

Springmead Newsletter

No. 20 ~ 2023/24



Friday 1st March 2024

Dear Parents,

The damp dullness of February is behind us, as today is the first day of Spring. We have much to look forward to. Nature IS beginning to awaken - we find ourselves at the threshold of the new season. Much like the daffodils and snowdrops in the grounds, the first day of spring brings a renewed sense of vitality and possibility to the classroom and whole school - a spirit of growth. With each lesson, teachers nurture the budding curiosity within our pupils, encouraging them to explore, question, and discover. Just as spring breathes life into the world, it also invigorates the learning process, inspiring creativity and igniting a thirst for knowledge.

This week, we have been planning and plotting: new events and old favourites, such as our exciting Easter storytelling event for our youngest children with our oldest children enjoying their traditional Night Hike last night. Tramping through the woods in the dark with friends and enjoying a hot dog builds lifelong memories of fun and laughter. Next week is World Book Day with activities through the day. Our activities week with residentials, trips and visits has been a feat of organisation by our hard-working staff. Our novel Springmead School fundraiser has launched and brought out our competitive edge, Penny Wars - we are going to need considerably larger jars! The jars are displayed in the hallway for all to see and the scores for this week can be seen below.

Enjoy the start of spring and fingers crossed, for a little sunshine this weekend.

Sally Cox



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Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

Diary Dates at a glance

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.

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

Please book your
Easter Holiday Club
places, spaces are
filling up!



Penny Wars Leaderboard Week 1 - 26th Feb to 1st Mar



Friday 8th March

WORLD Book DAY

Wear Your Favourite
Character Costume
Costume Parade

Book Fair

Story Hunt Activity

Prep to Pre Prep Reading Sessions

Reading Quiz Time

Photo Competition – Strangest Place You Read

**Your Book - £10 book token winner - send photos
to Mrs Offer -soffer@springmead.com**



EASTER

Storytelling

Friday 15th March
5.30pm to 6.30pm

Drop your child back at Springmead ready for our wonderful Easter storytelling event

- Wear Easter Fancy Dress - hats, ears, Easter pyjamas or costumes - whatever you like
- Enjoy a magical Easter story with our storyteller
 - Keep busy on our egg hunt
 - Eat an Easter themed snack

Tickets £6

Please book a place for children from
Nursery to Year 2. office@springmead.com

Easter Play performed by Years 3 and 4

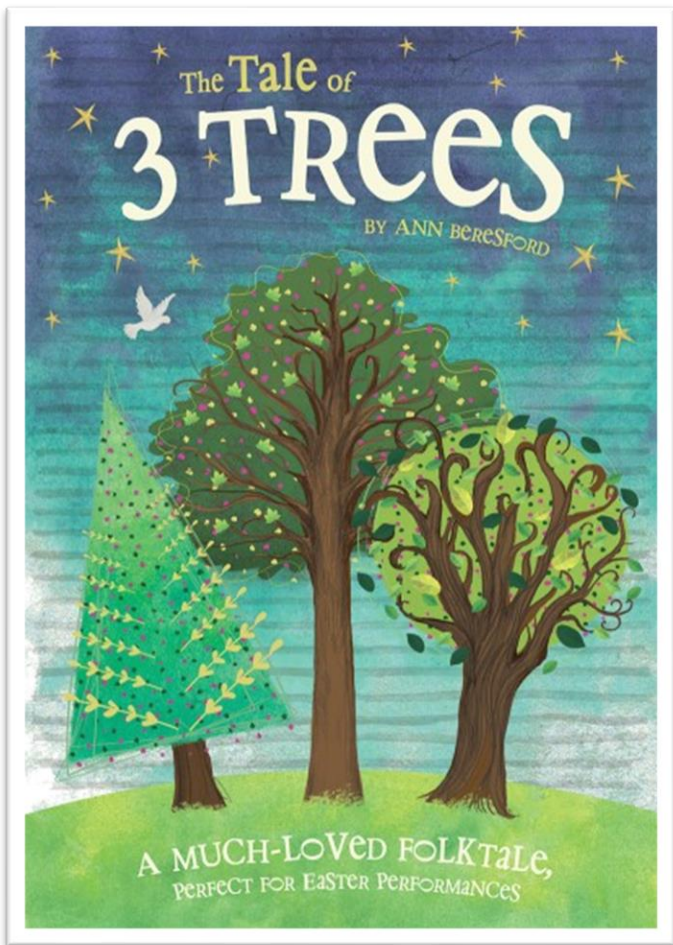
Three little trees growing up on the mountain top have big dreams of what they want to become, but one by one those hopes are dashed as they are chopped down and turned into seemingly insignificant things. However, God has an amazing plan for each tree – a plan that goes beyond any of their wildest dreams as they find themselves at the heart of the story of Jesus.

