



Dear Parents / Carers,

## Welcome to another edition of the Springwell Leeds Newsletter!

Welcome to another edition of the Springwell Leeds Academy Newsletter! I hope you will enjoy reading about what has been happening around our sites across Leeds this month.

I would like to thank all of you who completed our parent/carer survey on the recent review day, there were almost 100 responses – our most ever! Your views are very important to us and this survey will be discussed by our leadership teams and the Governors to look at ways in which we can improve what we do here at Springwell. In the meantime I will share some of the headline figures with you. The percentage of parents agreeing with the statements were:

- My child is well looked after at this school – 97.83%
- My child is taught well at this school – 92.37%
- This school responds well to any concerns I raise – 94.57%
- I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress – 92.39%
- Overall, I am happy with my child's education at this school – 91.30%

I am particularly pleased that compared to when we carried this survey out a year ago, we have managed to improve in the eyes of our parents and carers in all areas. Having said that, I want 100% of our parents, carers and families to be happy with the education and care we provide for our children and so, rest assured, we will continue to work to improve what we do.

Finally, testing and exam season is almost upon us and I know that this can be a time when our children can be anxious and worried. I would like to reassure you that our staff will be supporting and encouraging them all to do their very best. That is all we can ask of them. Exams and tests are important, of course, but at Springwell Leeds we do not measure the worth of a child by the exam results they achieve – they do not tell us anything about how special, important and individual each of our children are. These tests only measure a little part of what they know and can do but tell us nothing of their unique personalities and the joy they bring to your lives and to ours. However they do, we are proud of them all.

Kind regards,

*Scott Jacques*

Executive Principal

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# Primary Site

Here at the Primary Site, we are very excited to be kick-starting our new Neurokind Curriculum. Each of our classes have planned their projects with the following features;

- 🌀 A project-based on a high quality text and a big picture question
- 🌀 A WOW in – to hook children into learning
- 🌀 A trip or visitor into school every term
- 🌀 Real-life learning
- 🌀 A high-quality text focus
- 🌀 Parental involvement
- 🌀 A WOW out – a purposeful ending that gives children something to work for.

Our project questions are as follows;

Tyne: Can you blow this house down?

Foss: Do aliens exist?

Ness: Does science have to be done in a lab?

Trent: Is It Okay To Be Scared?

Mersey: How can we become unstoppable?

Wharfe: I Can't Do That! Can I?"

Our decorated doors



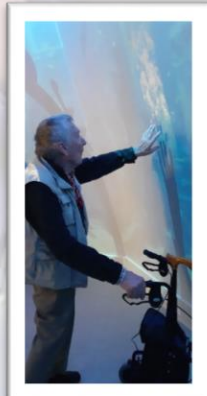
To help our children feel immersed in their new project our class teams have decorated their doors for their project theme. *Don't they look amazing?*



# North Site

## OPAL visit

On our parent review day we had the pleasure of inviting some of our local residents into Springwell Leeds North to look at our facilities and discuss our approaches with working with young people with social, emotional, and mental health needs. We had the men's group from the OPAL Welcome In centre visit. OPAL is a charity that supports older people in the LS16 community to lead happy, healthy, and informed independent lives. Our wonderful facilities and the level of support we provide for our young people impressed the men and prompted a lot of reminiscence from their own school days. They enjoyed meeting Josie, our school dog, trying out our immersive spaces and seeing our specialist equipment in our music and DT rooms. We hope to start more projects with OPAL in the future as they develop their community hub.



## MAIA visit Springwell North

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March Springwell North were treated to a visit from the Psychedelic Folk-Rock band 'Maia'. The band have been on the Leeds scene for a few years now and have gained increasing recognition having won awards locally and been invited to perform at a variety of festivals across the country.

Maia ran two workshops in school, working with students from Y6-Y9 as they re-wrote well known songs such as 'I need a dollar' before taking to the stage in the hall to perform a short set for students, staff and parents.

