

Springmead Newsletter

No. 17 ~ 2023/24



Friday 2nd February 2024

Dear Parents,

We have hurtled through this term's events, our fabulous Science Fair was a great success - how wonderful to see children's eyes sparkle as they talked with passion and knowledge on their chosen subject. I do hope you have seen the [film](#) made to celebrate the rich diversity of scientific interest in the school.

Next week the School will mark five important occasions - The first is Children's Mental Health Week where the theme is 'My Voice Matters'. Do have a look at the resources for families and the article from Mrs Boyden below.

Online Safety week is also this week - I am sure you are aware of the Online Safety Bill going through Parliament at the moment in a bid to protect the most vulnerable people in society, our children, from online harm. Again, there will be a focus on this through lessons in class. The theme is 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

The next event is our celebration of the Lunar New Year lunch on Wednesday, for the whole school. Celebrating other cultures puts our own cultural identity and celebrations into context and increases the knowledge about other cultures - vital in building respect and understanding for all.

Our NightHike on Thursday next week, for our older children, is always much anticipated - please note the change this year in the drop off and collection points.

Our Performance Platform is the last event this half term - giving our emerging talent a performance space inspires and excites a passion for the arts. At Springmead there is always passion for performance - indeed we excel.

Please enjoy and benefit from all these events.

Sally Cox



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Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

Diary Dates at a glance

Mon 5th Feb - Yr 3 and 4 Girls Netball and Boys Hockey @ Stonar

Wed 7th Feb - Boulder Rooms - Years 5 & 6

Wed 7th Feb - Lunar New Year lunch - whole school

Wed 7th Feb - Nursery open event for parents - 3pm.

Mon 5th Feb - Online Safety Week and Childrens Mental Health Week

Tues 6th Feb - High Five Netball Tournament (selected pupils)

Thurs 8th Feb- Night Hike - Yr 3-6 - 6.30pm

Fri 9th Feb - Performance Platform

Mon 12th Feb to Friday 15th Feb - Half Term. (Holiday Club runs)

Wed 21st Feb - Boulder Rooms Years 5 & 6

Tues 27th Feb- Yr 3-6 Mendip Junior Cross Country League

Wed 28th Feb - Boulder Rooms Years 5 & 6

Mon 4th March - Yr 5 and 6 Netball @ Selwood

Wed 6th and Thurs 7th March - Mid Somerset Festival

Thurs 7th March - World Book Day

Mon 11th March - Yr 3 and 4 Netball and Hockey @ Warminster

Tue 12th March - Yr 3 and 4 Easter Production

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

Wed 13th March - Open Morning for new parents 10am to 12 noon. Invite friends and family.

Fri 15th March - Easter Storytelling Event - Nursery to Year 2

Mon 18th to Fri 22nd March - Year 5 & 6 Residential Trip

Tues 19th March - Yr 3-6 Mendip Junior Cross Country League

Wed 20th March - Nursery and Reception to Hidden Woods

Wed 20th March - Clive Lewis Tag Rugby Festival

Wed 20th March - Year 3 Trip to Stonehenge

Thurs 21st to Fri 22nd March - Year 4 Residential to London

Fri 22nd March - Year 2 Trip to SS Great Britain and Year 1 Bristol Trip

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.

Please also check our online calendar [here](#).

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Children's Mental Health Week and this year's theme is 'My Voice Matters'. 1 in 6 children and young people have a diagnoseable mental health condition and it is so important that children know that they are heard and are not alone.

At Springmead we know that the conversations we have every day are so important in understanding and accepting the ups and downs of our mental health. Having a weeklong focus on the importance of talking and listening across the whole school is great too as it brings everyone on to the same page at the same time, hopefully empowering all the children to feel heard. There will be activities such as 'Whisper games' where children really have to listen to each other to be heard, whole school assemblies on how to look after our mental health, discussions on children recognising when they know that they matter, and how our feelings can change from one moment to the next and all are acceptable.

'Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously.' *

Taken from the UN Conventions of the rights of every child

Georgina Boyden

Resources for families can be found here. ['My Voice Matters'](#).

Parent Consultations

Main School parents will have now received a form via email, to set up a meeting with their child's class teacher.

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 2 News

We are delighted to inform you that during our Year 2 visit to No1 Royal Crescent in December, photographer Anna Barclay took promotional shots of the children enjoying their trip, to illustrate their educational programme for schools. The results are fantastic and look superb on their website. Here are a couple they have sent us.

