

# Springmead Newsletter

## No. 19 ~ 2023/24



Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents,

It was lovely to see so many of you on Wednesday at our parents' consultation evening. As you experienced, to streamline and avoid visits on multiple days for families with more than one child, we were able to accommodate all consultations on the same evening. Immediate feedback from staff and parents was that the booking system had worked well, it was convenient and there was an element of sociability to the evening. I certainly enjoyed catching up with many of you and hearing the lovely and supportive comments about children and staff. Going forward we will aim to hold the event on an evening where the children can still enjoy their after-school clubs even if with an alternative adult.

If you were unable to attend on Wednesday and would like a chat with your child's class teacher, please email them to arrange a telephone consultation. Do share any feedback you may have around the evening with me directly on [scox@springmead.com](mailto:scox@springmead.com).

I am aware that this newsletter often contains lots of important information and that due to volume, things can sometimes be missed. We are aiming to streamline the content and going forward may move some items such as the reading award to a half termly report.

*Sally Cox*



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**Forfar**  
Part of the Forfar  
Education Group

## Diary Dates at a glance

Tues 27th Feb- Yr 3-6 Mendip Junior Cross Country League  
Wed 28th Feb - Boulder Rooms Years 5 & 6  
Thurs 29th Feb - Night Hike - 6.15pm to 7.45pm.  
Mon 4th March - Yr 5 and 6 Netball @ Selwood  
Wed 6th and Thurs 7th March - Mid Somerset Festival  
Fri 8th March - World Book Day at Springmead School  
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 Y 2 - 5.30pm to 6.30pm  
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](#).

## Performance Platform

We had a perfect afternoon before half term watching our talented young performers perform to parents and their peers. Over half term our recording of The Lights Will Lead Me Home was compiled into a film with other Forfar Education Schools. This is available to view on our [You Tube Channel](#).



## World Book Day and Annual Book Fair

We will be holding two events to celebrate World Book Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Children will be invited to dress up as their favourite book character on the day and we will be welcoming the Travelling Book Fair into school over two days. All classes will view the books available during the school day.

The [Travelling Book Shop](#) will be open, in our School Hall to parents and children on:

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March - 8am and 3pm**

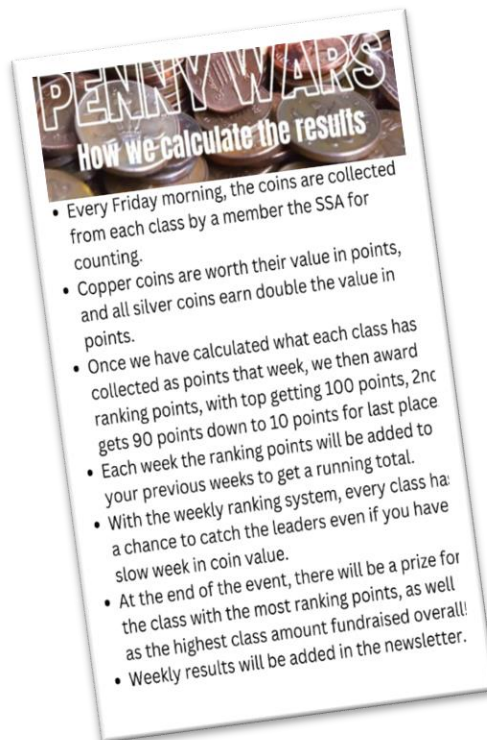
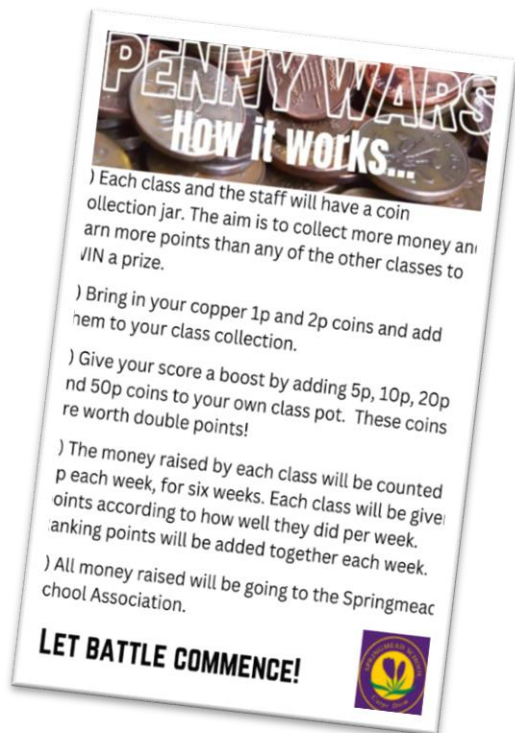
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March - 8am and 3pm**

There are **three ways to pay** for books as **no cash** will be taken at the bookshop:

- By **scanning the QR code** displayed at the bookshop event taking you straight to the website to pay. **Bring your phone to do this.**
- **Online, before the event**, collecting your books when they arrive in school.
- **Purchasing and printing pre-paid gift vouchers** from The Travelling Bookshop [website](#)

### Holiday Club Reminder

Please book Easter holiday club this weekend to take advantage of the lower price. On Monday the price rises from £32.00 per day (after care £4.00 per half hour) to £38.00 (after care £5.00 per half hour).



