

Springwell Leeds

September 2018 Volume 3 Issue 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of the Springwell Leeds Academy Newsletter for the new school year 2018-19.



For the first time, I am able to write to you knowing that we are finally all settled in our permanent homes across the city of Leeds. September 3rd saw the opening of our third and final new build site at Tinshill, which concludes two years of growth, development, building and transition.

Over the last two years, we have had to operate at limited capacity in temporary buildings managing transition between settings 7 times involving the movement of over 150 students. During that period, we have grown our staff workforce by over 100 to ensure that there will be capacity for the city going forward.

We start the new school year with over 240 children and young people on our roll and that number will rise to 340 by July 2019. I know that during this time, parents may have been frustrated by the changes in placement we have had to make throughout this process and so I would like to thank you all for your support, patience and understanding over this period of transition.

I have been delighted with the great start that so many of your children have made to the school year and how well they are settling in to new classes and new groups. I have also been really pleased to see attendance improving across our sites. It is important that all our children attend school every day they are required to, and good attendance at the start of the year helps set good habits for the rest of the year. We have a team of Parent Support Advisers working across the Academy who work to support parents and carers in a whole range of areas, including getting children into school and improving attendance, so if you are having issues, please get in touch with them through the site to which your child goes.

I was delighted to meet so many members of the Tinshill community at our open day a couple of weeks ago. It was great to be able to open the doors to the new building and invite in local residents and interested people to have a look around. We had around 50 visitors across the day and the ones I spoke to were hugely impressed by our facilities and interested in the work we do. I hope this will be the first of lots of successful community events this year. Watch later editions of the newsletter for details.

Finally – Springwell Leeds now has one phone number: 0113 4870 555. You should use this number from now on whichever site your child attends.

Kind regards,
Scott Jacques
Executive Principal

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Springwell Leeds North

Leeds Primary News

“What Makes a Superhero?” – Our theme this half term. We enjoyed dressing up as our favourite characters. Pupils used their Superpowers during an English active phonics lesson.

The students loved our visit from St John's Ambulance to run a First Aid Course. Both staff and students joined in as willing patients to be practiced on!

Our first week's assembly our primary pupils began with discussing the school “Golden Rules”. We have learnt them by designing our own actions.

Oakwood Golden Rules

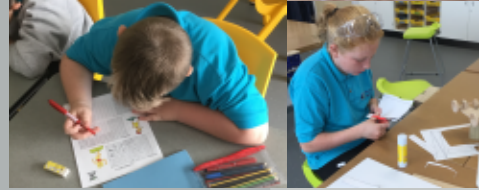
BE HONEST
WORK HARD
LISTEN TO OTHERS
LOOK AFTER PROPERTY
BE KIND, GENTLE AND HELPFUL

The Primary Site “Attendance Challenge” result is eagerly anticipated every week. The form with the highest attendance for the week get to look after our Attendance Tiger for the following week and display the Attendance Trophy in their classroom. All we have to do now is give our Tiger a name...