<https://no1royalcrescent.org.uk/education/primary-schools/>

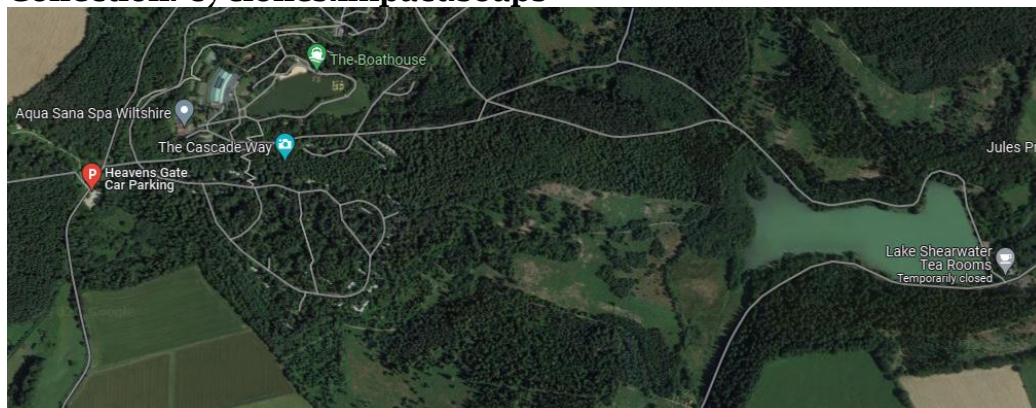




What3Words Locations:

Drop Off : memo.subway.coil

Collection: cyclones.impact.soaps



Performing Arts

This week, the Music Buzz Word is MODERATO, a tempo marking which depicts that the music should be played at a moderate speed.

We are having a very busy and exciting time in the Music department... Rehearsals for the Year 3/4 Easter Production; Auditions for the Year 5/6 Summer Production; Year N/R experimenting with tempo and pulse; Year 1/2 preparing for the Performance Platform Concert; recording with Rock School; an exciting, combined Forfar Musical foray with Choral Group; and preparations for our **first ISA Musical Theatre competition** (watch this space...!). So much going on and the children are embracing every opportunity with passion and drive!

Confirmed Performers for the Performance Platform Concert:

All children in Years 1 and 2
Choral Group
Violet M - Piano
Ava C - Electric Guitar
Elliott B - Piano and Drama
Katerina L - Singing
Iggy D - Guitar
Owen R-J - Piano

We hope you will be able to join us for this lovely, relaxed and educational afternoon of music!





Springmead School Association Update

We had a great termly meeting - planning, allocating funding and making decisions.

Our medium-term plan is now for a trim trail for the back garden area with an approximate cost of £12,000. We are arranging quotes at present. The art studio from our previous medium-term plan is now almost complete. We had a soft opening on this for Science Fair. We will be holding a formal opening after half term - date to be confirmed. The SSA also approved funding for a specific range of books, a bird table for our front garden, a construction toy, individual cookery equipment for the art and DT studio, a den making kit, a set of recorders and a houseplant for each class (an Eco Committee request)

We are planning a Family Bingo Night in the summer term and a family Silent Disco too. We are just waiting for confirmation of dates and a venue

An exciting new fundraiser towards SSA funds is Penny Wars! We have attached a poster for information below. There will be an introductory assembly on Monday and class jars to collect the money at the bottom of the main school staircase will be out after this. So please start collecting those copper coins. Details are below. It's going to get competitive!

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 one more time this year, to decide how money raised is spent and to plan key events..



1,2,3,4 we declare a PENNY WAR!



PENNY WARS How we calculate the results

- Every Friday morning, the coins are collected from each class by a member the SSA for counting.
- Copper coins are worth their value in points, and all silver coins earn double the value in points.
- Once we have calculated what each class has collected as points that week, we then award ranking points, with top getting 100 points, 2nd gets 90 points down to 10 points for last place.
- Each week the ranking points will be added to your previous weeks to get a running total.
- With the weekly ranking system, every class has a chance to catch the leaders even if you have a slow week in coin value.
- At the end of the event, there will be a prize for the class with the most ranking points, as well as the highest class amount fundraised overall!
- Weekly results will be added in the newsletter.

PENNY WARS How it works...

- Each class and the staff will have a coin collection jar. The aim is to collect more money and earn more points than any of the other classes to WIN a prize.
- Bring in your copper 1p and 2p coins and add them to your class collection.
- Give your score a boost by adding 5p, 10p, 20p and 50p coins to your own class pot. These coins are worth double points!
- The money raised by each class will be counted up each week, for six weeks. Each class will be given points according to how well they did per week. Ranking points will be added together each week.
- All money raised will be going to the Springmead School Association.