## Penny Wars

An exciting new fundraiser towards SSA funds, Penny Wars was introduced in assembly today! We have attached a poster for information. Class jars to collect the money at the bottom of the main school staircase will be out after the assembly today. So please start collecting those coins. Details are below. It's going to get competitive!

# Sports News

The year 4 children had the best afternoon in PE on Monday afternoon. The focus was Netball and during the lesson we worked through all the components needed to play a game. Chest passes, bounce pass and shoulder passes were first on the agenda. We also added in a defender to make this a challenge and to make it feel like a game situation. Secondly, shooting was the focus. We discussed flicking our wrist to get the ball up high and into the net and making sure that the ball starts above our head before we shoot! Finally, and the trickiest element to learn, footwork!!



# Sports News

Well done Rabbits!! We have finished our gymnastics unit of work and as the weather was rather rainy we had a chance to play on the climbing equipment, the vault and the bench.



## Fixtures

Please let me know via [pedepartment@springmead.com](mailto:pedepartment@springmead.com) if you wish to collect your child from a fixture.

## Spring Term Fixtures

### HALF TERM

Monday 26th February - Year 3/4 Netball vs Beckington

Tuesday 27th February - Mendip Cross Country

Monday 4th March - Year 5/6 Netball @ Selwood (selected pupils)

Thursday 7th March - Year 6 Football @ Selwood (children who have shown an interest)

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

# THE SPRINGMEAD READING AWARD

Please send a photograph of reading award sheets to Johanna Robinson  
([jrobinson@springmead.com](mailto:jrobinson@springmead.com)) by Wednesday each week, for inclusion in the  
newsletter.



**Emerald Ruby Sapphire Amethyst Diamond Copper Bronze Silver**  
**Platinum Gold Gold Plus (over 100 books)**

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

# Class Highlights

## DUCKLINGS

The Nursery children are embracing the new theme for the Nursery which is based on the music “Carnival of the Animals” by Camille Saint Saen. Each day, we have listened to a piece of his music and have followed this up with activities. We are talking with the children about how the music makes us feel, why the music sounds as it does and how the animals are represented through the music. We've talked about the different animals and researched them, discussed animal environments and how they live. The children have been composers this week using keyboards to explore sounds. It has been interesting to watch them develop their confidence with the keyboard and drums; some children were reluctant to have a go initially, but through modelling how to play began to explore the notes and sounds and by the end of the session were trying out scales, noticing the changes from each note.

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



# HEDGEHOGS

This week the Hedgehogs have started their new theme of 'Growing'. We are willing the sunshine and spring to arrive!

The new role play farm shop has been a hit with the Hedgehogs. They have been busy buying their fresh veg, taking orders in the café and working on the till! We have also enjoyed story telling with our small world farm and enjoyed the story of What the Ladybird Heard where we made some wanted posters to help catch those naughty robbers. If you see them out and about do let the Hedgehogs know! Sharing books with children is a great way for children to develop listening and attention skills and is also a great way to develop and use language. Developing story telling skills help children to communicate and connect with others, to explore relationships and develop understanding of scenarios and situations in real life. We have certainly enjoyed developing our skills this week.

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON



# RABBITS

What a fantastic week back. It's been wonderful hearing about everyone's half terms and especially any cool space observations!

We've been continuing to concentrate on spelling tricky words using some super mnemonics, some of which we have come up with ourselves, the stranger the better!

We have started to make rockets for our rocket launch experiment - we will soon be making some predictions about what will make the rocket go the furthest, needless to say we have some excited scientists!

The Rabbits also started some beautiful still life paintings of daffodils. They are all really taking their time over every detail and have produced some lovely art.

Well done Rabbits - looking forward to a busy, exciting term!

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



## OTTERS

This week the Otters have been finding out about the incredible engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. They learnt about his upbringing and how his French engineer father, Marc Brunel, was determined to make Isambard the best engineer in the world - and he certainly succeeded! They looked at the variety of projects that Brunel worked on such as the Box Tunnel, the Clifton Suspension bridge, the Great Western Railway and dockyard. They enjoyed learning about the SS Great Britain and painted some great pictures of the ship.

