



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Springwell Leeds Newsletter!

I hope that you will enjoy reading about all the exciting things that have been happening this month on our three sites across Leeds.

We were welcomed back after the half term break with our first real taste of winter weather for a while, unfortunately this arrived at around the worst possible time for us – the morning rush hour. When we get snow, our first consideration is always the safety of our children and staff and ensuring that their journey to school can be made safely in the weather conditions.

We always speak directly with the companies that provide the children's transport to take their view, our Estates team on the sites and look at any weather warnings that are in place before deciding what to do.

The decision we make will be to open as normal, close one or more site or delay the start. We try and make that decision as early as possible, usually by half past 7. This should give us time to get the message out to you. We do this by:

- Posting on our website www.springwellacademyleeds.org
- Sending a text message to parents
- Sending a tweet on Twitter (@Springwell_Lds)
- Posting on the Leeds City Council Website (<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-closures>)
- Announcements on BBC Radio Leeds

Hopefully, using all these approaches gets the information you need, to you as fast as possible. It is important though that if you change your mobile number that you let us have the new one as soon as possible so you don't miss out on those important text messages.

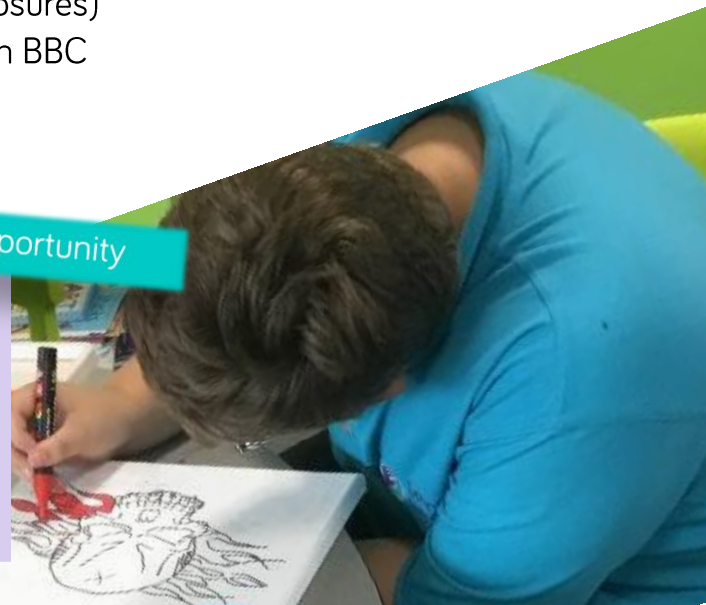
Scott Jacques

Executive Principal

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Parent Governor opportunity

We are seeking another parent to join our board of Governors along with Jim Whurr. There is a commitment of attending 6 meetings a year which are held at each of our sites in turn from 4:30 – 6:00pm. If you are interested in this important role, please contact Lauren Harper on 0113 4870555 (option 4) or email us at office@springwellacademyleeds.org



Primary



Here at our South site, we were lucky enough to take some of our pupils to the Valentine Fair in Leeds. It was a wonderful afternoon. The dodgems were clearly the biggest hit with our pupils along with the fun house and the ghost train!

Our topic this half term is Ancient Egypt - we hope to visit a real mummy at Leeds City Museum. We will be learning about the pharaohs and rulers, life along the River Nile and the discovery of Tutankhamen - the boy king - discovered by Howard Carter!

This month as part of the Wellspring festival of Learning staff attended a fantastic outdoor learning workshop. We are developing our outdoor environment and we know that outdoor learning has many positive benefits for children and will be an important part of our curriculum development.



Pancake Day

North site Orange pod enjoyed learning about the true meaning of Shrove Tuesday.

The pancakes made to celebrate this day were delicious and totally flippable with a number of different toppings drizzled over them!.

How amazing do our valentines cards look?



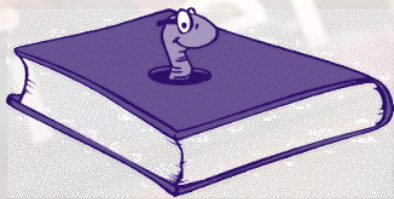
As part of Elements Curriculum, we believe that every subject is important. We organise themed days to raise the profile of every subject across the whole school. To start the topic in January we organised an exciting WW2 day for children. Children arrived with face paint on and army helmets while teachers dressed up as nurses, evacuees and even Sargent majors! Children had the opportunity to taste WW2 food and listen to old fashion music. It was a great day enjoyed by all.