Before Maia began their set the audience were treated to a fantastic performance of 'Heart and Soul' by David McHugh on the drums supported by Mr Bell on Piano and Tom Askin, the school's peripatetic teacher, on Guitar.

Maia played some of their own songs as well as pop tunes. It was also great to see Blake, Lewis and Chelsie conducting the band for a couple of their tunes.

We all thoroughly enjoyed having Maia with us and hope to see them back at Springwell again in the future.



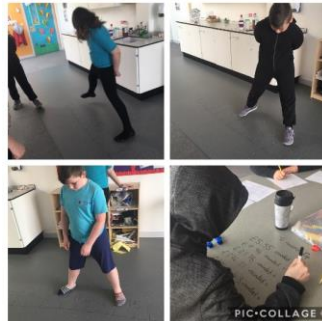
# East Site

## Maths All Stars

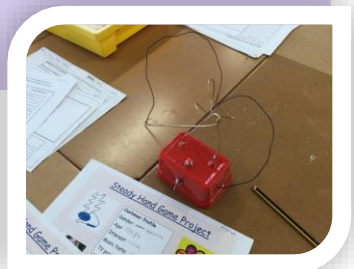
KS4 pupils continue to prepare for their upcoming exams, with a lot of hard work going in to revision sessions and practice papers. In particular, year 11 pupils Connor Lavington, Oliver Wood and Jaden Webster deserve a special mention as they have worked consistently well every single session! Keep it up!

As well as the GCSE exam, pupils will also be sitting Edexcel Level 1 in maths. This will also be taken by four of our year 9 maths stars; Shane Armitage, Reece Stewart, Hayden Robinson and Jolie Fisher. Good luck everyone!

At KS3 pupils have been learning about Rounding, Area & Volume. Miss McCall found a particularly inventive way to teach rounding!"



Year 7 & 8 pupils' Steady Hand Game Project – Pupils put the game together from a kit. They learnt how to use a soldering iron to solder the electronic parts onto the PCB board.



Year 6/7 have had an exciting return to learning after their Easter break. We have been making monsters in art and focusing on experimenting in the style of Tim Burton. During our cross curricular learning we found a crime scene and had to be Forensic Scientists. We have worked super hard to crack the case. Watch this space for some fantastic news articles about our investigation. The Year 6/7 teachers are feeling super proud of the hard work and the efforts demonstrated by their pupils.

Students at East have been enjoying their workshops with our Writer-in-Residence, Russ Litten. Russ is the published author of several books, and has been helping students to develop their creative writing skills, stamina and enjoyment. Using images, story cubes and newspaper headlines as prompts, students have written on a range of interesting themes including a balloon paradise, a furious boss and a rash that spread worldwide. Students are working hard to produce our very own Springwell Anthology featuring selected stories written in English and the work shops run by Russ. Look out later this year for this not-to-be-missed publication!



# South Site

## Our First Birthday

The Yorkshire Evening Post kindly published an article about our 1<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations at the Springwell Leeds South site.

There was party food and games with parents and carers also invited to come and join the fun!



Our Parent review day was a massive success! We also had a visit from West Yorkshire Police to give advice to any students and Parents. Many thanks to all who attended.

Orange 2 and Yellow 1 have been having a great time at Herd farm. Konneur from Yellow 1 said "its been amazing - I cant wait to go back"



This week Orange 3 have used their enterprising skills to open their own Massage and Beauty Salon. The children in Orange 3 built and opened Springwell Spa in the classroom and had many customers who payed for massages and beauty treatments. The class created a price list and various options for staff to choose from and by the end of the day had made serious profit! A whopping £14.50!! Everyone who came to the Spa left feeling pampered and relaxed! I'm sure they'll be a Springwell Spa opening near you very soon!

Local window glazing company, Kevin Kelly Windows Ltd, has sponsored our 3 sites with football shirts. On 10<sup>th</sup> May, the 3 sites will all come together at South to play 5 a side.

It's great that a local business, based in Seacroft, is supporting our schools and providing the pupils with an identity of which they can be proud of.