LET BATTLE COMMENCE!



Sports News

Gymnastics

This week the year 2's have practised their 'partner balances' and sequences. The criteria included; linking movements, a shell balance, a rock balance and an anchor balance. These balances could be displayed side by side, one in front of the other, opposite each other or side by side, but facing opposite directions.



Sports News

Message from Donna West at Beckington Tennis Club...

BECKINGTON TENNIS CLUB - Girls Only Tennis lessons.

Prime Video LTA Youth Girls tennis lessons are back again this year. The price includes a racket, 3 tennis balls, a T Shirt and 6 lessons all for £35. We have a 4 to 9 year old course in February half term and 9 to 16 year old weekly Friday afternoons starting after half term. These are aimed at those new to tennis and allow the girls to learn in a fun and social environment.

Please see the links below if you wish to enrol or contact Head Coach on donna.tennis@hotmail.com for more information

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Rally/BeckingtonTennisAssociation/Coaching/BookCourse/3cdcef66-2589-4ea4-9866-ba525dac7fe3>

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Rally/BeckingtonTennisAssociation/Coaching/BookCourse/d5d226ab-2aa8-4c73-9bd2-c509ca41f203>

Fixtures

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

Spring Term Fixtures

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

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

Wednesday 7th February - Boulder Rooms

HALF TERM

Wednesday 21st February - Boulder Rooms

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

Sports News

Year 5 Netball and Hockey @ Stonar

The year 5 girls had a fantastic afternoon at Stonar on Wednesday.

Their first game was up against some very tall, year 6 girls. They played with great determination and with some excellent defence's skills, but unfortunately this wasn't enough to stop the Stonar girls scoring goals.

Their second game was against the year 5's. The girls had got really stuck into their position and were evidentially more confident. With some fantastic passes and teamwork the girls got the ball in the 'dee' plenty of times scoring 3 goals. The end results being 1-3. Super work, girls!

Miss Brown was lucky enough to watch the year 5 boys play their hockey match. She spoke highly of the boys determination and teamwork. Miss Brown noticed how well Angus did in defence and also that Rufus, Noah, Joshua and Aubrey played well ☺

The end score was 3-1. With a fantastic goal from Noah!



SWIMMING NEWS

A simple guide to competitive swimming:

For those wishing to go into competitive swimming, when you first start out it can be a little bit confusing learning all the rules for competing, so please read on for some information that can be helpful.

When you first join a swimming club you must become a Swim England member, either as a Swim England club train, or Swim England Club Compete. Whether you become Club Train or Club Compete comes down to age and if you want to compete. If you do not want to compete and just want to do training for fitness you can opt to remain Club Train. If you want to compete, then once you are turning 9 that year you can become a Club Compete member allowing you to be able to enter Level 3 licensed competitions.

What are Licensed competitions? These are events that are run by swimming clubs where the times recorded go onto the rankings database. There are 4 different levels beginning at level 4 (low level), usually club championship events. The times from these events go onto the rankings database and can be used to qualify for up to County Championship level events. These meets will also generally allow younger swimmers to compete, who would not normally be allowed to compete at a level 3 competition. However, do check the specific conditions regarding age to be certain.

Level 3 competitions (development level) have upper qualifying times, which means you cannot enter an event if you are faster than that time. But you can enter into events even if you have never done them before as a NT (no time). These competitions can be swum Long Course in either a 50m pool or Short Course in a 25m pool. To enter these events a swimmer must be 9 years old by the end of the competition. Times from these competitions can be used to enter events up to Regional level.

Level 2 competitions (mid-high Level) These events have lower qualifying times, meaning you cannot enter the event unless you have already swum it at a previous event faster than the qualifying time. These events are always swum Short Course in a 25m pool, and can be used for up to Regional level events.

Level 1 competitions (high level) have lower qualifying times, meaning you cannot enter the event unless you have already swum it at a previous event faster than the qualifying time. These events are always swum Long Course in a 50m pool. The times gained from these events can be used for National level events, as long as they are inside the qualifying window period.

Most licensed competitions adopt an age on day approach where swimmer will compete in the age group based on how old they are at the end of the meet. However for the higher level competitions County, Regional, National and British Championships they use a year of birth approach. This means that you race against all the people who were born the same year as you. So if you are born in January you have an advantage over those born in December as you are the oldest in the age group for these events.

