

Springmead Newsletter

No. 23 ~ 2023/24



Friday 22nd March 2024

Dear Parents,

What a fantastic first activities week we have had, the school has been buzzing with excited children raring to go followed by quiet times once they have set off for their adventures and the hum of their return, sharing all the details with each other, their parents and the staff. I had the pleasure of spending time with the Year 5 and 5 classes down at Kilve as they pushed themselves through personal challenges trying out a host of new experiences. I was amazed by the courage, confidence and pure tenacity that they showed. You will have seen on Tapestry and Blossom their great times, filled with learning, laughter and new experiences. Life beyond the classroom is part of what we do. Please enjoy the photos below.

This Sunday, we will be excitedly awaiting the results from Lizzie and Charlotte, competing in the Schools Biathlon Championships. More details are below. We wish them every success in 'doing their best to be their best selves'.

Thank you for rising to the challenge of our urgent appeal for shoes from the frontline of Mercy in Action, our school charity working in nearby Bristol. It is wonderful to see and to help with direct action. As well as fundraising through the year, did you know we send craft materials and activities each school holiday too, to support local families? Please do follow [Mercy in Action](#), Action Pantry and Petra socials to see their work.

Have a wonderful Easter holiday.

Sally Cox

Diary Dates at a glance

Mon 15th April - Inset Day - School closed
Tues 16th April - Founders Day - Party clothes and shared buffet and Founders Day Service
Wed 24th April - SSA Meeting 8.30am
Wed 24th April - Nursery Afternoon Tea - 3pm
Mon 6th May - Bank Holiday
Thursday 23rd May - Careers Event - Year 6
Fri 24th May - Last Day of Half Term
Mon 3rd June - Whole School Photo
Wed 5th June - Countrylore Bushcraft Camp

More details of these events are below or you will have been informed by your class teacher. Additional dates will be added in due course.

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



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Forfar

Part of the Forfar
Education Group

PERFORMING ARTS

Music Buzz Word: CRESCENDO AND DECRESCENDO - Getting gradually louder or gradually softer respectively.

Results of the Music Questionnaire:

Over the last week or so, I have had the opportunity to deliver a questionnaire to the pupils in Year 3 and 4 at our school, and to chat with them about the Music provision on offer, gauging their preferences for learning styles and topics, while also developing my understanding of where the pupils' priorities and enjoyment lie, which will allow me to develop and shape our curriculum to reflect their growing interests and to extend learning for all.

The **children were asked 5 questions** about class and school music:

- **What is your favourite music topic?**
- **Is there any element of classroom music you would like to develop and do more?**
- **What is your favourite aspect of music at school?**
- **Do you enjoy whole-school singing, especially the singing assemblies?**
- **Do you have any general comments you would like to make?**

Over **60%** of pupils said that their favourite element of music is performance, with Christmas and Productions mentioned as particular highlights, while the remaining **40%** of children all voted for composition and music-writing as their favourite topic.

When asked what they would like to increase within their music lessons, nearly **60%** asked for more opportunities to play instruments as a class. This result has already fed into next term's planning when these particular classes will do a storytelling composition project, using any instruments they feel appropriately fit the narrative. The remaining **40%** suggested more timetabled classroom music time in general, and more opportunities for solo singing, among other things.

Some of the general comments made by the children included:

'We would like longer music lessons'

'Can we go door-to-door carolling at Christmas?'

'We would like to make our own instruments'

'Can we have an interactive whiteboard so we can use it to play music games and watch music videos?'

Hannah Drury

Founders' Day, Tuesday 16th April

We will be celebrating **Founders' Day**, marking the moment Springmead School began, on the **first day of the summer term**, twenty-two years ago. During the day, we will be attending the church for a service of thanksgiving and, following more requests from the School Council, we will have our **annual class shared buffet on this day**. Classes from Nursery to Year 6 will plan their buffet and bring their chosen food into school to share with their class on the day.

In the party spirit, children can come to school in mufti on this day, although lessons will carry on as usual.

As it is the first day of the new term, we will send out a reminder the day before.

Charity Events Next Term

Next term, we will support Springmead's charity, Mercy in Action, a well deserving Bath based charity that has always had important links to the school. We have grown together in the work we do and it has been wonderful to witness the direct results the money we have raised over the years has had. This money supports families in our local area through incredible local charitable enterprises such as [Action Pantry](#), [Clothesline](#) and [Petra](#) as well as supporting children overseas in the [Philippines](#) with housing and schooling. Each class will be planning charity events to raise money.