North Site

The Big Leeds Book Swap

North site students and staff are all looking forward to participating in the Big Leeds Book Swap which will be taking place on World Book day on 5th March. Details on how to take part are detailed below – it's super easy!



We have started to offer a 'GCSE Music skills' session during team time for a small group of students that have shown interest in what the qualification entails. We started with notation. All 4 students engaged positively and successfully completed the first activity independently. All students were all working really hard! Well done to Alfie Morris, Jack Kemp, David McHugh and Rylie Doyle all making such a good start.

We had a visit from the Odd Arts Drama group, who specialise in delivering theatre-based programmes that challenge and change attitudes and behaviours. They work with participants to devise theatre, from their own experiences as well as touring professional interactive theatre performances on challenging topics. In KS3 they did a performance session on isolation and radicalisation. This gave our students the opportunity to explore some important sociality issues and discuss the importance of tolerance and diversity.



Our amazing 3D wall mural using an off cut of timber and recycled plastic bottle tops.
We care about the environment!

KS4 Work Experience

7 of our students are currently engaged in the YES project work experience scheme. Our most recent feedback from employers has been brilliant.

"The manager says Jack is working hard, using his initiative and acting like a mature, responsible member of staff"

"I visited Kian last week and he's still doing great at his garage, he's a proper member of the team who knows his role and gets on with the jobs in hand"

"I saw Mason yesterday at a new building yard that his employer has recently bought. He did brilliantly on his health and safety course on Monday apparently - was stood up at the front of the class explaining answers etc. One of his bosses Nick said there's no way he would have had the confidence to do that a few months ago, so it's a major improvement.

The main boss Andy said that it's pretty amazing what Mason is doing - works so hard, uses his initiative, gets on well with a bunch of grown men on a building site - he said he's genuinely the best worker they've got on site in terms of attitude."

East Site

Year 8 Automata Toy Project

Year 8 pupils have been looking at different types of automata toys. They created their own ideas and then made their toy based on their designs. We talked about cams and mechanisms, what they are and how they work.

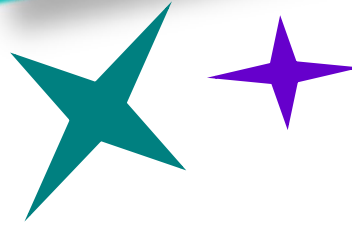


NSPCC Number Day

Staff and pupils raised money for the NSPCC on national number day 2020, designing their own number based outfits to win prizes, and participating in numeracy activities in the sports hall. It was fantastic to see pupils working together in more practical numeracy activities, with all groups really getting involved. Everyone put lots of time into planning outfits, decorating rooms as well as the activities on the day. As well as raising funds for a worthwhile charity, pupils and staff had a fun end to the half term.



Our personalised football kit



A huge 'well done' to Bailey who entered a competition with Vision for Education to design a Football Kit. Despite fierce competition from many other schools in Leeds Bailey won and as a prize Springwell East now has its very own personalised Football Kit.

Yellow 2 are currently undertaking a project on the theme of "mountains", learning about the formation and geography of mountain ranges around the world, the history of exploration as well as some of the science and maths involved with scaling various summits. The pupils began the project by climbing Otley Chevin and are looking forward to climbing one of Yorkshire's three peaks (Pen-y-Ghent) at the end of this term. As well as this, pupils are busy planning a presentation to parents / carers showing them all their hard work and achievements.



South Site



We have a new weekly addition to Springwell Leeds South... Eli the Therapy Dog! Our children have been enjoying planned 1-2-1 interventions with Eli, our new furry friend. In particular, Eli has been working as a reading dog, sitting with children in our library while they read or are read to by an adult. Dogs are proven to have a positive effect on both reading skills and children's emotional development, so Eli is proving to be a real asset to the team at South!

Green 3 are becoming epic movie makers! Their latest creation was a war epic, bringing to life their Elements topic. The film was a culmination of the term's work, which the boys thoroughly enjoyed, encompassing everything from immersive space Blitz experiences to papier mache ammunition making. As always, the class had their staff on board to really showcase their learning, and the whole school had the opportunity to watch the film in a recent assembly.