For our swimmers at Springmead, those that compete can aim towards County championships (either Somerset or Wiltshire depending on which club you swim at/ where you live) as that starts at 10/11 years (year of birth). Some may even start to look towards trying to make the South West Regional Championships as that starts at 11/12 years (year of birth).

Super swimmer of the week: Will for showing great determination and applying stroke corrections well.

PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	Keira for growing in confidence on the PE equipment. Ben for sitting and listening so well in class discussions and assembly time.
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Florence for super focus with her phonics - trying really hard to be more independent. Violet for super Maths! Great investigating of mass.
RABBITS (Y1)	Arlo - great participation in science experiments. Harry - Great scientific knowledge
OTTERS (Y2)	Will for working so well in English on his writing Howie for a beautiful picture on the front of his book Freya for fantastic work on Mary Seacole
BADGERS (Y3)	Beau for a spectacular first Science Fair Holly D for a forcetastic science project Caleb for such a professional and polished Science Fair project
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Annie - for always being so enthusiastic and her participation in class discussions Oliver - for his emotive paragraphs on evacuation Tristan - for his perseverance in maths Angelo - for his confident understanding of the water cycle Annabel - for her understanding of the role of different teeth
FOXES (Y5)	Scarlett - lovely descriptive writing using similes and metaphors Harriet - creating a beautiful prayer, thinking about other people
OWLS (Y5)	Josh- for his great problem- solving skills in Maths. Violet- for working scientifically when carrying out experiments to ensure her results are as accurate as possible. Mabel- for her great inference and retrieval skills in comprehension lessons. Devon- remembering key dates and facts in History.
EAGLES (Y6)	Ava - Great teamwork in netball. Merle - Super development of her archery skills. Elliott - Consistently accurate archery skills. Lucy - Demonstrating great netball skills at both ends of the court.

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		

Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS

This week in the Nursery we have had a new theme - the Lunar New Year with a particular focus on China. Understanding and finding similarities in people is important - by observing and pointing out common ground we build children's acceptance of difference and develop positive attitudes. All societies celebrate. Children have looked at Chinese art, dragons, pandas and family celebrations.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming parents into Nursery on Wednesday to enable children to share their classroom and meet Maria Keates who will be Nursery manager from September 2024.

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



HEDGEHOGS

This week the Hedgehogs have visited the Northern Lights! We read the beautiful book *The Lights that Dance in the Night* by Yuval Zommer to learn about how the Northern Lights are created. We thought carefully about the different colours and shapes we could see by looking at the pictures in the story and watching video clips. We created our own Northern Lights dark den and started exploring light and dark. We just loved it! We also had our first experience in the new Art studio creating our very own Northern lights pictures. We loved using the chalks to create different patterns in the sky and using our fingers to smudge and blend - creating some beautiful art of our own.

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON



RABBITS

Wow – what a lot we packed into a week. The Rabbits loved walking around the science fair on Friday, and we spent the afternoon doing our own experiments. We wanted to know if a snowman would get too hot if it wore a coat so we did an experiment with an ice cube and a sock and one without to see which would melt faster. We had a great discussion where they made good points about what would happen with or without a coat. At the end they were amazed to find that the snowman wouldn't get too hot and melt in a coat and instead it would be insulated.

They also did a size comparison with the planets as fruit. It was a great visual to try and comprehend the difference.

We finished with some Oreos and took the cream off to show the different phases of the moon. I have to say they really did take their time and weren't tempted to gobble them all up quickly!

We also did our 'SASA' NASA training in which they practised balance, agility, teamwork, puzzle solving and much more. Well done Rabbits!