In PSHE the theme is currently all about money. Questions like what money is used for and how it is spent, such as bank cards, cash, bank transfers etc where all discussed. The class kept me on my toes when talking about inflation of toys, mortgages and insurance - I thought I was in an A Level business class at one stage!

In maths the children are continuing to work on multiplication and division and in SPaG, the focus has been on verbs.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



## BADGERS

The Badgers were back at the sett after the half term break, ready for action. The Writing Stories topic is still in full flow and the team have clearly been busy reading over the holiday, keen to spot any page turning hints, interesting plot lines and for any top tips to add to their writing repertoire. One of the many, important parts to writing is the punctuation. Using those flying commas, otherwise known as apostrophes, is a tricky thing. They could be there to say who or what things belong to, or as a clue to missing letters. Don't worry! The Badgers are on it and have been busy working out which is which and what they tell us.

As well as writing stories, the class love to read them too, whether they be adventure, myths, legends or historical. This is handy for learning lines, with the Easter Production on the horizon. The other lines the Badgers have been investigating are those involved with length and perimeter. It is a skill to be able to measure accurately and to understand how to do this. The class top tip is to take one step at a time with any problem-solving and don't worry if you get something wrong! Keep up the good work, Badgers.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



# Squirrels

This week the Squirrels have delved into the world of polygons, length and perimeter.

Through practical exercises, they unravelled the intricacies of measuring sides and calculating perimeters, applying their newfound knowledge to polygons of varying shapes and sizes. As they engage in hands-on activities and collaborative tasks, they not only develop a deeper understanding of concepts like perimeter and measurement but also hone their problem-solving skills and critical thinking abilities.

Well done, Year four.

Stacey Watson, Year 4



## OWLS

This week the children had their final dance session! Dance classes offer a myriad of benefits for children that extend beyond just physical activity. Through dance, children enhance their coordination, balance, and motor skills while also boosting their self-confidence and self-esteem through mastering movements and performing in front of others. Dance also serves as a creative outlet for children to express themselves, fostering their imagination and emotional development. As you have probably observed from the photos and videos over the past few weeks, the children have had a wonderful time and, for some of them, have really pushed themselves out of their comfort zones. Well done Owls!

LYDIA ADAMS



# FOXES

It's all about Shakespeare this half term! The Foxes have looked at both a children's cartoon version of Romeo and Juliet and a short cartoon film; they have written a script from one scene of the play, which they have then acted out; and they have each selected a story version of a play to read and they will present their review to the class. What's not to like.... violence, poisoning, love, war, intrigue, mistaken identity.... there's something for all tastes, and some are on their third play already!

Well done, Foxes; you have hit the ground running with this topic and astounded me with your ability to compare themes and characters across different plays.

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



# EAGLES

Having checked the weather forecast on Tuesday afternoon the Eagles were prepared for a wet bushcraft session on Wednesday. As semi-seasoned bushcrafters they came suitably dressed to combat the elements and enjoy another learning experience with Mr & Mrs Hotson.

Luckily our session was based in the cabin with heat being produced by the log-burner, making a very 'toasty' and enjoyable environment to learn away from the teeming rain. As you do not always have a cabin with log-burner available, one crucial aspect of bushcraft is the significance of clothing. In a world where modern conveniences often shield us from the elements, understanding how to dress appropriately for outdoor adventures becomes increasingly important.

On Wednesday the Eagles learnt about:

1. **The Role of Clothing in Bushcraft:** how clothing serves as our first line of defence against the elements, protecting us from harsh weather conditions, insects, and other environmental factors.
2. **Choosing the Right Gear:** From moisture-wicking base layers to durable outer shells, the importance of selecting the right clothing and gear for various outdoor activities.
3. **Traditional vs. Modern Approaches:** We explored traditional clothing worn by indigenous peoples and how modern advancements have influenced outdoor apparel, considering the benefits of both approaches.
4. **Practical Application:** We learnt how to properly layer clothing for warmth, stay dry in wet conditions, and adapt attire to different climates and terrains.

Learning about bushcraft and outdoor clothing not only equips our students with valuable life skills but also fosters a sense of confidence, resilience, and appreciation for the natural world.

NICK MUNCKTON



# OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Year 5 pupil competed at the West of England Taekwondo Championships last week and won the bronze medal trophy for sparring in the girls red belt division. In the same week, their sister, our Year 1 pupil, performed in her first adult belt grading in front of almost 400 people and the second highest ranked Grandmaster in the UK. Having completed all of her junior grades she is now a senior yellow belt. Congratulations!



Do please share your child's out of school news and successes with us so we can celebrate. Do also remind us if we ever forget - it happens! Please email details to [scox@springmead.com](mailto:scox@springmead.com)

Sally Cox

**Headteacher**



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EDUCATION