We recently held a SATS information session for Year 6 parents to outline the upcoming national tests. At Springwell Leeds, it is important to us that our children are offered a wide and suitable range of opportunities, and each year, some of our student sit their SATS papers. Our parents were really keen to hear about the SATS and consider if this was the right choice for their child. Mrs Richardson gave them an expert run through explaining what to expect from access arrangements and sharing example papers, to the snacks and tasty treats on offer on the big day! If anyone missed the session and wants to know more. please contact Mrs Richardson at school



Green 3 made their own replica WW2 gas masks





Attendance Matters

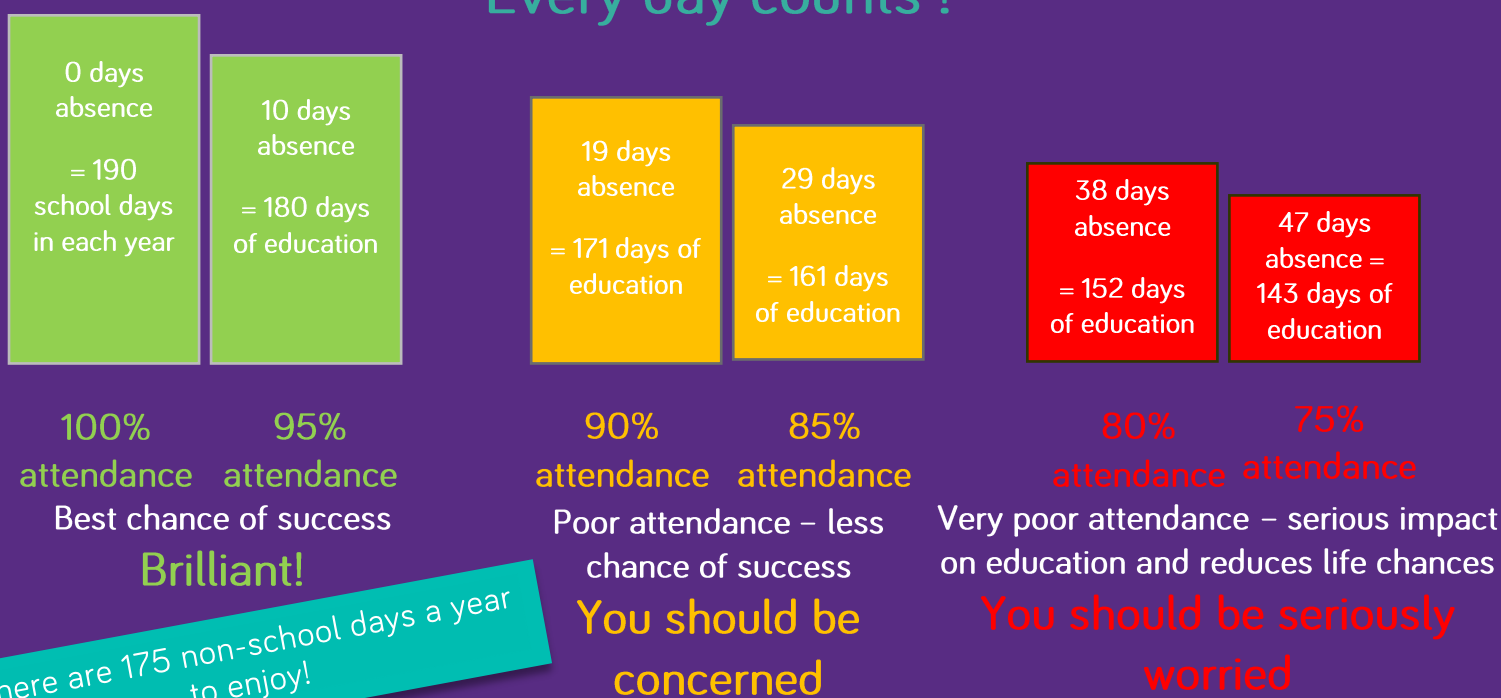
At Springwell Leeds Academy, we believe that every single school day matters and so it is vital that we do everything we can to make sure all our children attend school every day.

Every time your child is absent from school, they miss learning, friendships and routines. This can reduce their chances of achieving useful qualifications or getting a place in college, in work or an apprenticeship.

Research shows that if your child is absent for just 17 days a year they are far less likely to be able to read or write well when they leave school.

If you child's annual attendance is 85%, they have missed 29 days schooling that year, which is approximately half a term.

Every day counts !



Getting your child into a good routine now will help them later.

Be prepared – Make sure their uniform is ready.

Tiredness – Make sure your child goes to bed at a sensible time.

Set and alarm – Be up and out of bed on time.

Food – Eat a good breakfast.

Time – Talk to your child about what they have been doing at school.

Illness – Avoid illnesses by teaching your child to use a tissue and wash their hands.