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



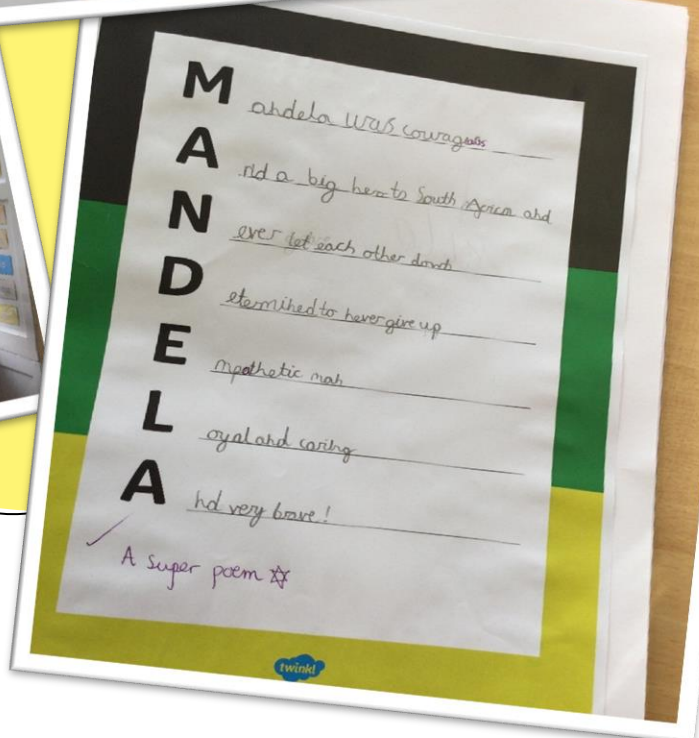
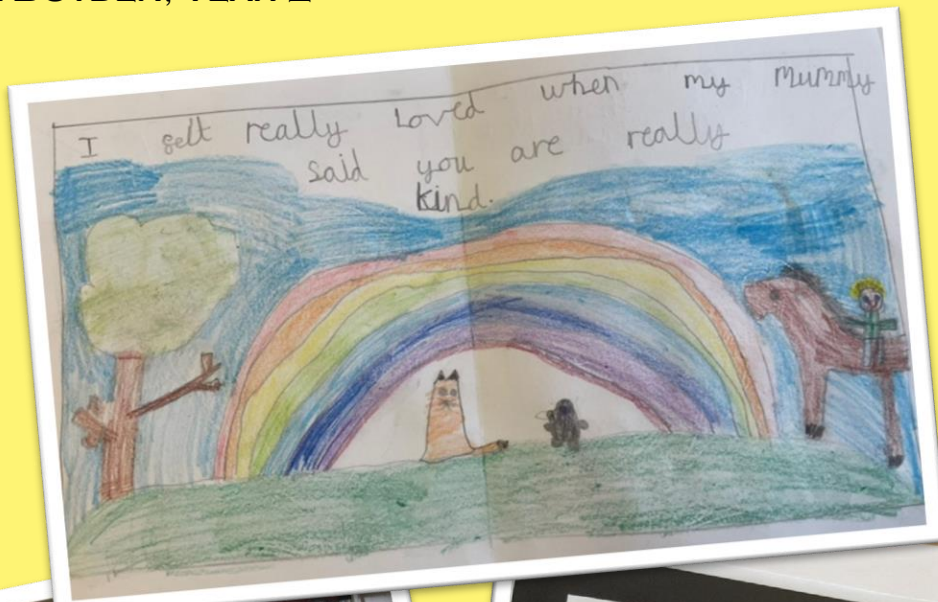
OTTERS

The Otters have been learning about the remarkable life of Nelson Mandela. They wrote timelines, worked on comprehension, drew portraits, wrote poetry about him and learnt about South Africa. They particularly enjoyed listening to the catchy 'Free Nelson Mandela' song! Through themes like these, we can cover a lot of information that really keeps the children engaged.

The class completed their books inspired by Charlie Mackesy and they are very proudly displayed in our classroom.

In maths the children have begun to learn multiplication and in SPaG they have been working on questions and commands.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



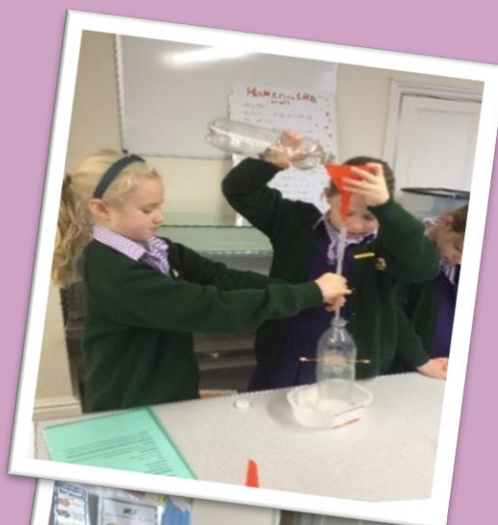
BADGERS

One of the major milestones in the life of a Badger in Year 3 is the Science Fair. It is not just about planning, practising and presenting. It is also about all those times when things don't quite go as expected. Things don't quite work as they had at home, it turns out the water wheel is not a one-man job, the shaving foam has a mind of its own or the sweets run out ten minutes after the first demonstration. What a life lesson, having done this the young Badgers can present anything and won't get fazed when a slight technical hitch happens.

