

November 2020



## Welcome to this month's edition of the Springwell Leeds Newsletter!

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to this edition of the Springwell Leeds Academy Newsletter. I hope that you will enjoy reading about all the wonderful things that have been happening around our sites so far this year.

I would like to start by thanking all of you for your continued support and understanding during this very unusual time. The COVID-19 pandemic has sadly continued to cause illness and disruption to normal school life this term. You will understand I am sure that we are having to manage daily, short notice changes in the availability of staffing which means at times we have had to take the difficult decision to close classes or limit the amount of time children can be in school. This is always done as a last resort but is done with the health and safety of all our children and staff as a priority. We will always try and provide you with as much notice as possible when closures are made and will try to communicate clearly with you about how long such short term changes may last.

Despite all the disruption and the lockdown at the end of last year, I have been delighted with the way in which we have begun 2020-21.

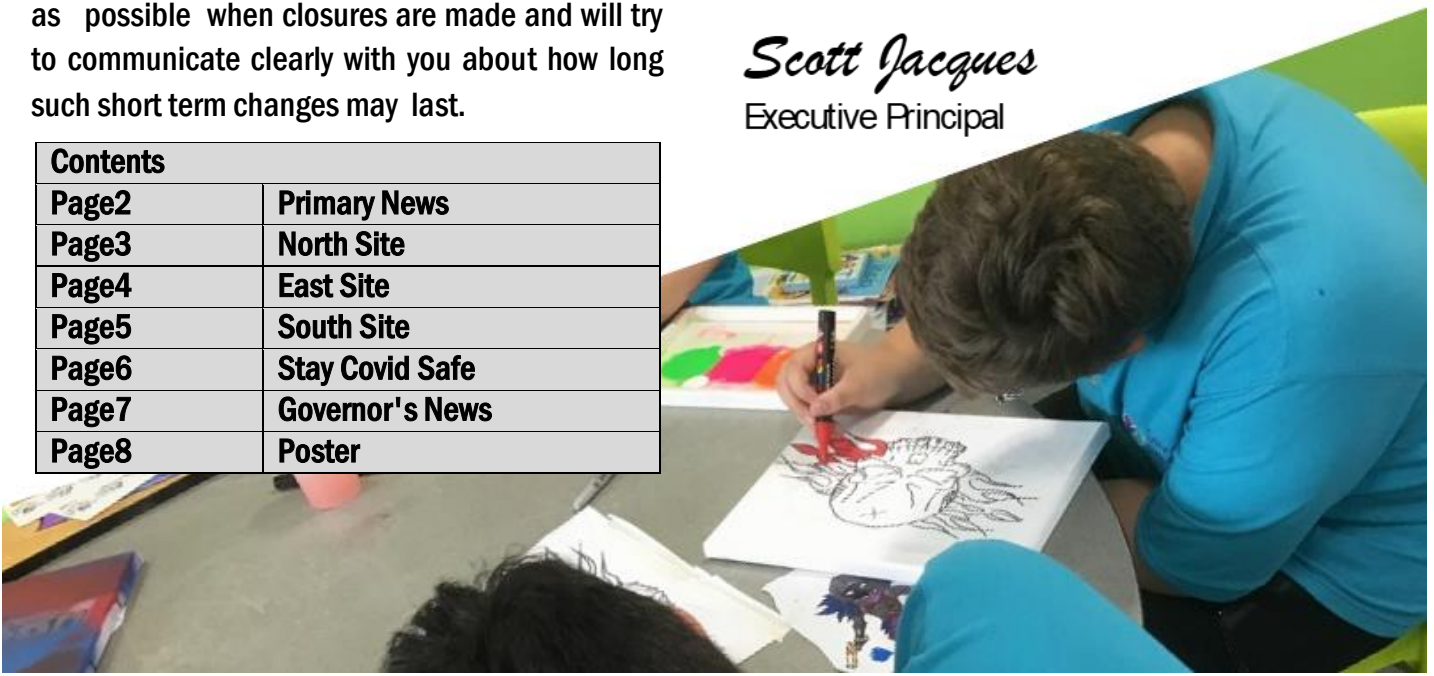
On the whole, our children have settled back into to school really well and there is some fabulous learning going on around all three sites.

It has also been encouraging to see that attendance at Springwell Leeds is continuing to improve despite the current challenges. When the absences we have had for COVID-19 reasons are taken into account, our attendance is up about 5% up on last year, which is great! Please keep encouraging your child to come every day. It is more important than ever, after the time that has been lost last year. Every day counts and every day makes a difference !

