



Springwell Leeds

January 2017

Volume 1 Issue 4

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Greetings from our Executive Principal



Dear Parents / Carers,

As this is the first newsletter of 2017, I should start by wishing you a very happy and prosperous new year. We are rapidly approaching the end of our third half term as Springwell Leeds Academy, meaning that we are nearly half way through our first year together. I am very proud of the progress we have made together and the way in which our 140+ children and young people have settled into our new routines, new systems and in some cases, new buildings.

I know that many of our children find change challenging and difficult and so I am especially proud of how well that they have handled these changes this year, including the new staff with which they are also working. I believe very strongly that the strength of our relationships between children and staff are fundamental to the success we have in working together and those relationships take time to build and grow. As staff spend more time with students they grow to understand their needs better and as they do that, learning becomes more individualised and progress becomes stronger. As the children and young people become more familiar time with the adults, they become more relaxed and less anxious and better ready to learn. This all takes time and now we are well into the year we are seeing the benefits of it.

In December, we had our first meeting of the Springwell Leeds Parent and Carers Forum at our Primary site at Oakwood. I was delighted that so many parents were able to come and join us for a cup of tea and a slice of Christmas cake and share with us their experiences of the new school from a parent / carers point of view. It was great to hear first-hand the thoughts and opinions of the parents and carers of our children. The purpose of the Springwell Leeds Academy Parent and Carers Forum is to establish another means by which we can have regular, open communication and consultation with our parents and carers. It's is an informal opportunity to meet with myself, staff and leaders from across the Academy and discuss with them any issues you have, or suggestions as to how we can improve our provision. I thought that the forum was done in the right spirit and the tone was overwhelmingly positive towards the school. All parents said they thought their children were happy at school which was their main concern. A couple of parents said they had been apprehensive about their child attending a special school, but now would not have it any other way. They did of let us know what we could do better. In this area the main theme was communication. Parents felt that they would like to know more about what their child has done at school – positives as well as negatives – and more about the way in which the school is run and organised. We have reflected on that here as leaders and will be putting things in place to address these concerns.

Our next Parent and Carers Forum will be at our site on Stonegate Road from 5.00pm to 6.00pm on the Wednesday 8th March. Parents with children on any of our sites are welcome to attend.

We are continuing to develop the breath of the curriculum this term and to that end. We were joined in January by a specialist music teacher, Mrs Baker, she has been working with students across our different sites. I have been impressed by the fact that nearly half our KS3 students have had individual sessions on keyboards, drums or guitar with Mrs Baker and was delighted to see a video on Twitter of two of our students from the Meanwood site performing a song today on keyboards and drums. There will be much more of this to follow, I am sure.

That's all from me for now, I look forward to seeing you on the 8th March at Stonegate.

Scott Jacques

Executive Principal

Brudenell Site News

School View

Hyde Park

Leeds

LS6 1EN

0113 3229465

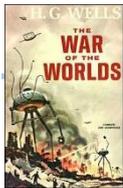
Dates for your Diary ...

We don't have diary dates for you just yet, but watch this space for up and coming events in the future.

War of the Worlds

Our core text for this half term is War of the Worlds. This has opened up lots of opportunities to explore space travel and develop creative writing.

As always, if you would like to borrow a copy of the text or DVD to read or watch with your child then please don't hesitate to get in touch.



Attendance

Last half term's attendance was 89.5%. Many thanks to all the parents and carers who have helped their child to improve their attendance from Half Term 1. Our target for this half term is 90%



WE'VE GOT AMAZING ATTENDANCE!

Twas the week before Christmas...

The last week of any term can often be very busy, and our final week in December was no different. The Brudenell Site embraced everything Christmas has to offer and made sure that our young people had the opportunity to say thank you to their nearest and dearest. Every child was taken to the White Rose Centre to buy a Christmas gift for someone they appreciate. This gave our students the opportunity to reflect on some of the important people in their lives and the help they receive, as well as developing independence and life skills. Every student took part in this lovely festive event and they conducted themselves superbly well in the busy White Rose Centre.

As well as taking the time to say Thank You with their Christmas Shopping, the last day of term saw 10 students visit Stockeld Park in North Yorkshire. Students took part in Ice Skating and visited the Enchanted Park while there. Staff at Stockeld complimented our students on the way they conducted themselves there and particularly the manner in which one of our students was helping others who couldn't skate quite as well as she could!