Full of hope and encouragement, this beautiful traditional folktale is retold with stunning songs that are full of the expectation, disappointment and ultimate joy of the story.

2.15pm - Beckington Church

Tuesday 12th March 2024

Tickets cost £8



PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	ZJ for becoming more independent with self-care skills. India for always being fantastic at tidying up Ava for always being kind and helpful
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Florence for fantastic work on her wanted poster, super writing and working hard on her drawing skills.
RABBITS (Y1)	Harry - Fantastic scientist Alfred - Brilliant maths Margot - wonderful writing
OTTERS (Y2)	Zeph for a super painting of the SS Great Britain Milo for great work on coding Mathilde for such beautiful handwriting
BADGERS (Y3)	Beau for asking pertinent scientific questions Holly D for fantastic focus on the presentation of your work Mary for writing an imaginative, sensational Viking saga
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Florence for her brilliantly descriptive creative writing about the Blitz Ida for her used of adventurous vocabulary in her creative writing about the blitz Jack for his understanding of perimeter Elfie for settling in well to Springmead life
FOXES (Y5)	Henry ~ an amazing first week at Springmead Katerina ~ fantastic work in maths lessons Angus ~ brilliant contribution to class discussions
OWLS (Y5)	Mabel- for being an expert on all things Tudor. Felix- for a wonderful first week in Owls class, we are so glad that you have joined us!
EAGLES (Y6)	Beatrice - Sharing excellent ideas for the Mayan Projects Poppy - good understanding of decimal places.

Sports News

Year 3 and 4 Netball vs Beckington

Well done to the year 3 and 4 netball team. The 9 of you played fantastically and put those netball skills you have been learning in PE into practice. The final score being 5-1!

Well done Jack - a hattrick from you!



Year 3 and 4 PE - Netball

The year 3 and 4 children enjoyed a fab afternoon of netball in the sun. Mr DP has joined us from TLE coaching and will be with us on a Monday afternoon. He will help to support the year 3 and 4 PE lessons and after school Tag Rugby Club.



Sports News

Tag Rugby after school club

The children have been coming on leaps and bounds in Tag Rugby club. This week we played a game and focused on the 'offside' rule. The children found this challenging but tried their hardest and felt it was much easier to practice in a game situation.



Fixtures

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

Spring Term Fixtures

HALF TERM

- Monday 4th March - Year 5/6 Netball @ Selwood (children who have shown an interest)
- 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

PERFORMING ARTS

Music Buzz Word: PIANO

Following on from last week when our **Buzz Word** was **DYNAMICS**, the musical word for volume, this week we begin our exploration into the terminology within that larger term.

PIANO (pronounced pi-ah-no, as opposed to the way you would pronounce the instrument of a similar name), is the musical word for soft or quiet.

It has been another busy and exciting week in the music department.: We are into our final couple of weeks of rehearsals for the Easter production with years three and four; Music rehearsals are underway for the **summer production** with years five and six; years one and two have made a start on their **glockenspiel project**, which sees them learning staff notation to pair with the rhythm patterns they have already learned; whilst nursery and reception are continuing their work on rhythm, with the introduction of various percussion instruments.

Choral Group have recorded a combined song with the other Forfar schools. I hope you have managed to watch the video which was made available via our social media platforms. If not, please take a look [here](#).

Rock School are enjoying another fantastic recording opportunity with Luke at his incredibly well-equipped and welcoming studio. Luke continues to work in his professional capacity with many exceptional musicians, so our children really are honoured to have this fantastic opportunity. We look forward to sharing the finished item with you in due course.