Take care, stay safe.

*Scott Jacques*  
Executive Principal

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# Primary News

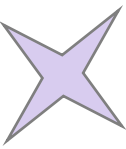
News from our Primary classes across the sites ....

In Blue 1 at South, we have enjoyed making lava lamps. We have also been looking forward to our reading time in class. In maths we have been concentrating on place value.

Creating lava lamps !

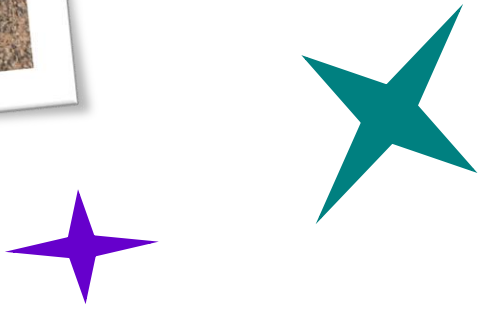


We love a relaxing read !



In Blue 4 at the South site we have been planting flowers in our zen garden area. We have also been designing and building robots made out of recycled materials in preparation for world recycling week next week.

In Blue 3 we have been baking friendship cakes to share with each other in class. We have also been sharing Lego and other construction resources to build castles and towers together.





# North Site

## WOW work and Exams

We have been exceptionally proud of how well our students have settled back into learning after a long period of time away from school. We have had an overwhelming amount of excellent learning going on across the school. It has been very difficult to choose our WOW work winners each week as we are inundated with submissions from proud teachers showcasing their students!

Last half-term a number of our year 9, 10 and 11 students have participated in exams for English and Maths. 21 students have sat Reading papers in English, ranging from Entry Level 2 up to Level 2 Functional Skills and one student in year 11 sat his higher Maths GCSE after achieving a grade 5 on GCSE in year 10. This is a fantastic achievement for all of the students involved and they will progress throughout this year to sit their Writing and Speaking and Listening papers.



This half term we have made the most of the outdoors and have explored different ways to both do our learning outdoors as well as learn about outdoor activities. We welcomed an outdoor education specialist from our new school in North Yorkshire, Springwell Harrogate and he has helped students to learn how to take part in campfire lessons and bouldering. We are lucky to have great resources in our locality as well as using our own outdoor spaces students have visited Otley Chevin, Hunger Hills Woods, Golden Acre park, and Brimham Rocks last half-term. Look at some of our adventures and the work we did on National Outdoor Learning Day that took place on November 5<sup>th</sup>.



This half term in DT, pupils they are reusing old pallets to make wooden Christmas trees and making reindeers out of logs. They will be using: measuring and marking equipment, saws to cut through materials, the disc sander to smooth surfaces and the drill to prepare fixings. They will need to accurately measure and mark out their materials before cutting and fixing them.



# East Site

Pupil Anthologies published!



**Budding authors have had their work published in the latest Springwell anthology: New Horizons. Well done!**



**Children in Need:**

Pupils raised money for charity and had a lot of fun in the process for Children in Need 2020, which took place on Friday 13th November. Well done to all those who took part and helped raise money for those in need!



**Democracy Topic Launched:**

'Democracy' is our new Elements Theme. Pupils have been learning about election processes which are particularly relevant at the moment!



**Anti Bullying Week:**

Monday 16th November sees the start of Anti-Bullying week at East, with lots of activities and sessions being planned around the theme. Staff and pupils will be creating posters, baking celebratory cakes as well as wearing odd socks to raise awareness of this important subject!





# South Site



## Food Technology in the Home

This month, we have been lucky enough to receive a significant donation of food items from our local Morrisons. Bags brimming with pasta, tinned goods and the odd treat arrived this week, and Miss Teale and her Yellow pod superstars set to work. We have parcelled up packages for some families to try out some healthy recipes at home. Specially created recipe cards for tuna pasta bake and cheesy jacket potatoes accompanied the parcels, meaning the students receiving the packs were all set to create a healthy, filling meal for the whole family – talk about home learning with a twist! Thank you to Morrisons for supporting our food technology venture this term.



Chewie welcomes everyone to school on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday with a smile.