It turns out that all does not necessarily go well in a class scientific experiment either. The preparation was a great team effort with only a small amount of food dye appearing on the tables. However, to date the ongoing investigation is not going well. There is much drooping and not a great deal of colour transportation up the stem. Moving onwards and upwards is an important part of learning. When things go wrong it is a fantastic learning opportunity.

With stories being the topic of the term, the magic story bags had numerous stories hidden in them. Everyone had the chance to tell their own tale using the story ingredients. The cogs were whirring in each Badger as the imaginations were fired and the story tellers unfolded their tales. What could possibly happen next week? All will be revealed! Great work, Badgers!

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



Squirrels

The Squirrels worked brilliantly in groups of five on Wednesday morning at the wildlife area to create miniature Anderson Shelters from the natural resources available to them, being sure to 'leave no trace' in their wake. Go explore sessions are always a reminder of just how lucky we are to have all this on our doorstep.

The Squirrels really threw themselves into the task headfirst (as you could tell by their muddy clothes!)

It's so lovely to witness the children in a different environment, embracing the countryside, assessing risk, team building, and expressing their creativity and ideas outside of the classroom.

Well done Year four!

Stacey Watson, Year 4



OWLS

After a fantastic Science Fair on Friday, Owls continued being super Scientists as they investigated dissolving! They mixed different materials with water and carefully observed whether they could still see the solid particles, or whether they had dissolved to form a solution. I have been so impressed by the children's increasing ability to work scientifically- independently planning their experiments, carefully collecting their results, and then making conclusions based on what they have found.

The children also worked hard to get into role as disgruntled courtiers of Henry VIII in English this week, venting their frustrations towards the King in an angry diary entry! First, we investigated some 'Old- English Insults', which included some well- known Shakespeare quotes and lots of clever word- play! The children then contemplated what some of the resentments towards the King may have been at this time, thinking particularly about the views of the poorer members of society. After these lively discussions, the children were ready to write! It has been such a pleasure to read their passionate diary entries and it is evident that the children really thought carefully about the perspectives that they were writing from. Well done for another great week Owls!

LYDIA ADAMS



FOXES

The Foxes excelled themselves at last week's Science Fair with their knowledge, creativity and confidence to share their findings. They have demonstrated their scientific enquiry skills again this week, by investigating materials to find the best insulator for keeping food cool and fresh, showing that they can share ideas, record results accurately and interpret their findings to form a conclusion.

They are enjoying our art work, experimenting with water colour pencils and water colour paints, and are looking forward to collaging next week, using a variety of materials to create a mixed media piece of work embracing this half term's knowledge and skills.

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



EAGLES

The Eagles were back with Mr and Mrs Hotson on Wednesday afternoon, enjoying the opportunity to learn about a very important tool in the bushcrafter's armoury, to practise their fire lighting skills by combining the previous knowledge and learning and one of the highlights of the bushcraft calendar – the annual archery competition.

The age of our Eagles prevents them from any hands-on practical activities using an axe, but the importance of the tool means that learning about it is a fundamental part of our bushcraft curriculum. The class learnt about the anatomy of an axe, different size axes, how axes can be used and witnessed several different techniques for using an axe – some demonstrated brilliantly by Mr Hotson and some demonstrated by Mr Munckton to a slightly lesser standard!

In previous sessions the class have learnt and practised their fire lighting techniques without a requirement to prepare the area or provide their own fuel. This time the class were given a small amount of tinder and a fire steel, and were asked to find a safe area to light a fire and to find enough fuel to keep the fire burning for 5 – 10 minutes. Initially, most of the class went about the process individually before realising that the task required a great deal of fuel and that co-operation would be massively beneficial to achieving the goal. It was great to see the children putting their learning into positive action and organising themselves collaborative to help each other.

The archery competition was, once again, extremely competitive. The class were extremely impressive with their archery skills, with multiple hits on the target, including a bullseye from Alfred. The final was between Elliott and Bea who had achieved the most successful hits. In the sudden-death style head-to-head it was Bea who overcame Elliott with her second arrow bouncing into the target!

NICK MUNCKTON



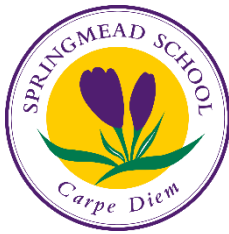
OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Our very own 'crag hopper' Bea in Year 6 came 3rd in the U16 category for the Frome Boulder Rooms winter league. Well done Bea a great 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

Sally Cox

Headteacher



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ISA
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ASSOCIATION
Accredited Member