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
Rose. W

Inès
Angelo
Edith
Ruby

Ruby

Hebe
Mathilde
Freya. S.

Sapphire

Milo
Ida
Freya. G
Holly H
Cora

Amethyst

Otto
Charlotte
Iggy
Elliot. B
Florence. C

Diamond

Lily. H
Alfred. M
Matilda. B
Reuben
Izzy

Copper

Florence. M
Lily. H
Flor
Mary

Bronze

Silver

Platinum

Gold

Gold Plus

Corinne

Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS

In the realms of the Nursery class, where we are curiosity led, Camille Saint-Saën's the 'Carnival of the Animals' has been a treasure trove of opportunities to enrich our curriculum. Music holds a special place for young children, offering a gateway to creativity, cognitive development, and emotional expression.

At its core, "Carnival of the Animals" is not just a musical composition but a tapestry of whimsical storytelling, painting a vivid picture of various animals in their natural habitat. From the graceful swan to the majestic lion, and bouncing kangaroo, Saint-Saën's melodies invite children on a sensory adventure, fostering a deeper connection to the animal world. We have explored interactive listening, with creative movement: children have learnt to express themselves authentically, collaborate and regulate their emotions. This holistic approach to musical education lays the groundwork for empathy, resilience, and self-confidence—essential qualities for navigating the complexities of the modern world.

Let the carnival begin!

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



HEDGEHOGS

The Hedgehogs have had an enjoyable week exploring seasons and Springtime. We went off on Go Explore to look for signs of Spring. We spotted buds, a nest, insects, green leaves and lots of different flowers. We were very observant. We did some beautiful paintings of some spring flowers to add to our display. We carefully looked at colours and shapes. We love spending time in the art room. We have been busy creating some lovely cards too for Mothering Sunday but we shall keep those a secret!

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON



RABBITS

The Rabbits continue to enjoy learning about space and it's so lovely to hear and see children visiting space places and learning about the solar system outside school. We had a science afternoon at the end of last week in which we completed several investigations about floating, and sinking, what is waterproof and finally a transparent, translucent and opaque experiment. It's true to say they love science and are great scientists!

We also made some 'planet' hats this week ready to become the solar system and understand which planets rotate which way and how quickly they rotate and orbit the sun. Their understanding is fantastic.

The children are building on their literacy skills and learnt about compound words this week, which they used in their writing throughout the week. They are also working hard at remembering how to spell some tricky words by coming up with some truly inventive ways to remember them. Well done, Rabbits!

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



OTTERS

This week the children used their imaginations and stepped back in time to 1863 and wrote diary entries as though they were travelling to Australia onboard the SS Great Britain. They wrote about where they slept, which countries they sailed past, sea creatures they saw, games they played and why they were travelling to Australia. They also learnt about the food that first and second-class passengers ate and designed some super celebration cakes, inspired by Queen Victoria's wedding cake. Continuing the nautical theme, the children learnt about international maritime signal flags and what some of them mean. They then painted flags which represented their names in code.

In SpAG this week the children have been learning how to change sentences from singular to plural and in maths they have continued to work on multiplication and division.

In science they learnt about an American scientist Rachel Carson, who discovered when studying the food chain of the oceans, water had chemicals in it which could be harmful to the sea creatures. The children carried out their own experiment to see how the chemicals farmers use on their crops can end up in the sea.

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

It has been another busy week in Badgers. First, the skill of writing instructions was put to the test with a choice of how to look after your pet or how to brush your teeth. It was decided that the clearer and more concise they were, the better. There was an amazing visit to Squirrels with everyone having the chance to see the fantastic home-made Anderson shelters. It was a great opportunity to get some ideas for next year.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



Squirrels

Over the last 2 weeks, the year fours have embarked on a historical journey by crafting Anderson shelters. For their homework project, they each meticulously constructed miniature replicas of these iconic shelters using lego, cake, sweets, tin cans - the resources are endless - gaining insights into the lives of civilians during air raids. With keen attention to detail, they embraced the challenges of design and construction.

Monday morning provided the opportunity to share their creations with the year threes and their fellow peers, fostering a collaborative learning environment. They were also able to partake in peer assessment, which enhances communication and interpersonal skills as the children learn to give and receive constructive feedback respectfully.

