



Springwell Leeds

December 2019 | Issue 11



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to another edition of the Springwell Leeds Newsletter!

Welcome to the December edition of the Springwell Leeds Academy newsletter. I hope that you enjoy reading about all the wonderful things that have been going on across our three sites this month and last.

November and December are always busy as they have some key dates and events that we take part in. November 11th was remembrance day which is an opportunity for our children and young people to find out about, commemorate and remember the sacrifices made by others in the many wars and conflicts that Britain has been involved in. This is always something that I know our children really understand and take seriously and their participation is always respectful.

Later in November came the celebration and fun of Children in Need day. This is always a fun time in school and I am proud of the way our staff and pupils embrace this opportunity to raise money for charity.

Giving to charity and fundraising is very much part of our British values and it is important that all our children have an opportunity to learn that everyone can do something to help somebody – no matter how small. You can see later in this newsletter some of the activities that were done across all our sites.

Later in the month came “Odd socks” day which was this year’s theme for National Anti-bullying Day. Again, children from across our sites were able to participate in activities and lessons around the theme of preventing bullying which, I am sure you agree, is an issue worth spending time on and is well and truly in line with our values at Springwell.

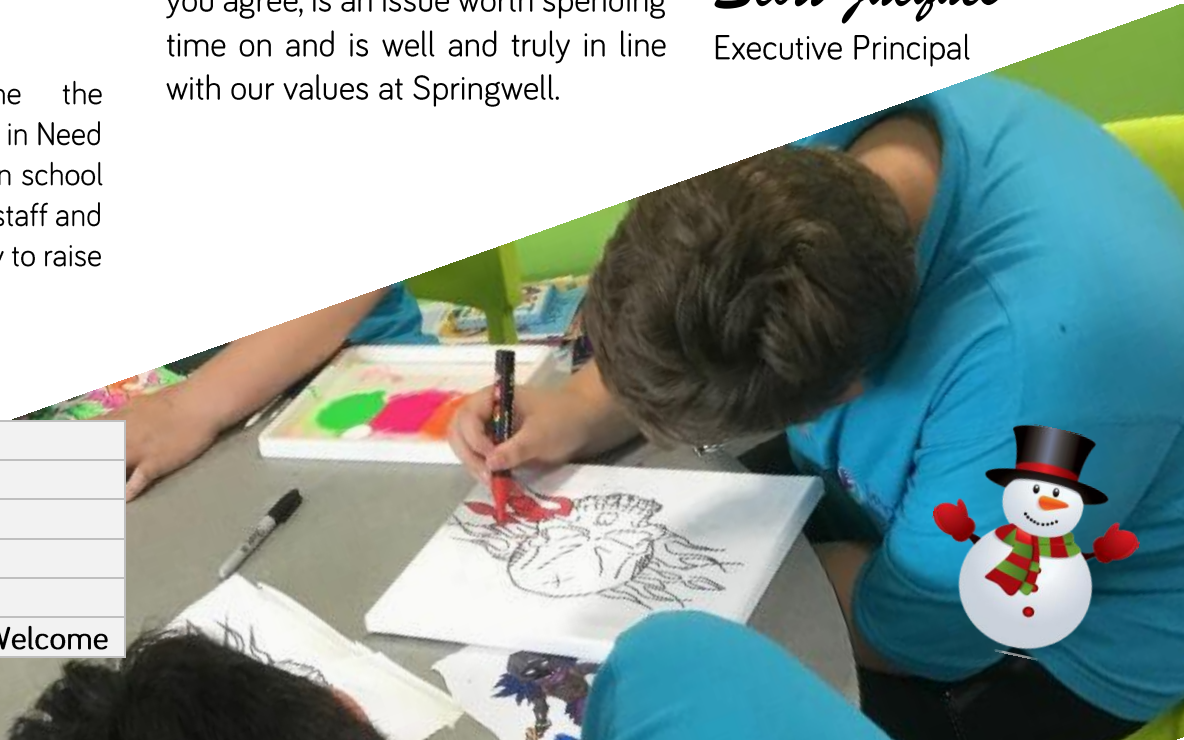
Things didn’t get quieter in December which is a busy and fun time in school with lots of events and activities in the run up to the festive season. Please help us by making sure that your child does not miss out on this or on the start of the new year by ensuring that they attend regularly – every day is a learning day at Springwell and every day counts !

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 2020 !