Our Enrichment programme has continued to develop over the last few weeks. We took a group of twelve students to Headingley Stadium, the home of Leeds Rhinos, have begun our construction programme at Leeds College of Building and have started a drama project where students are making a movie! As you can see from the photos, the make-up lady was busy making sure our young people looked the part for their starring roles!

We have now introduced Music onto the curriculum, which is proving a hit with a good number of students. We were also lucky enough to take a small group of students to see some 'Birds of Prey'. Many thanks to staff and students for hosting us at Meanwood. Here is a picture of Callum holding a Great Owl.



Burley Park Site News



Burley Park Centre
 Cardigan Lane
 Leeds
 LS4 2LE
 0113 2782009

Dates for your Diary ...

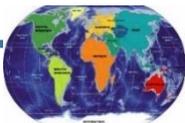
We don't have diary dates for you just yet, but watch this space for up and coming events in the future.

READ AROUND THE WORLD : OUR GROUP READING COMPETITION

The reading competition was launched on Friday, 13th January 2017 in assembly and ended on Friday, 3rd February 2017. All students needed to participate to increase the reading miles of their group and to be able to participate in the group prize which will be Go Karting. In this student update I have included journeys 1 to 4:

- Purple group are on journey 1 and have travelled 3000 reading miles and are travelling towards Canada.
- Red group are on journey 1 and have travelled 3500 reading miles and have reached Canada.
- Blue group are on journey 3 and have travelled 500 reading miles and are travelling towards Zambia.
- Green group are on journey 3 and have travelled 3000 reading miles and are travelling towards Zambia.

News on the winners to follow next month...



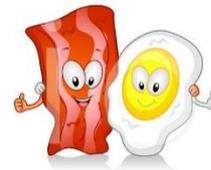
WE'VE BEEN CAUGHT READING!

At the Burley Park site when students have been 'Caught Reading' during the day by a member of staff they will complete a slip. The slip will be then placed in a box and on Friday, in assembly, one slip will be drawn. The lucky winner of the week you will have breakfast with Ms Binns. Breakfast will be a bacon or sausage or egg sandwich with a hot drink on the morning of your choice.

Good luck and Happy Reading!



Winner week ending Friday 13th January 2017:
 Kurtis wood



Winner week ending Friday 20th January 2017:
 Ty Jeffers



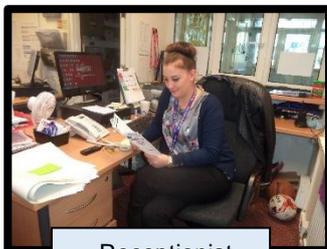
READING FOR PLEASURE – DEAR SESSION : On Wednesday, 25th January 2017 everyone at the Burley Park Site dropped everything and read for 10 minutes.



The data coordinator



Pupils



Receptionist



Teacher

Meanwood Site News

Meanwood Centre
Winthorpe Street
Leeds
LS6 4AN
0113 4673910

Dates for your Diary ...

We don't have diary dates for you just yet, but watch this space for up and coming events in the future.

WE'VE BEEN HAVING A HOOT OF A TIME!

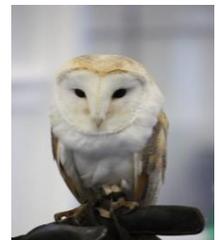


Meanwood students had a great time last week with a number of feathered friends that were brought to school by the Head Falconer of Owl Adventurers. They were keen to learn all about the owls' diet of mice and chicks, and were interested to find out about how they live in the wild.

Some of these birds were really huge but our students were keen to hold them and Miss Cowood even took a turn as well.

To round off a great day, staff were treated to some tasty "Owl Pellets" – Don't worry, these were delicious chocolate sweets made by the students in celebration of a brilliant visit!

Why not have a look at our video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=asYpJk9g4H0



Make
TODAY
the day to
LEARN
SOMETHING
NEW

FACT CORNER

- ★ There are around 200 different owl species.
- ★ Owls are active at night (nocturnal).
- ★ A group of owls is a parliament.
- ★ Most owls hunt insects, small mammals and other birds.
- ★ Some owl species hunt fish.
- ★ Owls have large eyes and a flat face.
- ★ Owls have powerful talons (claws) which help them catch and kill prey.
- ★ Owls can turn their heads 270 degrees.
- ★ Owls are very quiet in flight compared to other birds of prey.