page design by Dean Jackson

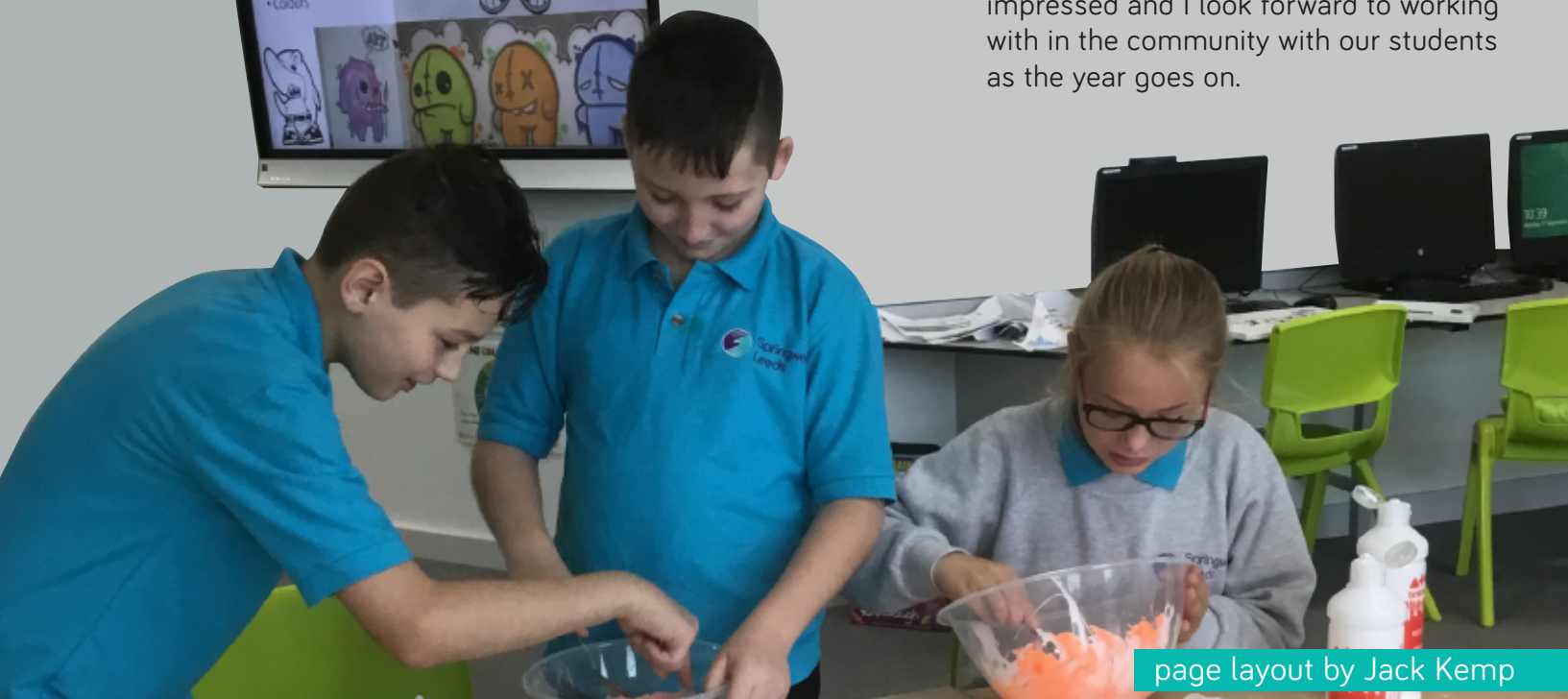
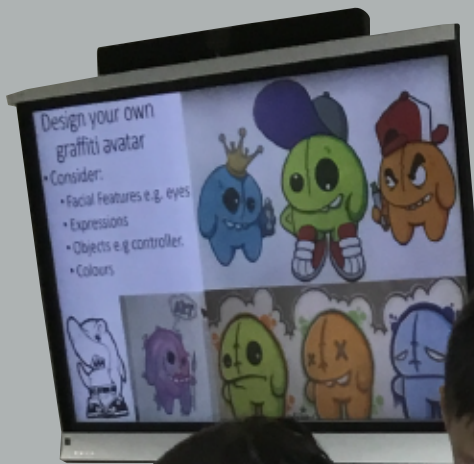
Leeds North Site



We have had an excellent start to the year at Springwell Leeds Academy North. We opened the doors of our new building to 65 students in September and have had a fantastic few weeks. The highlights of the year so far have been watching students enjoy our new facilities and build relationships with all the new staff who have joined our team.

I have been pleased with all the positive attitudes we have had from students as we started the term. This has given us a lot to celebrate over the past 4 weeks. Each week we have celebrated those students who have gone above and beyond in lessons, those who are producing 'WOW' work and those students working hard to attend school every day. I am proud to see that we have over a third of our students maintaining 100% attendance and over half of the school with 95% or above!

In addition to opening the doors to our students we had two successful community open events where over 50 community members and neighbours were welcomed into to learn more about our ethos at Springwell and to look around our school. All were very impressed and I look forward to working with in the community with our students as the year goes on.



page layout by Jack Kemp

Leeds East Site

English



Silence prevails across our East site between 12:30 and 12:45, since establishing our daily DEAR time (Drop Everything and Read). All staff have been encouraged to take part to model our expectations and help our children develop a love of reading. Students enjoy reading independently or as a class group and seem visibly calmer after their peaceful session. Currently, one of our year 10 classes is reading the classic novel 'Black Beauty', with the added advantage of having Miss Dardzinski, an experienced rider with her own horse to explain some of the equestrian terms. Miss Miller and Miss McCall have been enjoying 'Stone Cold' together re-enacting some of the scenes through resources created for the immersive zones. Miss Miller's class used the immersive zone to read with torches and sleeping bags to role-play the experience of homelessness, one of the central themes in the book. Mr Parkes' class have been 'extreme' reading in unusual places. One student reads in a tent, one on his den on top of a cupboard and one was seen wandering in the pod, but still with book in hand!

Digital Leaders

Our recently appointed Student Digital Leaders, Marco and Pristus, are keenly helping staff and students with digital solutions. So far this term, our Digital Leaders have set up classroom PCs, helped create content for the Immersive Rooms and attended a Digital Leader Meeting. Watch this space as our Digital Leaders will be recruiting more Leaders next half-term! We hope you are ready to jump on board!

Immersive Learning

A great big thank you to some of our students in Year 8, for content ideas for the Immersive Rooms. Our super students have researched images and sounds, and started to design immersive ideas Elements and English topics. In the Immersive Room, our students have engaged in Drama, read Stone Cold 'in character' and created freeze-frame 'homeless' scenes using a range of props. Well done everyone!



Leeds South Site



THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS STEM PROJECT



End of Year Summer Concert

Well Done to Michael and Kieran for completing their Grade 1 Rock & Pop Drums Exam!! They are now working towards Grade 2.