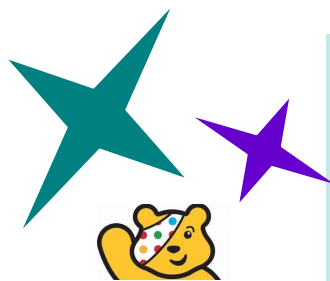
Scott Jacques

Executive Principal

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Primary



North site Primary Pod children have enjoyed celebrating and taking part in Children In Need Day activities. We held a non-school uniform day and researched where the money raised goes and who it helps. We felt very proud that we managed to raise the sum of £100 towards this great cause.

We also participated in Remembrance Day events and held a two minute silence during our whole Primary Pod assembly which for some of us was a great achievement! Our British Values display board shows some of the great learning we did to help us understand and educate us about what happened during the first and second world wars and how brave the soldiers were who gave their lives.

As well as all of the interesting lessons which we have on our timetable each week, many of our children are telling us that they really enjoy and look forward to their special time activities in school which include Play Therapy, Theraplay, MABLE Speech and Language, Clever Fingers and individual music sessions.

We are now looking forward to the next three weeks in our specially designed Narnia Pod and wonder where our imagination and creativity will lead us?



Here's some of our pictures from Children in Need!

This month South Primary classes took part in the 'into film' festival - a national film festival for children and young people. A wonderful time was had by all - popcorn included!

In sporting news we have been lucky to have Mr Jacques beloved Leeds United coaching football every Wednesday - these new and improved football skills no doubt played a part in our recent win against a team from another school. We are also in talks with Leeds Rhinos and Chance to Shine Cricket as well as local Dance companies all as part of our commitment to offer an exciting, engaging and varied curriculum.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting Children in Need - we had a brilliant time raising money for those less fortunate.

On Monday 16th December we are holding our first 'Cafes for All' parents coffee morning. Our Parent Support Advisor Bev Newman and Primary Leader Deborah Richardson will be welcoming you for drink, mince pie and a catch to hear your views on all things Primary and how we can involve our parents more in the day today life of the school. Please do come along and if you require transport please contact Bev Newman.

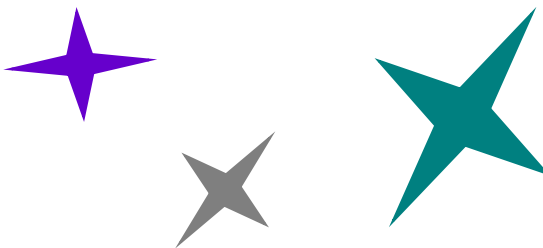
To keep up to date with all things Primary on Twitter please follow us by searching Springwell Leeds South Primary @Springwell_4.



At East, Clyde class have been preparing for the Christmas performance and have also enjoyed stroking Miss Smith's dog, Doty.



North Site



As we know, Teamtime is an important session within our curriculum, giving pupils opportunity to focus on SEMH development each day and a fantastic time for staff to continue building positive relationships with pupils. This is also a great opportunity for interaction with pupils and staff outside of their own class/ year group.

The effort that our staff members go to, to help give our pupils positive experiences at the end of each day, is outstanding. Over the last term we have seen some fantastic Team Time groups engaging our pupils and showing great examples of working together with both pupils and staff taking part in various clubs including; Taskmaster, Film Club, Football, Sign Language, DJ Sessions and KS4 mentoring our younger pupils in snake care.

We have also been very fortunate to have visitors come and take part in these sessions. With some music funding, Victoria Jaquiss visited school and ran a series of Steel drumming activities. Students had the opportunity to play steel pans, glockenspiels, drums or keyboard and worked together to play as a group and with the intention of filming a short performance for Christmas.

Taskmaster has also been a great success this term for building positive relationships between staff and pupils alongside building resilience and creativity and it was great to see the pupils challenging themselves and having fun battling against each other with a series of amazing tasks that we look forward to watching in the Christmas video.

Finally, as part of our Christmas celebrations, we are looking forward to watching the remake of 'Do they know it's Christmas' created in Film Club alongside a completion of the Taskmaster Challenges!! Here are some more pictures and pupil feedback to celebrate the success of our pupils this term.

"Make the most dramatic entrance"



'Draw your self portrait whilst wearing a blindfold'



Students have really enjoyed competing against staff and have demonstrated impressive levels of creativity and resilience to try and win as many points as possible. Each team took part in 12 tasks during the term and the winner will be decided by the Taskmaster during a special show in school. We hope it will run again after Christmas so more students can take part in a variety of equally silly tasks.

East Site



Our book launch

Congratulations to all of yellow 1 class for their superb maths work this year so far. All pupils have been engaged and are really working hard towards GCSE, Level 1 and Entry Level maths qualifications. Some of their work on Fractions, Percentages and Money conversions has been exceptional. Keep up the good work!

