

Springmead Newsletter

No. 21 ~ 2023/24



Friday 8th March 2024

Dear Parents,

It was an utter delight to welcome all the children this morning, dressed in their costumes for World Book Day Celebrations, as well as their costumes the children also wore their great big smiles. As we celebrate World Book Day it is important to reflect on the message it brings - books change lives and that is why we encourage our children to read. Reading offers numerous benefits that extend far beyond mere entertainment. By fostering strong bonds between parents and children, they create a nurturing environment for healthy development. Through shared reading experiences, children not only learn new words and concepts but also develop crucial pre-literacy skills such as phonic awareness and comprehension. Regular reading sessions enhance cognitive abilities, such as memory and concentration, laying a solid foundation for academic success later in life.

One of my favourite memories is discovering the world of 'James and the Giant Peach', alongside my parents, as we took turns to read the next exciting chapter at bedtime. To encourage my own children's reading I would provide poetry baths, immersing them in water and the succinctness of rhyme and verse exploring different poetry genres and styles, sometimes I would start a story and we would take turns continuing it. To encourage them with a new author I would read the first chapter, hook them in and leave them to finish the book. I truly hope that our Springmead families have liked the different activities we have provided to stimulate our children from Nursery to Year 6. Please enjoy the photo montage below.

Sally Cox



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Forfar
Part of the Forfar
Education Group

Diary Dates at a glance

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.

Thur 14th March - 8.30am - Y5 Parents meeting regarding transitioning to senior schools.

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

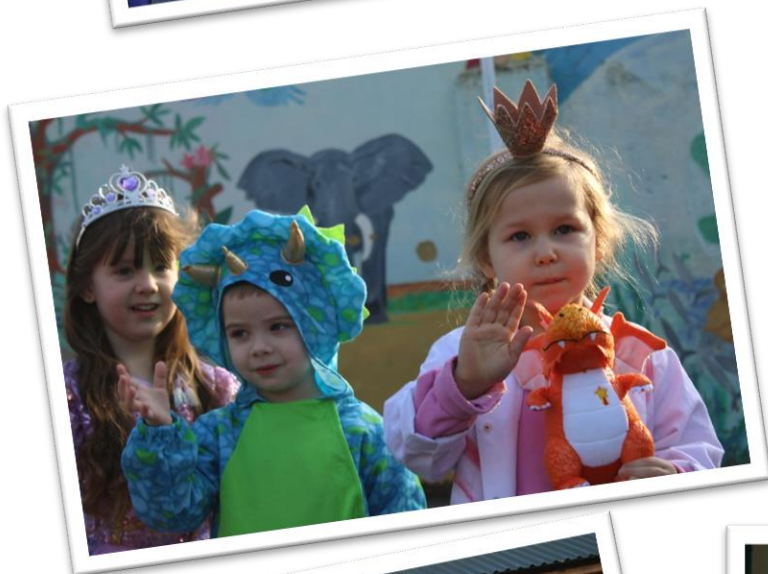
Wed 20th March - Year 3 Trip to Stonehenge

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!