Supporting children in understanding their responsibilities as citizens in helping children less fortunate than themselves is important work for the future, promoting values of generosity and empathy towards others. Mercy in Action will be visiting the school to talk to the children about their work.

We look forward to hearing about their ideas to fundraise and efforts to raise the most money possible. We understand that it will be family's pockets that we will be digging into, so thank you in advance for your generosity.

PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The following children received praise certificates this week.

DUCKLINGS (YN)	Josie for becoming more confident in sharing her ideas in carpet time. Elodie for sharing and taking turns with her friends. Gracie-Mae for great imagination in role play with her friends.
HEDGEHOGS (YR)	Thea - Excellent investigation into the parts of a flower. Edith - Great work on her drawing skills showing careful and detailed work.
RABBITS (Y1)	Cora for working really hard on her writing. Jasper - working hard throughout all lessons.
OTTERS (Y2)	Harrison for great work on maths comparing the mass of different objects. Arthur for being engaged in discussions about The Easter Story.
BADGERS (Y3)	Darcey for being a brilliant Stone Age Estate Agent. Charlotte for being a real stick-in-the-mud and demonstrating resilience on Go Explore! Maddie for your helpfulness when building a Stone Age shelter.



Careers Event

Thursday 23rd May
8.30am to 10am

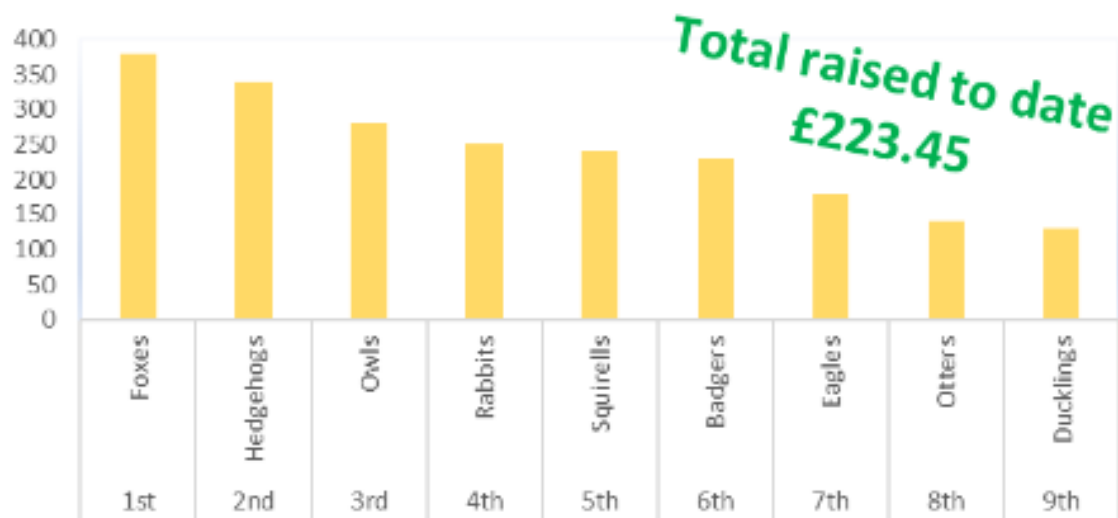


Our Careers Event is for children in Year 6. The pupils will join a group of parents for informal conversations around careers in readiness for later life.

If you could spare an hour to answer children's questions to give an insight into your career journey, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact nmunkton@springmead.com
Thank you for your support.

Penny Wars Total Leaderboard Week 4 - 18th -24th Mar



Week 4			
Position	Class	Leaderboard Points	Coin Points
1st	Hedgehogs	100	2792
2nd	Foxes	90	1115
3rd	Rabbits	80	1100
4th	Badgers	70	912
5th	Squirrels	60	308
6th	Otters	50	80
7th	Ducklings	40	1
8th	Owls	30	0
8th	Eagles	30	0

Google Reviews

Could you find the time to support our school and write us a positive review on Google?

It shouldn't take long...

This link will take you straight to the correct place to leave a review:

<https://g.page/r/CaM5JA4Pdc4gEBM/review>

Thank you for your support, it is much appreciated.

