

Springmead Newsletter

No. 16 ~ 2023/24



Friday 26th January 2024

Dear Parents,

This week I have had the pleasure of meeting with the Forfar team and Head teachers from all the Forfar schools in London. It was interesting to network with the other Heads and share future strategies and plans. I have then returned to enjoy one of my favourite days of the year...what excitement Science Fair has created. The children are thrilled to share their work and have repeated opportunities throughout the day to present their projects and answer questions on their chosen area of science.

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](#).

Parent Consultations

Parents consultations will feel a little different this February. We will be trialling a new style of evening for all main school classes from Reception to Year 6.

Appointments will all be held on one evening.

Wednesday 21st February from 3.45pm

The Senior Leadership Team will be on hand in the library overseeing all appointments and offering refreshments and opportunities to view children's work prior to meetings.

Please note there will be no after school clubs running this day, but after school care will be available to those that need it. Appointments will take place in the Art Studio, School Hall, Meeting Room and Reception Classroom. You will be directed to your meeting.

The appointments available for parents evening are approximately 10 minutes long. As usual after your appointment, if the time was not sufficient, you may arrange to meet with your child's class teacher for an extra meeting. This new arrangement has been made from parent questionnaire feedback to enable parents to see their children's teachers all on one night. We will endeavour to link up sibling meetings. An appointment form will be sent out in due course. Children arriving with parents for appointments will need to go to after school care which will be open until 6pm and charged at the usual rate. **It will not be possible for children to wait in the library.**

Year 5 Transition Meeting

As a school we are committed to ensuring our children are truly prepared for Senior Schools. We celebrate 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.

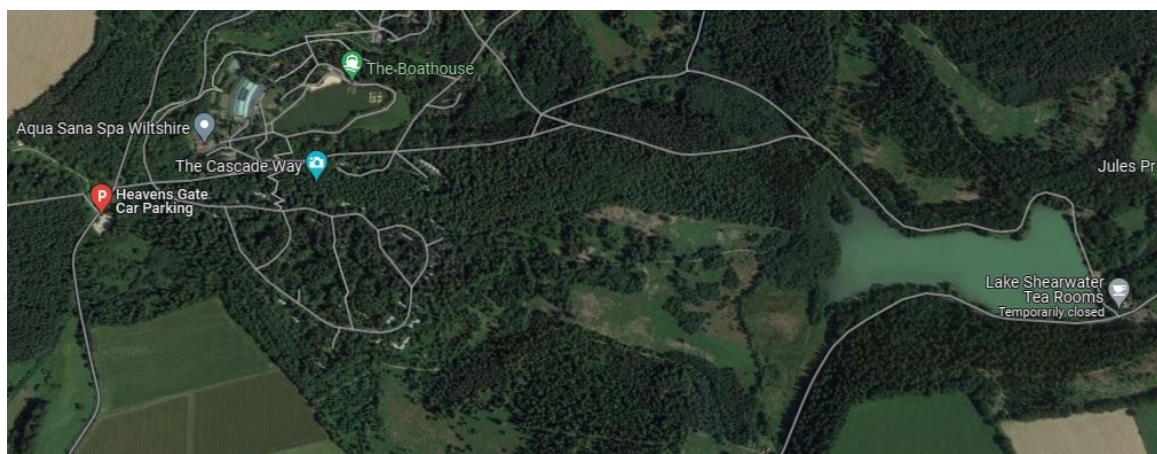
Hats and gloves are in stock at Scholars, Trowbridge. Please purchase directly from them ready for the next cold snap.



What3Words Locations:

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

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



Performing Arts

This week's Buzz Word - Largo

Following our trend, this tempo marking signifies that the music should be slow and with a dignified style.

Performance Platform Concert:

We are busy preparing for this concert in two weeks' time, in which Choral Group will perform, and so will Year 1 and 2. The Key Stage One classes have been focussing on rhythm and pulse, and music from around the world, so we are excited to share our Mexican Fire Dance performance using rhythmic percussion instruments.

Several soloists have been approached and confirmed their ability to play/perform at the concert and we are looking forward to hearing them all.

