



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the decade's first edition of the Springwell Leeds Newsletter!

January has been a typically busy month and I hope that you enjoy reading about everything that your children have been doing since Christmas.

This month, Springwell Leeds Academy had the first part of its annual review, carried out by a team from the Wellspring Academy Trust. This team was led by David Whitaker – who is the Trust's Director of Learning and was made up from a number of Headteachers and Principals who work in schools similar to ours throughout the Trust. Although this is not an OfSTED style inspection (we have those every three years) it was a chance for us to get an outside view of how well the school is doing from experts and identify what we are doing well and what we need to do next. The feedback we received was very positive and pleasing. Many of the team have visited the school and carried out these reviews over the last three years and it was their unanimous view that Springwell Leeds had continued to improve since their last visit.

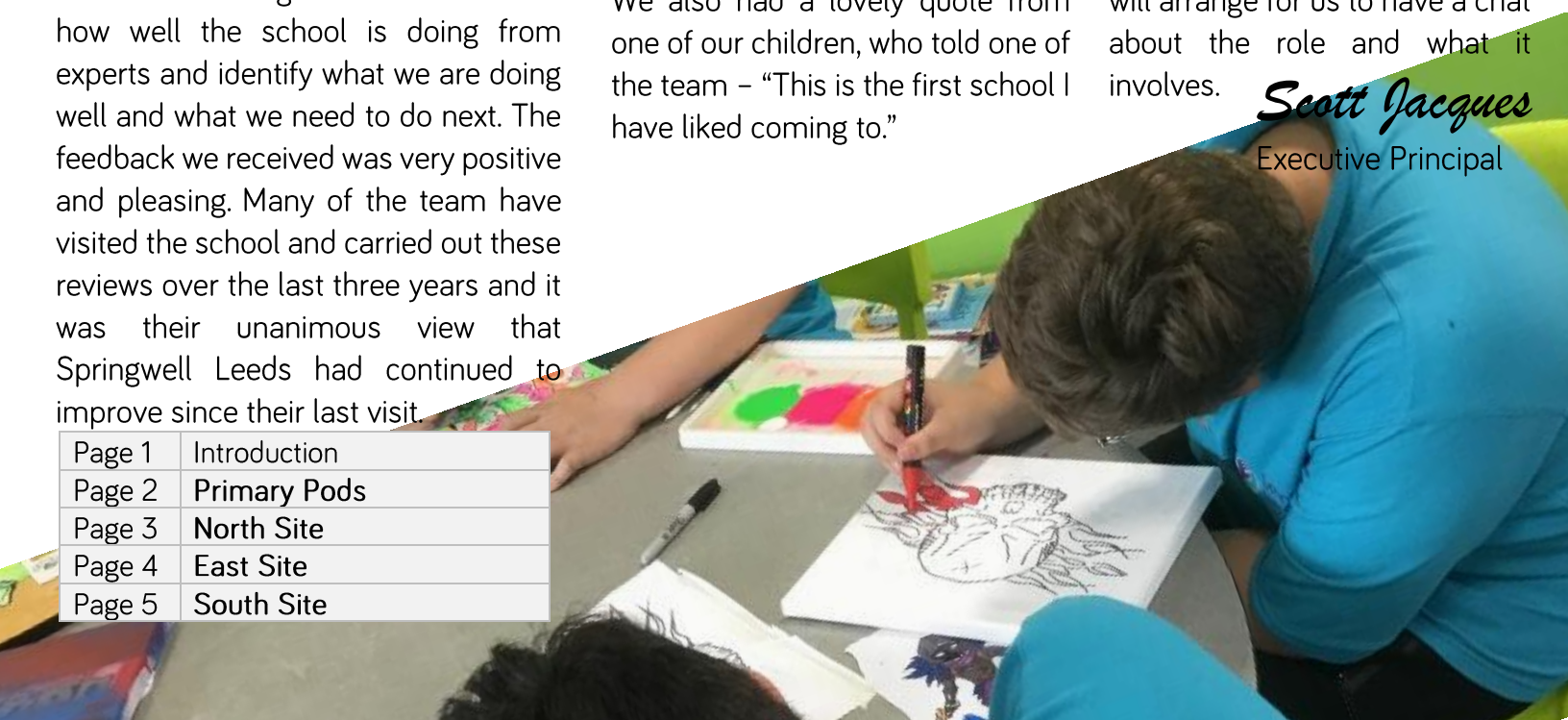
The team commented on how calm and purposeful the sites were and it was clear that the staff new the children very well and were able to support them according their individual needs. The team commented on the fact that specialised practice is evident in classrooms and in interventions with pupils and that there is a real sense of teamwork, collaboration and mutual support. They went on to say that we have very good SEND systems and practices are in place and praised the work that has gone into supporting children who have transitioned from the Primary site. We also had a lovely quote from one of our children, who told one of the team – “This is the first school I have liked coming to.”