EASTER
Storytelling

Friday 15th March
5.30pm to 6.30pm

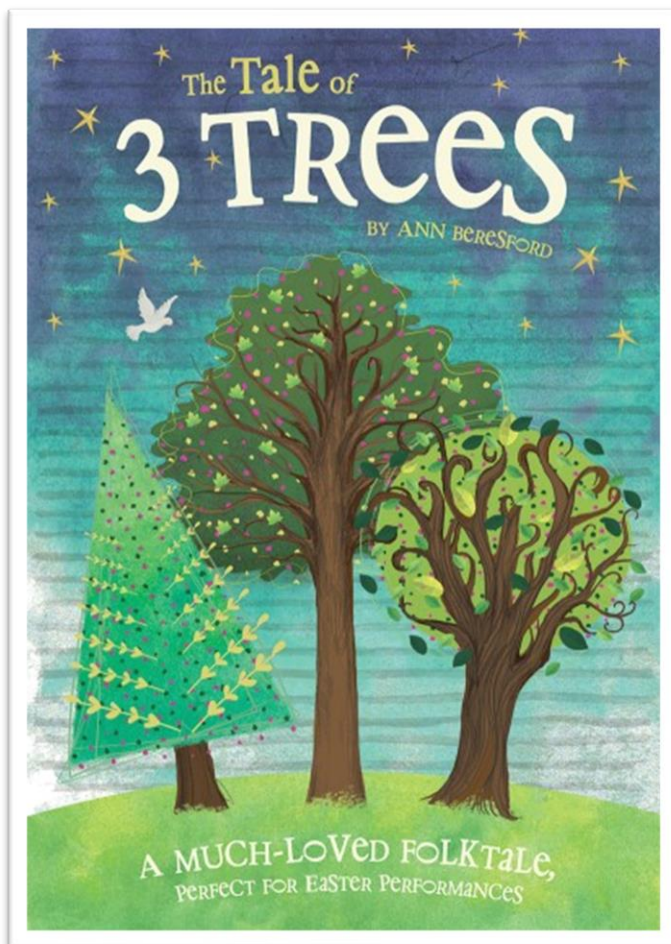
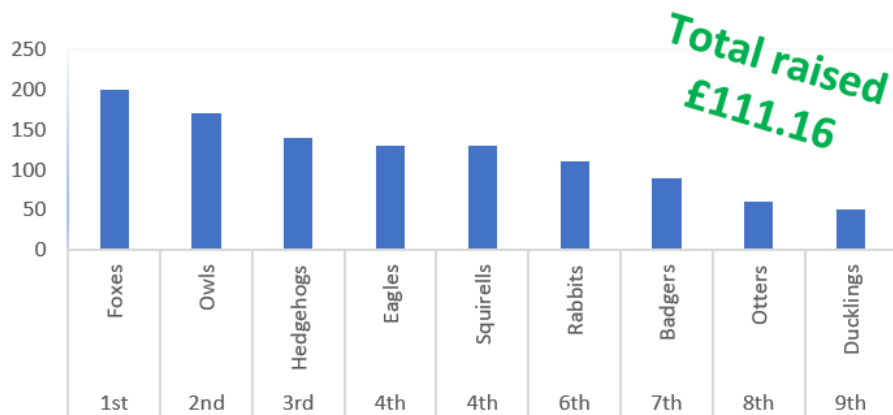
Drop your child back at Springmead ready for our
wonderful Easter storytelling event

- 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

Penny Wars Total Leaderboard Week 2 - 4th -10th Mar



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

There are plenty of tickets still available!

PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	George B - for always listening well and for becoming more confident to join in group discussions George H - for improving his scissor skills and cutting out so well Margot - for being so brilliant in French and helping other ducklings
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Violet for Super progress with her writing. Great use of our new sounds.
RABBITS (Y1)	Corinne for amazing reading comprehension Arlo - For being so happy and joyful Izzy - Working so hard in maths
OTTERS (Y2)	Esther for working hard and doing very well with her times tables Otto for write a great diary entry as a passenger on the SS Great Britain Will for a great picture of the Clifton Suspension Bridge
BADGERS (Y3)	Holly H for being on fire in maths with fractions Molly for marvellous maths when working on fractions Caleb for writing a sensational start to a Viking saga
SQUIRRELS (Y4)	Polly for her understanding of mixed number fractions Elliott for his delivery of lines in the Easter Production Angelo for his understanding of the 3 states of matter Alexander for his readiness to learn
FOXES (Y5)	Harriet for brilliant work in maths activities Iggy for determination and commitment to improving spelling
OWLS (Y5)	Devon- for his hard work in our rehearsals for the summer production. Matilda- for pushing herself outside of her comfort zone in Maths.
EAGLES (Y6)	Merle - Great work on decimals, fractions and percentages Elliott - being super helpful and supportive Danny - Enthusiasm for his Mayan project Henry - Always being such an effective ambassador with his behaviour

Sports News

Year 5 and 6 Netball @ Selwood

On Monday, the children who had shown an interest in Netball, were invited to Selwood School for an afternoon of netball! The children were really excited to mix with new children and also bump into friends they already knew. Upon arrival the Selwood PE teacher suggested we mixed teams to encourage the children to mix. This was such a great idea and it really made the children communicate with new children to make the best netball team. The children played 4 quarters and rotated position and we narrowly missed the rain! Success!