The importance of keeping in touch:

I work really hard to keep in touch with the children who have lessons outside of school in order to track their progress and to enable me to invite them to music clubs which may suit their interests and abilities. However, it is possible that occasionally, a child may 'slip through the net' and I may not know that they are learning an instrument outside. Please can I reiterate that I am always available via email and can easily arrange in-person meetings to discuss your child's music education and to answer any questions you may have. I love to hear news of musical achievements outside of school, and relish the opportunity to congratulate those children within school. So don't be a stranger, and please keep in touch!



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 by the end of today. 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

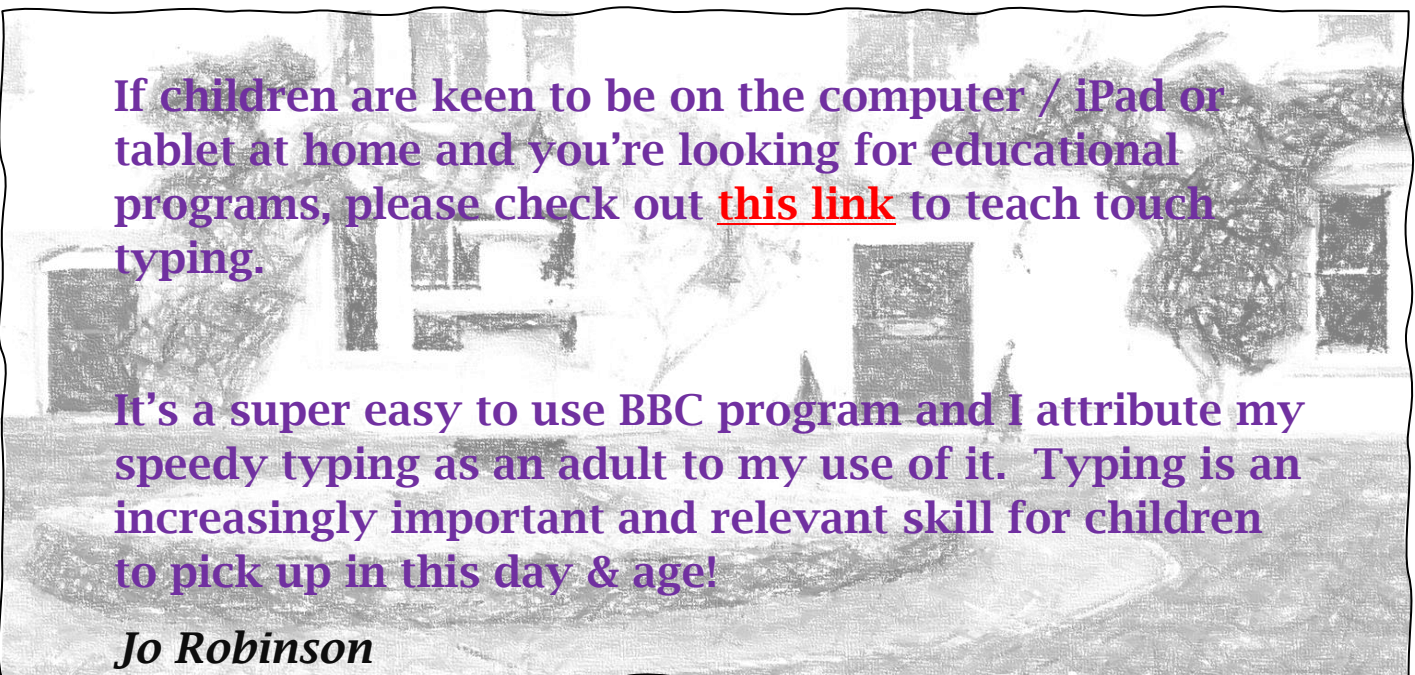
And if booking during the holiday period;

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.



If children are keen to be on the computer / iPad or tablet at home and you're looking for educational programs, please check out [this link](#) to teach touch typing.

It's a super easy to use BBC program and I attribute my speedy typing as an adult to my use of it. Typing is an increasingly important and relevant skill for children to pick up in this day & age!