Sports News

Year 2 PE lesson

This week the year 2's finished their throwing and catching unit of work with a mini bench ball tournament. It was great to see the children using their skills combined with the elements of attacking and defending. They displayed excellent team work and communication with each other.



Cross Country

What a fantastic finish to the cross-country season we had on Tuesday. We were missing our Year 5 and 6 team who were off having fun on their residential but the super Year 3 and 4 team flew the flag for Springmead brilliantly. The rain held off for our last race but the course was very soft under foot making it a tough run and with a long up hill finish, we had some tired little runners!

Jack finished in a brilliant 14th place with Charlotte coming home first for the girls in 33rd place.

Congratulations everyone and see you all next year.

Full results can be seen on the website www.mendipjuniorathletics.org.uk

Results for Lower School Girls.

33	Charlotte	Year 3
39	Darcey	Year 3
61	Holly. H	Year 3
77	Lizzie	Year 3
84	Maddie	Year 3
85	Hebe	Year 3
93	Holly	Year 3

Results for Lower School Boys

14	Jack	Year 4
90	Elliott	Year 4
91	Will. T	Year 4
125	James	Year 4
136	Caleb	Year 3

Charlotte Munckton

Sports News

Year R-2 Sports Club - lunchtime

This week we used the mini golf equipment and set up some challenges. The children used floor spots and quoits as 'holes' and had to hit a ball using their putters towards the targets.



Year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby Fixture vs Beckington

On Monday afternoon we welcomed a group of year 3 and 4 children from Beckington School to the field for a tag rugby fixture. After already playing tag rugby in PE for a couple of hours the children were well and truly warmed up and ready to go. It was very even for the first half of play with each team scoring when it was their centre pass. A small fault from Beckington meant that Springmead picked up a wild ball and scored a try to break the pattern.

A fantastic game demonstrating excellent dodging, communication and sportsmanship!

Final Score - 14-10

Fixtures

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

Emma Lindley

Swimming News

Good luck to those competing at the National Schools Biathlon Championships

We have 2 year 3 students attending the National Schools Biathlon Championships on Sunday. They will be completing a 25m swim and a 400m run against the best athletes across the country who have also qualified to participate in the Finals.

Good Luck to Lizzie and Charlotte we are all behind you and cannot wait to hear about your experiences and results!

Sarah Cozens/Helen Coombs

Tennis

Courses are being held at Beckington Tennis Association to **encourage girls to start playing tennis**. The courses cost £35 for 6 lessons, a racket, 3 balls and a T shirt, they start either in the Easter holidays or just after and can be booked using the links below or contacting donna.tennis@hotmail.com

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

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Rally/BeckingtonTennisAssociation/Coaching/BookCourse/6cd5120e-efc1-40a7-b140-e88b528eec1b>

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Rally/BeckingtonTennisAssociation/Coaching/BookCourse/8dbbc59c-1a9a-4a5d-b7a2-ce16078c086a>

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

Class Highlights

DUCKLINGS AND HEDGEHOGS

On Wednesday the Reception and Nursery classes had a day of discovery at Hidden Woods. They loved the rope swing, the mud kitchen, the campfire, the den building, the nets to watch the tree canopies, the logs to balance on and of course the marshmallows.

On arrival, we were met by Barny and Louis, who enveloped the children in the magical experience they offer. Every child matters at Hidden Woods, their staff listen, involve and lead the children in noticing the detail, sharing the love they feel for the natural world. They engaged the children through songs and stories and offered an experience that reflected their deep understanding of children, their behaviours and their needs.

After a safety briefing, a tour and a pinecone hide and seek team game, the children and adults set off to explore the vast site. The children demonstrated a range of approaches to this adventure. Some hurtled headlong into a physical, adrenaline whooped activity offered by the climbing challenges, others became absorbed into crafts or the mud kitchen, some children initially tried every activity for a few minutes before excitedly moving on, others queued genteelly for the rope swing and some children watched and observed it all from the safety of a familiar adult who toured the site with them until they were confident to choose an activity to try themselves.

The very best part of Hidden Woods is that children are able to roam safely across the site independently. It is well managed and accessible to our children, so adults stationed themselves at specific points to support, challenge, offer advice and play. Steve and his team brought well planned activities at perfect moments. Lunch around the campfire was a gathering with songs, clapping and listening to each other to create a community feel.

After lunch the children's energy changed, now familiar with the woods, combining to play favourite games, they examined and experimented with their environment in more detail and depth. The day ended with a gathering to share with each other all the children's favourite moments.

