each other and discussed which balances we liked and why.



Wrapping up warm for PE

Please can all children have appropriate warm clothes for PE. Children are allowed to wear thermal long sleeved black tops and black thermal leggings in addition to their normal PE kit.

Children are allowed to wear Springmead hats only and suitable sports gloves.

Thank you! Springmead hats are available at Scholars.

Fixtures

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

Spring Term Fixtures

Tuesday 16th January - Year 5 Selwood Football (postponed until the 23rd Jan)

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

Emma Lindley

PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	Embla, Leon and Louis for settling into Nursery so well and making new friends.
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Lewis for trying really hard with his writing and spelling words. Ted for fantastic independence during phonics.
RABBITS (Y1)	Ada for great maths working with numbers to 20. Flor for great input during discussions. Jasper for sharing his space knowledge.
OTTERS (Y2)	Mathilde for working so hard with her reading and making excellent progress. Bobby for showing super focus and determination with his handwriting. Esther for a super painting of Frida Kahlo
BADGERS (Y3)	Holly H for persevering when things get tricky. Lizzie for taking time with the presentation of your mosaic art. Molly for rocking with your reading.
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Owen for his curiosity about WW2 Ida for great work on the changing of states. Florence for great work on the changing of states. Freya for great work on the changing of states. Jack for being helpful, enthusiastic and supportive of his peers.
FOXES (Y5)	Iggy for amazing work with long multiplication. Ellie for fantastic note-taking in history.
OWLS (Y5)	Noah- his insightful observations about our class story. Rose- her enthusiasm and engagement in reading comprehension lessons. Seth- for his curiosity and enthusiasm to learn in History.
EAGLES (Y6)	Billy - Super maths work relating to ratio. Evie - Great effort during our bushcraft session about water.

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 Mathilde
Sapphire Otto Charlotte Milo Ida Mary Flor Freya. G Elliot. B		Amethyst Izzy Matilda Reuben
Diamond Lily. H Alfred. M		Copper Florence. M
Bronze Corinne		Silver
Platinum		Gold
Gold Plus		

Springmead School and Nursery **Open Morning**



Tuesday 30th January

10.00 to 12.00



Please do let friends and family know

Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS

The nursery have adjusted to the new term routine of early mornings and busy days. It's lovely to see their friendships develop. We have spent time this week reviewing our class rules based on the Springmead Way of Share and Listen. These ways of being, we hope, will embed themselves into the children's vocabulary and attitudes. In class we have looked at space and owls, all part of our Night and Day theme. We have also enjoyed the rabbits coming into nursery. We watched, stroked, talked, read stories and painted pictures about rabbits. An immersive experience. During the day, children would go quietly to sit by the cage and watch them, talking to them quietly. It was very sweet. We are encouraging children to go into their gardens at home to look at the night sky to see what they can see in the night sky. Do look at our Nursery Instagram page. Here's the link:
<https://www.instagram.com/littlecricketsatspringmead/>

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



HEDGEHOGS

This week's weather has been perfect for the Hedgehogs theme on Winter, Snow, and Ice! We are quite hopeful for snow in the Hedgehogs class but no such luck this week, so we decided to create our own snowstorm in the classroom! The Hedgehogs loved conducting their experiment to create snow. We used oil, white paint mixed with water and some Alka-Seltzer tablets and created pure magic in a jar. The excitement on the children's faces was just the best. They were so interested in what was happening, asking questions, discussing what they could see. It was a definite awe and wonder moment for the children, which is of course so important. It is such a powerful feeling that sparks motivation and learning that truly leaves a mark. These are the kinds of moment that really inspire children and give them a true desire to learn. Magic in my eyes!

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON



RABBITS

The children are continuing to love learning our Space topic. This week we took advantage of feeling the cold weather and went outside where the children became planets and moons standing in order from the coldest to the hottest. They compared the temperatures to ours on Earth.

They also had great fun researching different parts of our solar system on laptops, allowing them to explore what they would like to know.

There is still so much to learn - and the more we do the more it sends us down a rabbit hole, but it is so exciting!

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



OTTERS

This week the children have been learning all about Florence Nightingale. They stepped back into history and discovered how life was very different for women in the 1800's and how because of determined and forward-thinking women like Florence, life changed for the better. In science they also learnt of another remarkable lady, Jane Colden. Jane was born in 1724 and educated at home by her father. She then went on to be the first female botanist of America. Inspired by her, the children used magnifying glasses to look in tulips in detail and drew some super pictures of them.