Emma Lindley



Year 6 Football @ Selwood

I felt so very proud of the six footballers I took to Selwood Academy on Thursday, their sportsmanship was exemplary, in mixed teams all the children taking part showed real skills and determination.

Mrs Cox

Sports News

Year R-2 Sports Club

During our lunchtime club this week we set up a circuit of different exercises to keep us fit and healthy. The children had amazing ideas of what sort of exercise we could do at each station. The final activities included star jumps, children's press ups, squats and arm curls. They left the club feeling stretched and stronger!!



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 11th March - Year 3/4 Netball and Hockey @ Warminster

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

Sports News

Cross Country

The Springmead runners set off for the penultimate race of this year's Mendip League event, eagerly anticipating another afternoon of tough competition in energy sapping conditions.

One of the biggest benefits of cross country running for children is its contribution to physical fitness. Regular participation in this endurance sport strengthens the cardiovascular system, improves muscular endurance, and enhances overall physical health. Through sustained effort over varying terrains, children develop stamina, agility, and coordination.

Cross country running instils invaluable lessons in mental resilience and perseverance. As children push their limits and conquer challenging courses, they develop a resilient mindset that equips them to overcome obstacles both on and off the track. Through setbacks and triumphs, they learn the importance of goal-setting, self-discipline, and determination. The mental fortitude cultivated through cross country running empowers children to face adversity with confidence and resilience, fostering a positive outlook on challenges and setbacks.

Cross country running fosters a sense of camaraderie and teamwork among children. Whether training together or competing as a team, young runners forge bonds that extend beyond the racecourse. The inclusive nature of the sport encourages children of all abilities to participate and contribute, promoting diversity and inclusivity within the team.

Beyond the physical and social benefits, cross country running positively impacts children's mental well-being. The release of endorphins during exercise promotes feelings of happiness, relaxation, and stress relief.

As our competitors continue to develop their skills, each of the league events provides a different set of challenges – this course was heavy underfoot due to the recent weather. As always, our team represented the school in the way we expect, demonstrating the Springmead Way on the sports field.

Results: Downside School - Tuesday 27th February

Charlotte Munckton



Lower School Girls	Lower School Boys	Upper School Girls	Upper School Boys
Annie - 30 th Charlotte - 35 th Annabel - 36 th Darcey - 43 rd Lizzie - 60 th Holly H - 69 th Hebe - 74 th Maddie - 81 st Holly D - 84 th	Jack - 11 th Woody - 23 rd Elliott - 55 th Tristan - 112 th James - 115 th Caleb - 131 st	Lily - 35 th Ava - 44 th Katerina - 46 th	Milo - 34 th Aubrey - 73 rd Felix - 94 th Joshua - 97 th

PERFORMING ARTS

Buzz Word: Forte (pronounced Fort-eh, this is an Italian word so try to roll the r and enjoy the open e sound at the end!). Continuing our theme of DYNAMICS, Forte tells us that the music should be played LOUD.

It's been another fantastic week, and Rock School have had so much fun making a music video to accompany their recording of Cruel Summer by Taylor Swift. We've enjoyed exploring a number of roles within the music industry throughout this term, discussing and allocating these roles among the group. We've looked at Costume Design, Choreography, Production, Location Management, Photography and Film, Editing, Directing, Producing, Catering, and most importantly as far as the children were concerned the hugely important role of Biscuit Manager! And all of this before we had even played or sung a note!

We look forward to sharing our finished product with you in due course.



SWIMMING

School swimming

At Springmead we are very proud of our swimming lessons, every student who leaves at the end of year 6 has always surpassed the school curriculum expected national standard of being able to swim 25m unaided. We follow the ASA water skills awards as these are in line with the school years and are slightly different to the ASA stages awards that children complete in swimming lessons outside of school.