**Animal Assisted Therapies** You will be aware that we have two new members of our school family on site this year: Chewie and Bruce, our new school puppies. Scientific research shows that having access to an animal can have huge benefits on a person's physical and mental health and we are already seeing this in the work the dogs are doing with our pupils. Studies conducted by UCLA found that:

For mental health:

The simple act of petting animals releases an automatic relaxation response.

- Humans interacting with animals have found that petting the animal promoted the release of serotonin, prolactin and oxytocin – all hormones that can play a part in elevating moods
- Lowers anxiety and helps people relax
- Provides comfort
- Increases mental stimulation

For physical health:

- There are many benefits, including lowering blood pressure and helping slow down breathing rate





For children with autism:

- Many feel a deep bond with animals, and some feel they can relate better to them than humans
- Children with autism engage in significantly greater use of language and social interaction when an animal assists a therapy session



# Stay COVID-19 Safe

Working together to keep each other safe

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
<p>...my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>Child should get a test</li> <li>Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	<p>...when child's test comes back <b>negative</b> provided they have been fever free for the 48 hours before returning to school, and feel well</p>
<p>...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms)</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test results</li> <li>Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	<p>...after 10 days, once child feels better, and has been fever-free for at least 48 hours They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell / taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.</p>
<p>...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>Household member with symptoms should get a test</li> <li>Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	<p>...when household member test is negative, and child does not have COVID-19 symptoms*</p>
<p>...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	<p>...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days</p>

At Springwell Leeds we take the health and safety of all members of our school community very seriously.

It is important that we all do our part and work together to keep each other safe during the current pandemic.





The NHS have produced this guidance (left and below) to help us all decide what to do if different situations arise at home.

Please read it carefully and follow the guidance that will keep us all safe and well.

We have taken and will continue to take action on all our sites to keep everyone in our school community as safe as possible.

These steps include:

- Encouraging good hand hygiene
  - Regular hand washing
  - Hand sanitizing
- Practising social distancing
- Limiting the mixing of pupils and staff
- Additional cleaning
- Disinfecting the buildings with "fogging"
- Limiting visitors

What to do if...	Action needed	Back to school...
<p>...NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of a confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus) case</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>Child self-isolates for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) – even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> <li>Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too</li> </ul>	<p>...when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
<p>...we / my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not take unauthorised leave in term time</li> <li>Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel</li> <li>Provide information to school as per attendance policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>Whole household self-isolates for 14 days – even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	<p>...when the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days</p>
<p>...we have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team</li> <li>Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	<p>...when school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again</p>
<p>...I am not sure who should get a test for COVID -19 (coronavirus)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only people with symptoms* need to get a test</li> <li>People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive</li> </ul>	<p>...when conditions above, as matching your situation, are met</p>

# Governor's News

## A new chair and a vacancy for a parent governor

Springwell Leeds Academy has a new Chair of Governors. Ian Hague-Brown took over as Chair of our Governing Body in September after Ken Morton stepped down from the role after 4 years.

Ken has worked tirelessly supporting Springwell Leeds Academy from the very beginning of our journey and we are grateful and thank him heartily for his support. We are delighted to say that Ken is remaining on the board as a Governor and so will continue working with us.



Ken Morton (left) our former Chair and Ian-Hague Brown (below) our new Chair of Governors



Left to right – John Warren (Headteacher, Springwell Harrogate), Mark Wilson (CEO Wellspring Trust), Scott Jacques (Executive Principal Springwell Leeds and Harrogate)

If you would like to get involved with our governing body, we currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor.

If you are interested in this role and would like to find out more, please get in touch with the site to which your child attends or email:

[office@springwellacademyleeds.org](mailto:office@springwellacademyleeds.org)

Springwell Leeds Academy has a new “Sister” school ! The Wellspring Trust welcomed The Grove Academy into the Trust earlier this year, and it opened under it’s new name – Springwell Harrogate – in September. Springwell Harrogate is an alternative provision for KS3 and KS4 children in the Harrogate area who are at risk of exclusion. Springwell Leeds and Harrogate will be working closely together over the coming months.

## Keep us up to date

### When your details change, please let us know !

It’s important that we have your correct details on file so that we can get in touch with you if we need to. So, if you get a new mobile phone and your number changes, if you move house or change email adress please make sure that you pass it on to the site to which your child attends.

If your child develops a new medical condition, for example asthma or an allergy, please also make sure you let us know.



# Safety Poster

A fantastic COVID-19 safety poster designed by Andrew, Joshua and Bailey