I would like to remind all parents and carers that Friday 7th February is a training day for staff and all sites are closed to pupils. This is a Trust wide training day, meaning staff from all over the region will be taking part in a range of training and develop events hosted by our schools. Springwell will be open again as normal on Monday 10th February.

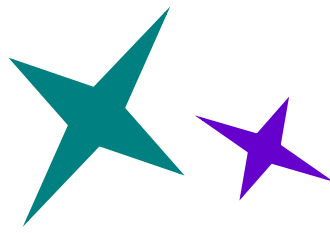
Finally, we have a vacancy for a parent governor – if you are interested in this important role, please contact Lauren Harper on 0113 4870555 (option 4). She will arrange for us to have a chat about the role and what it involves.

Scott Jacques
Executive Principal

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Primary



A busy start to the new year here at South Primary Pod. We welcomed new children, families and staff including our new Art specialist. Miss Laurie is working on Animation this term across the classes using modelling clay.

We also had a fabulous visit from a local author Jason Beresford and we also now have weekly visits from Ely the Reading dog. We have invested in our learning environment with new sensory circuits, wall art and classroom resources which we proudly displayed at Parent Review Day.

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend our Parent's Café - we will aim to hold these regularly throughout the year - all welcome!

Finally, we would like to wish Mrs Usman a safe and happy maternity leave. We also want to thank her for providing such great care and continuity as we transitioned to our new building.

The children have really enjoyed 1:1 therapeutic interventions with Miss Smith this week. This intervention is called "In Touch With Nurture" and involves Indian head massage, hand, foot and facial massages. Children have spoken about how they love coming into the pamper room as they feel calm and relaxed enough to fall asleep.



Foss class at North crated their own red telephone boxes as part of their current topic on London. How great do they look?!



Primary East have had a super exciting time launching our WW2 elements topic and learning about key events that happened. They have built some fantastic Anderson shelters and have enjoyed hiding away. The children have worked super hard and have shown great enthusiasm for this topic.



Lovely morning spent with our parents and children reading at our cafes for all



North Site

Springwell Leeds North site have their first postcards ready to send to the lovely residents of Adel Grange Care Home. We are looking forward to seeing what comes back to us!



Cooking is an extremely popular activity at North. Students particularly enjoy sessions with Mr Meadows and some of the delicious food they make with him!

Team Time has developed even more clubs and activities at North this term. There is now a snake club, messy play, rugby club, stop animation as well as another round of Task Master. This mix of activities means there is something for all of the students to enjoy at the end of the day, as well as an opportunity to develop social skills and team work.



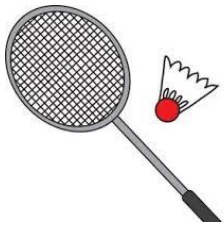
East Site



Ready to start our WWII topic



Prior to Christmas we have continued our link with Leeds Beckett University students who have delivered boxing and basketball sessions to our children. This month our pupils will enjoy short tennis, volleyball and badminton sessions.