However, we do not just teach to the water skills awards, we also work towards learning important race skills for those who are in the higher groups. This enables children who wish to pursue competitive swimming a solid skill base to use when trying out for club swimming.

For those in the small pool there is a large focus on water confidence and water safety, as, in order to be able to move into the big pool, the children have to first demonstrate they can safely and confidently swim in the small pool. This is due to the fact the width of the big pool is substantially longer than the length of the small pool, and some swimmers can be out of depth inside the first 5m of the big pool. It is vitally important that all swimmers moving from small pool to big pool can confidently show they can swim using a recognisable stroke for a minimum of 10m before moving into the big pool.

Super swimmer of the week: Seth for always having such a positive attitude towards swimming and showing fantastic progression.

Sarah Cozens

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
Diamond Lily. H Reuben Izzy Florence. C		Copper Florence. M Lily. H Flor Alfred. M Matilda. B
Bronze Mary		Silver
Platinum		Gold
Gold Plus Corinne		

Congratulations to Paige and Tom on
the birth of Frankie! What a gorgeous
boy!



Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS

It has been lovely to meet with parents this week for parent consultations to share and celebrate their child's nursery journey with them. A few parents have asked about phonics teaching and ways to support their children at home. There are some brilliant resources out there and as it is World Book Day, here's some helpful reading hints.

- **Orchard Toys:** These games are great because they are fun to play and support early recognition of the single letter sounds. https://www.orchardtoys.com/dept/language-literacy-games_d0121.htm
- **Oral segmenting and blending skills** are important - break down a word into its sounds and your blends them back together. ch-i-p-s, c-a-t, m-u-m. Can they work out the word you are saying? Great for the car.
- **Hold a sentence** - can your child hold a sentence in their head and repeat it back to you. Make it funny, silly voices etc.
- **Apps are good** - Teach Monster and Reading Eggs are recommended.
- **Point out print in the environment** and the single letter sounds you see. Start with the letters in your child's name.
- **Write with everything** - water pistols, paints chalking, riding bikes through water to make trails. Celebrate the marks they make. Children need to enjoy writing and creating marks.
- **Visit the library.** Choose fiction and non-fiction books. Talk in depth about the characters, the setting, the plot, the endings and beginnings. Include inference - how do we know something has happened in the story without being told?
- **Bring books and characters into general conversations:** particularly in referencing something similar that has happened to them. For example, 'This is just like the Bear Hunt, going through the long grass'.
- **Above all, make it fun!**

Due to the success of our Nursery Tea event, we have arranged another. This will be held on Wednesday 24th April at 3pm. All nursery parents are welcome to come along to visit the nursery classroom with their child.

SHIRLEY OFFER, NURSERY



HEDGEHOGS

An Important aspect of early mathematical development is subitising, this is when children recognise quantities without counting each item individually and it is something we are working very hard on in Hedgehogs. Adults often take this skill for granted, but it's a crucial milestone in a child's mathematical journey. As children master subitising, they lay a solid foundation for future mathematical concepts such as addition, subtraction, and even multiplication.

So, the next time you see the Hedgehogs effortlessly recognising the number of sweets in a jar or the dots on a dice, take a moment to appreciate the magic of subitising. It's not just a skill; it's a glimpse into the incredible journey of early mathematical development.

CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON



RABBITS

We've had another fantastic week! Go explore was a little chilly but we made the absolute most of it! We had a lovely walk around the village spotting the first signs of spring and then had some fun in the park.

The children really are becoming so incredibly knowledgeable about the solar system and we are finding lots of fun ways to understand space in greater depth. The children made planet hats and then they learnt which way each planet rotated and how long it took to rotate, and also orbit the sun. They had a great time and understand just how vastly different some of the planets rotation and orbits are!

We have also learnt a lot about the weather this week and made a rain measuring device and sundials - although it hasn't been sunny enough to use them yet! Well done Rabbits!