Here's a [film](#) of some of our best bits and our photos are below.

SHIRLEY OFFER AND CHARLOTTE MUNCKTON



RABBITS

We've had an action filled last week in Rabbits, and I can't quite believe we are going into our last term - It really has zoomed by!

The big box of space science from the Bath Astronomers did not disappoint! We experimented with the orbit of planets around the sun which was fascinating and with the Tellurium which was a fantastic piece of equipment that clearly showed how Earth rotates and orbits around the sun and the moon around the Earth. We were all so captivated we used it several times!

The children wrote newspaper articles about the moon landing which were brilliant - and remembered lots of information to add.

We also dressed as objects in the solar system and it was great to see everyone's interpretations. We even made meteor rice crispy cakes!

On top of all that a fantastic rocket launch and school trip to the Winchester Science Centre and Planetarium!

JEMMA STICKLEY, YEAR 1



OTTERS

We've had a very busy week in Year Two! The class had a lovely, albeit rather muddy Go Explore session down in the wildlife area. They enjoyed having the freedom to play outside and were so creative with the games they played. We sheltered under some trees during the heaviest part of the rainfall and then carried along the Beckington Loop. We looked at all the latest signs of spring and picked a few wildflowers to press and made some decorations for Easter when we were back at school.

They learnt more about The Easter Story and retold it in their own words, writing independently. They worked hard to remember to use the correct punctuation in the right places.

They had a wonderful visit to the SS Great Britain and enjoyed a tour of the boat with one of the very informative crew members there. They particularly enjoyed visiting the First-Class area of the ship and pretending to dine in style!

I hope you all have a wonderful time over Easter!

GEORGINA BOYDEN, YEAR 2



BADGERS

The Badgers are certainly amazing adventurers fearing nothing, whether it be particularly sucky, soggy mud in which many wellies were marooned, or seeking a perfect place to pitch your Stone Age camp.

The latest trip began at Woodhenge where the Badgers encountered many hairy and woolly things of a mammoth nature. Working as a class, building a real cardboard fire, finding the perfect location for a settlement and sorting out farming issues brought everyone together. Moving to the neighbouring, stone and more substantial, circle, everyone was treated to a fascinating guided tour. The challenge was then set so that in groups they would re-create the story about the creation of the stone circle. The story-makers were set the task to take on the jobs of builder, engineer and supplier and create the new tale.

Both Go Explore and the Stonehenge trip were a brilliant way to have fun together, learn a huge amount and become more independent by making our own decisions.

What a fantastic day and such fun. Well done Badgers for being your brilliant selves.

JANE DICKSON, YEAR 3



Squirrels

The London Trip: Everyone arrived on time for an early start. After a quick stop off at the services and birthday popcorn courtesy of James, we continued our journey. When we got to The Natural History Museum, we immersed ourselves in exploring some of the exhibits. The dinosaurs were a firm favourite. We had lunch and then used code to program our very own prototype Mars Rovers. Later we went to the London Eye and then headed back to our lodge for supper, play and bed. Fun times!

STACEY WATSON, YEAR 4



OWLS, FOXES AND EAGLES

LYDIA ADAMS, JACQUELINE BEARDSLEY AND NICK MUNCKTON

The Eagles, Foxes and Owls have enjoyed a brilliant week at Kilve Court for their residential trip. Despite some ominous weather reports leading up to the trip the weather was kind throughout the week with rain only coming in short showers or overnight, allowing the children to enjoy the activities in better weather.

Over the course of the week the children have enjoyed a range of activities in small groups from Archery and rifle shooting to environmental art and pond dipping to abseiling and grass sledging. The range of activities catered for every child's strengths whilst providing opportunities to try new things and push themselves out of their comfort zones.

We were also able to experience some activities as a whole group, including a beach visit to look for fossils, a forest walk and team building exercises.

It has been great to watch the children learn new skills, persevere with difficulties, thrive in unusual situations and form new or greater bonds with their peers. By the time it came to board the coach for our journey home, the children were glad to return to their families but they were also sad that this adventure had come to an end.

This Kilve residential trip provided our children with an unforgettable experience filled with learning, growth, and adventure. We are immensely proud of their achievements and their behaviour during the trip, which as always, was commented on by both other schools using the site and the many instructors that worked with the Springmead children.





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