Jo Robinson

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.

Sports News

Multi-Sport Club – Reception-Year 2

This week the children chose 'Archery' as their multi-sport activity!

For some of the reception children it was their first time experiencing the sport. They picked it up very quickly and by the end of the session they were setting up their bows and arrows independently.



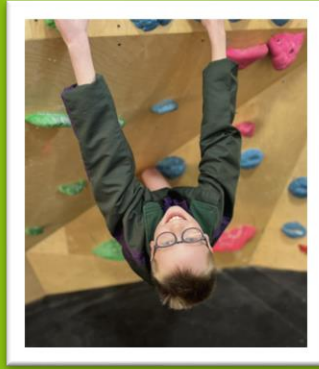
Year 3 & 4 Tag Rugby

The children were practicing their passing in tag rugby on Monday afternoon. We worked on the basics to begin with... how to hold the ball, how to pass the ball and then moved on to more complex activities. By the end of the session the children were working in group of 4 to move the ball across the pitch to score a try. Well done, year 3 and 4!



Sports News

Boulder Room Pictures



Tuesday 23rd January - Selwood football session

On Tuesday afternoon a group of children who expressed an interest in football made their way to Selwood School for a friendly football session. The children were mixed and split into 4 teams, 2 games.

Rufus - 'I enjoyed mixing teams with the other school, working with new children.'

Josh - 'My teammates passed the ball to me lots.'

Seth - 'Very supportive teammates.'

Noah - 'I liked that we mixed teams, and the ball was shared fairly.'

SWIMMING NEWS

How the super swimmer of the week is chosen.

Many of you will have noticed the super swimmer of the week and wondered what is needed in order to be chosen. At Springmead we have lots of children who are fantastic swimmers and we obviously love to celebrate their successes. But we also have some children that find swimming to be challenging and we also want to celebrate their successes too! This is how the super swimmer of the week came about.

Our teachers keep an eye out to see who is showing improvements from lesson to lesson. Whether that is a child showing courage to put their face under the water for the first time, or mastering a skill they have been working on for a long time. We want to show that all of these things are important and encourage all of the children to do their best. We also try to highlight those that always work hard, listen well and are great role models for the younger children with both their behaviour and skills in the pool.

So we hope that if you do see your child's name as the super swimmer of the week you know that they have really worked hard in the pool.

Super swimmer of the week Jack for always putting so much effort into working on stroke corrections

PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	Louis for great imaginative play Asa for fantastic construction play at home and school.
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Edith for creating an excellent robin fact file. Thea for super independence with her 'news' writing.
RABBITS (Y1)	Cora - for her time and effort in writing Alfred - for fantastic maths with place value to 20 Izzy - For her great historical facts
OTTERS (Y2)	Otto for fantastic work in maths learning about money Harrison for such enthusiasm for our topic on Remarkable People Zeph for being a kind, thoughtful and cheerful classmate.
BADGERS (Y3)	Charlotte for paying attention to detail and taking care in Rainforest art. Hannah for paying attention to detail and taking care in Rainforest art. Darcey for having a positive attitude to learning.
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Alexander for great teamwork when using Microbits in ICT James for great teamwork when using Microbits in ICT Elliott for great work on his charcoal soldier in Art Woody for his detailed newspaper report on the outbreak of war
FOXES (Y5)	Reuben - super quick reading of a Terry Deary Tudor book Ava - perceptive evaluation of a Hans Holbein portrait of Henry VIII
OWLS (Y5)	Rufus- for his excellent contributions to our discussions in English. Matilda- for always trying her best to be her best self.
EAGLES (Y6)	Poppy - Creativity with her poetry work. Dlilah - Positive approach to algebra work in maths. Alfred - Methodical approach to algebra work. Lily - Great shooting skills in netball - calm and efficient technique.