Students and staff all took part in the Anti-Bullying week 2019 where we have taken part in discussions across the school to challenge our thoughts and perceptions of what kindness is. We have developed a charter of kindness in KS4 and we are now looking at the Student Council to develop a peer mentoring support group to help us to all feel safe and supported at Springwell.

Students have developed an anti-bullying poster campaign to display all over school. This will help us to continue to develop our community into a thriving, kind and welcoming community that supports each other in being brilliantly different.

Staff and Students all wore silly socks to highlight that we are all different.

Follow our story on twitter and support us by liking our posts.

Springwell Leeds East site were thrilled to host a very special book launch on November 8th. Parents and carers were invited to witness their children being presented with a certificate of achievement and a copy of a published school anthology containing their work.

Each story was written independently during English lessons, or in one of the workshops run by author Russ Litten and coordinated through the First Story charity.

Students worked tirelessly to create a huge backdrop depicting the 'Many Roads to a Happy Ending', which is the title of the anthology but also symbolises the journey many of our students have travelled in life prior to the fantastic 'ending' of success in school through their published writing. The backdrop illustrated the 20 'roads' of our students' lives and some of the obstacles they have overcome.

Children in Need 2019

Staff and students came together to support this year's Children in Need Campaign. Pyjamas or non uniform were worn to raise money along with a host of competitions and fundraising activities which were all organised by our wonderful students.



South Site



How amazing is this masterpiece created by our Art GCSE student, Priya Williams!



This term at South, our yellow pod students have really taken to cooking! So far we have had chicken curry, stuffed potatoes and bacon and chicken cheesy wraps. Mrs Reader is always on hand to taste test, and is wondering what her next Friday feed will be!

As we prepare for Christmas, our cooking sessions will take a more festive turn, as we learn how to make the all time classic - the perfect pigs in blankets!

Here at South in Green 3, we have been celebrating National Kindness Day by creating our own surprise kindness cards.

Friday cooking!



Today at South, Green & Blue students teamed up to play against Park Primary School from Bradford. Both teams demonstrated amazing team spirit and sportsmanship throughout the game! The game had many thrills including three penalties, one of which was saved in a spectacular dive! The final score was 10-8 to Springwell FC but it was clear that everyone had a great time and enjoyed the game!



This term, we have had training on creating Autism-friendly resources and classrooms. We have worked on creating zoned areas to support our learners, dividing classrooms into eating, socialising and learning areas. Alongside this, we are creating quiet spaces lit with dim lighting, to support the sensory needs of our students. Staff have worked with students to create personalised timetables and visual timetables, to support their transitions through the day. We are really proud of how our rooms are shaping up, and from the pictures of Miss Wightman and Mrs Daniels' classrooms, I am sure you'll agree, we are creating some brilliant safe spaces for our young people.



Last month we raised over £40 for Children in Need which saw staff and students come to school in their pyjamas, onsies or in yellow!



Welcome our new Parent Governor



Hi, I'm **Jim Whurr** and I've recently become a Parent Governor here at Springwell Leeds.

Why did I become a governor? Well, the simple truth is that our children just don't fit the mould that the education system is built to work around. And, as a result, they are now running out of options for a successful education and that means that their chances of getting on in the world are diminishing. So, I want to try and make sure that the school provides the best possible environment and help to ensure a positive outcome is achieved. Being a governor allows me to understand what's going on with the school and to influence the direction the management team are taking.

As a governor I've also picked up the task of looking for ways to improve parent and community links with the school, so you'll be hearing more from me in the future. In the meantime, if you have any issues with school policy or any ideas of how we, the parents/carers, can work with the school for the betterment of our children's education, please contact me.



Springwell have recently began working alongside **Scope charity** who are offering a free '**Sleep Right Programme**' to promote support around healthy sleeping routines. Visit our website to find out more!

Sleep Right

Supporting families of children with additional needs to improve their child's sleep

Does your child struggle to sleep?

Sleep Right is a free tailored service that supports families with children aged two to 18 to improve their sleep.

"It's just one of those things that's so invaluable. We were at our wits' end."
Peter,
Elara's dad



Over six weeks, you'll get:

- support from an experienced sleep practitioner
- a sleep plan to help your child improve their sleep routine
- relaxed group sessions with other parents and carers

"Each family's experience is unique, so the support we offer them is bespoke. Whatever your situation and background, we're there to support you."
Bunor, Sleep Right



The sessions are run in person at local venues. We can provide adjustments if you need them, such as British Sign Language interpreters, large print materials or hearing loops.

It's free to join and you can apply online. Find out more:

 scope.org.uk/sleep-right

 0808 800 3333

SCOPE = Equality for disabled people

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Celebrating Christmas at Springwell



From all at Springwell Leeds Academy, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Take a look at our amazing Christmas class doors!