Stacey Watson, Year 4



OWLS

This week in Owls, we have enjoyed thinking about how we learn best and what we can do to help ourselves achieve our goals. This is part of our PSHE unit, 'Aiming High', and also links wonderfully to our RE topic, 'Commitment'. The children thought carefully about potential barriers to their learning and how they could overcome these by employing a growth mindset and having a positive attitude. It was lovely to then see them applying these skills to successfully solve some challenging Maths problems this week! Well done for another great week Owls.

LYDIA ADAMS

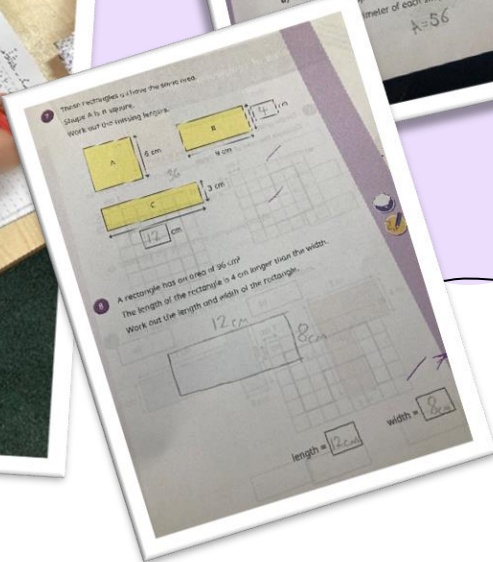
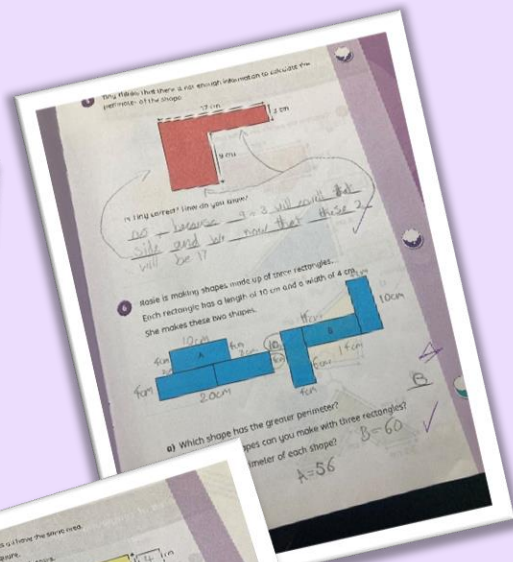


FOXES

The Foxes' Shakespeare investigations continue with a history play this week, Julius Caesar, reading a children's adaptation of the story and watching a very dramatic cartoon version, and they then demonstrated the ability to compare the two renditions using lots of examples.

Maths lessons allowed the children to investigate perimeters and areas, leading to some interesting observations and discussions and some intuitive work with irregular and complex shapes.

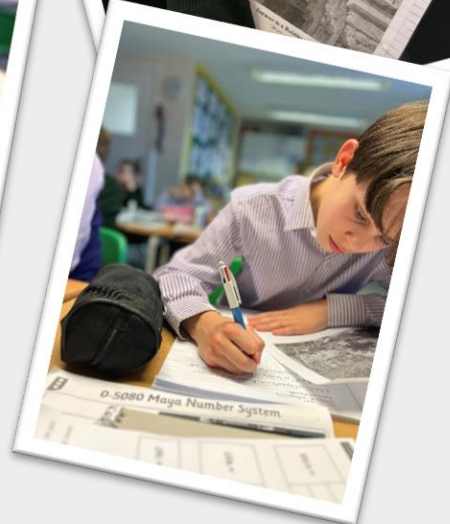
JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



EAGLES

A great week has been had in the Eagles...even without Mr Munckton (who is fulfilling his civic duty on Jury service)! We have kept up with spellings and grammar, finished our maths unit on decimals (and done very well in the end of unit test) and learnt all about the ancient civilization of the Maya. We are now excited to launch into our individual or small group projects on an area which particularly excites us within Mayan history having considered who we work best with and who shares our interests to create the best product. Mrs. Cox is looking forward to our final presentations which may be in the form of posters, PowerPoints, songs or a play!

THE EAGLES



OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

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