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

Springmead School and Nursery **Open Morning**



Tuesday 30th January

10.00 to 12.00



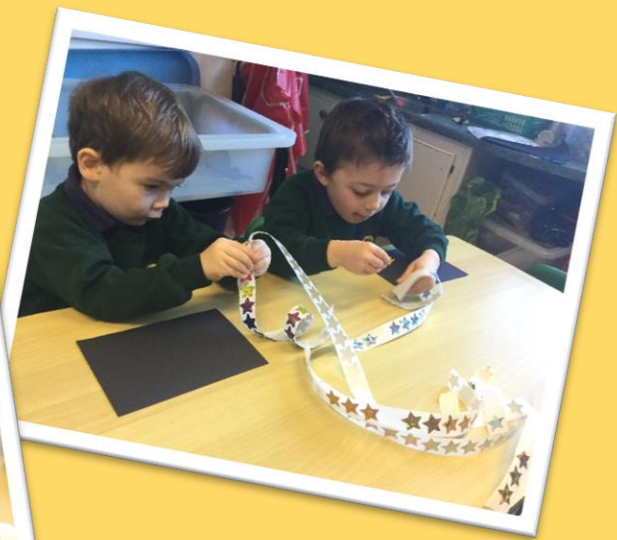
Please do let friends and family know

Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS

As the academic year grows, children mature and build friendships in the nursery. At first these are based on shared interests and activities, playing alongside each other. Gradually children begin to link up regularly, seeking each other out. Sometimes there are disagreements and differences of opinion as they work through turn taking and sharing skills and what being a friend means, all usual behaviours in young children. These moments are over so quickly, and can seem unsettling at the time, but children are forgiving and quickly make up and continue a favourite game laughing together within moments. It is beautiful to watch the children find and build such friendships and negotiate the complexities of human relationships.

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



HEDGEHOGS

On Go Explore this week the Hedgehogs went off to the wildlife area. We were super lucky as it wasn't rainy at all so we had a lovely walk down. The hill (or mountain to the Hedgehogs!) was a bit slippery and was a definite hike back up, the stile was great for our physical development. Down at the wildlife area we enjoyed the story of Stick Man whilst having a little snack. Afterwards we made our very own Stick Men. We collected sticks and used special Opinel knives to peel back the bark to could create Stick Mans face. We used string to lash legs and arms onto Stick Man. They looked great! We had fun retelling the story using our own Stick Men too.

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON



RABBITS

Our space topic has really peaked everyone's interest and I think they will continue their curiosity for a very long time to come.

The children had a fun coding afternoon which they all took too well and understood the instructions. They also made some awesome satellites that are now hanging in the classroom.

We had a lovely discussion about how we all do our bit to help save the planet as we have moved on to Earth and they all did a lovely piece of writing.

The children are also really enjoying our explorers topic in history – and this week we learnt about the voyages of Ibn Battuta over 700 years ago. The picture shows the children mapping out his travels, and despite it being very hard to try and understand how hard exploring must have been back then – they all really grasped the importance and the astonishing things he did.

Well done Rabbits Mrs S x

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



OTTERS

The Otters have been learning about the life of Mary Seacole this week and how she used herbal remedies to help injured soldiers on the battle fields. They compared Victorian hospitals with today's hospitals and looked at how medicine and medical equipment have changed.

They loved showing each other their homework posters on Remarkable People. We had such a wonderful and diverse range of people, such as Harrison's Auntie La La, who as a teenager fought cancer and now works as a nurse, to Einstein, Pele, Coco Chanel and Florence Nightingale. They presented what they had found out about with such confidence too.

In English they have been working on using suffixes 'ful' and 'ness' to change verbs and nouns to adjectives. In maths they have continued to work hard on money, looking at two-step questions.

In PSHE, they have begun to write and illustrate their own Charlie Mackesy inspired books. Reading through his delightful book, 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse', each page gives the opportunity to talk about different feelings. I've been incredibly proud of all the class for discussing issues of loneliness and anxiety as well as happiness and excitement with understanding and respect for others.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

It would be interesting to see if anyone could guess what the Badgers have been busy doing by the photos. The first shows an investigation into animals and birds of various Rainforests. Having tried their pencils at line drawing observations in a previous science lesson, the class then chose a creature and applied their drawing skills to sketch and then colour their choice.