In English they have continued to work on expanded noun phrases and looked at homophones.

In maths they are continuing to learn about money and found it fascinating when they looked at a real £5 note and could see all the all the fine details, such as Big Ben and a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II in the clear window.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

This week the cogs could be heard whirring as the Badgers continued to launch into the new topics. Heads were down, thoughts were being thought and imaginative sentences being created. It's all about the detail, adding a sprinkling of description and detail can make all the difference to the written word. The class were investigating what makes a good story, an interesting sentence, and a page turner.

Another exciting topic is finding out about Rainforests. Where are they? Why are they important? What makes a Rainforest? Following some great geographical research, the class have become adept at locating all these amazing places around the world. Give the Badgers a world map and they can spot a Rainforest at a hundred paces! Using the latest technology, each Badger was set the task to find out some fascinating facts about a selection of places in the Rainforest regions. Everyone shared their findings, which included flags, food, animals, climate and the Honduras National Anthem.

No week is ever the same, and each week the learning heads off in a different direction depending on who is interested in what, and what everyone wants to know. Brilliant Badgers and keep going with your learning.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



SQUIRRELS

The Squirrels have been immersed in a whirlwind of learning, exploring two fascinating topics - World War Two and the Digestive System. In history lessons, they've delved into the past, uncovering the events and stories that shaped our world during this pivotal period. The enthusiasm and engagement have been palpable as they've stepped into the shoes of those who lived through those challenging times. Meanwhile, in science, our young scientists have been on a captivating journey through the digestive system, unravelling the ins and outs of how our bodies process food, through a very engaging investigation!

The classroom echoed with laughter, curiosity, (and a little disgust) alongside a thirst for knowledge.

Well done Year 4!

STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



OWLS

This week in Owls we continued to practise the long multiplication method and then moved onto short division. The children worked extremely hard to methodically work through the steps involved, applying their knowledge of place value to understand what each digit represented. They then deepened their understanding by challenging themselves with tricky problem- solving questions, which put what they had learned into context. Well done for being resilient learners Owls!

We also worked hard to design a fair test in Science this week, exploring what would be the most effective lining for a lunchbox. The children theorised that their lunchbox lining would need to be a good thermal insulator in order to keep the food inside nice and cool. They then tested this by wrapping a container filled with ice in different materials and taking temperature readings at 5 minute intervals. It was great to see the children thinking carefully about how they could ensure their results were reliable by only changing one thing (the material) each time they did the experiment and keeping everything else exactly the same. Great job scientists!

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

LYDIA ADAMS



FOXES

The Foxes rattled through their long multiplication work and have moved on to a look at division this week. They have very quickly grasped new concepts and are starting to enjoy the problem-solving challenges they are being presented with.

Our English lessons inspired by the class novel, *Treason*, have led to some lively discussions, and a great drama session recreating a scene in the Great Hall of Westminster Palace. We have looked at the portraits of Hans Holbein and other Tudor artists and have spent time sketching notable Tudor characters. Even our mindfulness activities are inspired by the Tudors; we are fully immersed in this term's theme!

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



EAGLES

Despite the bitterly cold weather the Eagles were glad to be back out with Mr & Mrs Hotson for our first bushcraft session of the new term. Although the snow we had hoped for hadn't happened, there was plenty of ice around including a fully frozen pond!

The log burner in the cabin was producing a lovely warmth on our arrival and we all settled down for the theory section of the session. After a brief recap of previous learning Mr Hotson introduced our topic for the day - Water. The class learnt about the importance of water, the rule of 3's, issues that arise from lack of water and how to find and procure water in our outdoor environment.

After lunch we ventured out into the cold and explored the practical element of our learning including how to set up a stand to boil water, collecting water from a body of water (frozen or not), using a Millbank bag to filter water and setting up a tarp shelter to collect water.

Another great session learning outside of the classroom or inside the classroom with no walls. We are greatly looking forward to the next session but hoping for a little warmer weather or snow!

NICK MUNCKTON



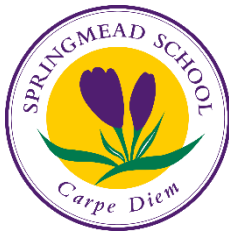
OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Matilda. S was awarded a Merit for her Grade 1 Musical Theatre Performance Arts Award exam. She performed in *Harry Potter and The Book of Ancient Magic*. We are very proud of her!

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
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