Well done to our maths stars; Harvey, Ronan Rowley, Natneal and Kieran. A big well done as well to our pupils who completed AQA Entry Level Certificate in Maths in January; Freddie and Kenzie. It is fantastic to see you all aim for early qualifications in maths. Well done!

Green 2 have continued to visit Level Up Academy in order to practice and develop their skills in free running and parkour. Each visit the pupils are challenged to run, leap and jump between fixed pipework, moveable blocks and traditional gym equipment. They have learned about safe landings, thankfully, and how to rebound using their own momentum in order to continue movements across the equipment. To build confidence all pupils have had access to trampolines and the 'sprung' runway, both of which lead into a sponge pit landing zone.

They have all grown in confidence and levels of performance improve weekly - who knows if the sport eventually gains Olympic status, we may have seen the first gold medallists from Springwell Academy.

We are delighted to announce that our library revamp is now complete! Students chose a space theme to illustrate that 'Reading Takes You Places' and this is certainly true of East's avid readers, who have been really enjoying their daily timetabled slots.

Today, our readers joined our Writer-in-Residence, Russ Litten in the library for our third year's set of writing workshops. Especially exciting was the addition of a Primary age group of writers who will feature in this year's published anthology in the summer. Today's writing ranged from, 'The Mystery of the Missing Boy' (Chapter 1) which will be developed over the next six weeks, 'Thoughts of a Rabbit' (very intriguing...) and 'Caustic - The Mad Scientist!'



Springwell East held a coffee morning for parents and carers to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. We raised a fantastic grand total of £282.47 through baking, a raffle and tombola, craft making and coffee related games. We had a great turnout and plenty of fun for a great cause!



South Site

There has been some exceptional work taking place in the DT workshop this term! Mr Khaliq is brimming with pride at the vast array of creations taking shape at South.

Well done boys! It is great to see such inspired, professional work leaving the workshop. Here are a few examples of their hard work!

Dog Kennel designed and made by Brayden. Brayden used plywood for the kennel, and roofing felt for the roof. As for the finish he applied 3 coats of varnish which made it weather tight, resulting in a practical product with a real sense of purpose.



Wooden Toy Truck - designed and made by Brooklyn using pine wood to create a wooden toy. Brooklyn was able to use various DT tools to create and finish a product to a high standard. He used beeswax for the finish which made the wooden toy stand out.



Artefact - T-Rex Tooth - made by Lewis. His fascination with dinosaurs got him creating a plaque based on Jurassic world. Engraving was done on a laser cutter using 2D design software, and pain applied to finish the product.



Everybody's Reading!

At South, we are focussing on reading this term...our first step is to get everyone reading more - more varied texts, more often, more confidently!

Green 3 students have been reading everyday in nurture breakfast. Orange 4 have enjoyed being read aloud to in their GCSE English lessons and have now started to engage with it more, thanks to Miss Whelan bringing the book to life. Orange 3 have been reading newspapers and magazines, and are starting to discover texts they are finding interesting. Social Capital learners are enjoying being read to by Mr Macdonald as part of their lessons.

Reading is vital to student progress and wellbeing. Not only do students who read widely have a better vocabulary, and therefore find it easier to express themselves both in speech and in writing, reading is also proven to improve mental health and lower stress. Whatever age your child is, there is plenty parents and carers can do to promote reading:

- discuss picture books and look for clues - ask questions about what they think will happen next
- use audio books to promote a love of stories
- read to your child, and point to words as you read, this makes reading easier and less confusing
- ask your child about their day at school and what they have read - one of the biggest things you can do is to seem interested in their reading habits
- visit a library, or ask Miss Whelan or Mrs Reader to borrow some books from the school library
- for more advice on reading, contact Miss Whelan, English Lead.