No, it is not a stretch and bend session in class, but a game to identify the different layers of the Rainforest by assuming a position to give an answer. There is a huge amount of information about each level and the clues required some thought. It was handy to play this game as it also meant a brain break, which are a popular feature of the day.

Writing stories is a real skill, which the class is honing. Taking top tips from other authors is a great way to think of ideas, see how effects are achieved and how stories develop. Using the Go Explore experience as a foundation for a story has proved an interesting one. Who knew that portals could open, skeletons and castles could appear, friends could disappear or that a mysterious space ship could appear on an afternoon in the countryside. Keep going young authors!

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



SQUIRRELS

Exciting and enriching learning experiences have filled our classroom this week. In maths, the Squirrels have been mastering the art of multiplying three-digit numbers by one-digit numbers, which can be a very tricky concept. In science, the exploration of teeth and their functions has ignited curiosity and deepened understanding of the human body. Additionally, our historical journey into World War Two and the lives of evacuees has provided a meaningful context for learning about resilience and empathy. It has been so lovely to witness the engagement the Squirrels have displayed in these diverse subjects, reflecting their eagerness to absorb knowledge!

A brilliant third week Year 4!

STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



OWLS

We had a wonderful time on Go Explore last week! The Owls worked in teams to build Tudor roses from natural resources found in the wildlife area. It was great to see them applying their learning about textures to craft carefully layered roses, thinking carefully about which resources would be most effective for what they were trying to achieve.

They then had another opportunity to show their artistic skill this week when they were sketching portraits of Henry VIII. In History, we discussed how artists in the Tudor period would have tried to flatter the King by making him appear powerful and strong. The children then applied this knowledge to their own portraits, thinking carefully about how they could fill the space to make the King appear larger and more authoritative. Well done artists for another great week! Have a lovely weekend.

LYDIA ADAMS



FOXES

The Foxes continue to forge ahead with their Tudor based work, finding out about Henry VIII's wives in history, using watercolour pencils to colour portraits of notable Tudors in the style of Hans Holbein, and working hard with the class text, *Treason*, with its detailed descriptions of London life in the 1500s, and leading to some creative writing using similes, metaphors, rhetorical questions and lots of interesting adjectives.

In RE we have been looking at worship across different faiths, investigating the use of music, art and prayer in different practices and cultures. The Foxes wrote some beautiful prayers of their own. A couple of samples are below:

"Dear God, please take care of loved ones from all over the world."

"I am thankful for my life. I thank nature for plants, trees and animals. I thank God for life, for happiness, for videogames and for screens."

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



EAGLES

The Eagles have embraced all that the maths curriculum has to throw at them so far this year, tackling more complex arithmetic, fractions, measurement and ratio with a spring in their step!

This week we have started a new unit of maths work, the greatest test of all, the section of maths that is always perceived as being the hardest, most confusing and most complex – Algebra! The word alone has been known to send shivers down the spine of the most robust Year 6 mathematician.

Our current class of Eagles are made of sterner stuff than most and despite a momentary wobble they have tackled each little element with positivity. With the maths curriculum breaking down each area into small steps, it allows the class to build and develop their knowledge slowly, providing the foundations for success.

The biggest breakthrough for anyone tackling algebra is understanding that it is purely about finding unknown information that is represented by symbols or letters much the same as if you were tasked with answering the following: $1 + 1 = ?$. You just need to learn the method involved with rearranging a number sentence and be familiar with manipulating number.

We have explored multi-step function machines, forming expressions and substitution over the course of the week, and will soon be exploring formulae, forming equations and solving problems with more than one unknown. We even found the time to use manipulatives to aid our learning.

Each element will bring challenges and provide opportunities to succeed or fail and learn. We always aim for the succeed option, but our failures often provide the better and more memorable learning opportunities. The growth mindset approach of our children enables them to make the most of any failures and to use it as a learning experience whether it be maths, science, PE or any other area of the curriculum.

NICK MUNCKTON



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Violet has achieved the British Gymnastics Trampoline Proficiency Award level 4, after specialising in trampolining only after October half term, leapfrogging over levels 1-3!



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