Oakwood Primary Site News

Oakwood Primary Site
 Oakwood Lane
 Leeds
 LS8 3LF
 0113 2930285

Dates for your Diary ...
 We don't have diary dates for you just yet, but watch this space for up and coming events in the future.

WE NEED YOUR NEWSPAPERS!

Our next topic is Skyscrapers. We want to see how high we can reach!

Please can you send in any spare newspapers and magazines that you have, as we will be using these for our sculptures. Can we also ask you to point out any tall buildings that you see and ask the children to look up.



WE'VE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT MATHS AND MYTHS!

In English this week we have been looking at Egyptian Gods and Goddesses. We have been learning about adjectives and reading Egyptian Myths and Legends. In Maths, we have been learning all about fractions and learnt a new rhyme to remember the denominator! On Wednesday Stream team visited Elland Road, the home of Leeds United Football Club, where we had a private tour and even had a sneak preview of the dressing room which was being set up for the match. It gave us lots to talk about and the children hope that one day they may get to meet their Leeds United heroes!



Brook class have enjoyed doing lots of work this half term on the topic, 'Catch me if you can'. In science we focused on the body, thinking about how it works and how to keep healthy. We measured our pulse and were relieved to find we are all alive! We also studied the digestive system and made poo. Don't worry! It wasn't as bad as it sounds!

In English, we've been thinking about the features of Myths and linked this to our Ancient Greece topic. We were particularly interested in Pandora's box and discussed at length what we would do in that position. Who would be the first to open the box?



We are making great progress in our times tables and are going to move onto division as the inverse operation.

Stonegate Road Site News

Stonegate Road Site
Stonegate Road
Leeds
LS6 4QJ
0113 2679467

Dates for your Diary ...

We don't have diary dates for you just yet, but watch this space for up and coming events in the future.

Up & Coming Events

Are you ready to take on a **COOKING** and/or **BAKING** challenge in enrichment? Can you create a delicious dish from just 5 random items of food OR can you bake and produce, as well as design, some sweet masterpieces?

READY STEADY COOK

Young Talented Chefs battle it out against the clock, creating delicious dishes! Chopping, slicing, dicing, stirring, boiling and bubbling!!



THE GREAT SPRINGWELL BAKE OFF 2017

Amateur bakers are on a quest to be named **'Springwell's Best Baker 2017'**. Over the course of a half term, special judge's will be invited to view and taste the students creations, voting on their skills at making cakes, breads, pastries and desserts of all kinds. The challenges for the bakers come in three categories: Signature Bake, Technical Bake and the famous Showstopper Bake! **★ Could you be Star Baker of the week? ★**



Mrs O'Donnell is looking forward to you taking the challenge and working with you to create some fun and exciting dishes on a Tuesday and / or Wednesday afternoon!!

WE'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE!

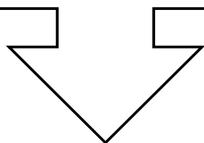
Kammy, Beth & Dylan are all working towards their Hand Care unit in Hair & Beauty. The team work together really well and support one another in sessions. They have identified nail shapes and the nail structure as well as learning about the tools and products needed to carry out a professional hand care treatment. They have gained the knowledge needed to recognise nail and skin conditions too! Very proud of you guys!



Craig Lowth has done an amazing job of decorating one of the rooms in the Stonegate Building. Definitely a top professional decorator of the future. Watch this space!



JUST FOR FUN !



This month's just for fun is a little different.

This month we would like to share the photographs of our new East Site taking shape. At the beginning of the January the site was just a huge piece of flat land. But now...



The frame of the building is about three quarters complete and the roof is on in places already. We were able to go up on the roof and look down into the building and by doing that you get a sense of the internal layout and the size and shape of some of the rooms.



It's amazing how quickly it seems to have moved on and the builders explained that they have been fortunate with the weather this far.



We were also able to see the frame for one of the immersive spaces, of which there will be 4 in each building!