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



OTTERS

This week the children have been learning about the remarkable man, Leonardo Da Vinci. They learnt about the history of Da Vinci and made great attempts to read some of the Italian names like that of his first art teacher, Andrea del Verrocchio. They were inspired by his botanical drawings and sketched some great flowers, looking carefully at the shading and all the details in the flowers. They enjoyed finding out about the Mona Lisa and how the theft of the painting in 1911 made the painting even more popular.

In maths the children have been busy learning about measuring the length and height of different objects in cm and metres, and in SPaG the children have worked on contractions and revisited punctuation.

The children were delighted to receive new books for the class from the SSA - thank you very much!

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

The Badgers' thought cogs have certainly been busy this week. Assessing a selection of situations, trying to establish what is going on and what conclusions can be drawn. Looking at the right angle happens to be in the new maths topic. It is also a handy way to find clues when reading a story. The class were challenged to try to work out what a story was about by having a selection of words, some of which were new and rather challenging. After much discussion, a dictionary was delved into to track the tricky words. The Badgers showed great team work and the class demonstrated their growing discussion skills when working this all out. There are tickets available for the Easter Play, so please invite friends and family!

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



Squirrels

The Squirrels (and the Badgers) are in their final days of rehearsals for their Easter Production. Through performance, music, and heartfelt hymns the Year 3's and 4's have been working hard, in order to convey the true meaning of Easter.

Through drama, children's learning experiences are enriched by providing a dynamic and interactive way for them to explore themselves and the world around them. For example through this production, the children have understood the story of Easter, expressed themselves creatively through acting, improvisation, and storytelling and fostered effective communication skills, including active listening, clear articulation and how to work collaboratively.

We look forward to welcoming the Year 3 & 4 parents and families on Tuesday, and hope you enjoy the fruits of our labour! There are tickets available, so please invite friends and family!

Stacey Watson, Year 4



OWLS

In D&T this week, Owls were applying their textiles skills to finish off their Tudor peg dolls, as well as having a go at baking Elizabethan Naughty Cake! Learning to cook and work with textiles equips children with essential life skills that they'll use throughout their lives. Being confident to measure ingredients, follow a recipe and perform basic sewing tasks can contribute to their independence and ensure that they are becoming confident, well- rounded individuals with a breadth of skills. Well done Owls!

LYDIA ADAMS



FOXES

The highlight of this week has been using the DT studio to make Elizabethan Naughty Cake, an interesting concoction of honey, fruit, butter, and digestive biscuits to add a modern twist! Watch this space for another Tudor inspired recipe next week, using different cooking techniques.

We continue with our Shakespeare inspired English lessons by reading a children's version of As You Like It, and creating our own picture books of the tale to share with younger children on World Book Day.

We have concluded our 'area and perimeter' investigations and are now busily working our way through the topic of statistics. The children are loving this particular theme and are very quickly moving into advanced tasks. Well done, Foxes.

JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY



EAGLES

This week brought about another Bushcraft session for our year sixes, and the sun came out for us! Children learning bushcraft can gain a myriad of benefits, fostering self-reliance, problem-solving skills, and a deeper appreciation for nature. Engaging in activities such as building a basha boat, a fundamental bushcraft skill, not only teaches practical survival techniques but also promotes teamwork and creativity.

To make a Basha Boat, children typically start by collecting sturdy branches and vines from the surrounding environment. They then weave the branches together to form a solid base and construct a framework for the boat's structure. Once the framework is complete, they cover it with waterproof materials like tarps or large leaves, ensuring the boat can float. Through this hands-on process, children learn valuable lessons in resourcefulness, adaptability, and the importance of working with nature rather than against it.

The Eagles did such a sterling job that Miss Robinson and Mr Hotson eagerly climbed aboard and stayed bone dry during the boat's maiden voyage. Well done, Eagles!

Check out our adventures on Instagram.

OUT OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Owen in Year 4 achieved Gold in 100m Breaststroke and Bronze in the 50m Freestyle on Sunday at the Millfield Regional Qualifiers. What a great result.

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

