



# Springwell Leeds



Dear Parents / Carers,  
**Welcome to the first edition of the  
 Springwell Newsletter for 2021**

I hope that you all enjoy reading about the fantastic things that have been happening at Springwell across the city.

2021 got off to a false start with the change in guidance from the Government after one day meaning that we returned to lockdown and not having all our children in school everyday as we would want.

I hope that after the whole of January and some of February, we may be approaching a time soon, with the roll out of the vaccination programme, when the lockdown will come to an end and our lives return to normal. In the meantime we continue to ensure that the plans we have in place at Springwell mean that the sites are as safe as we can make them and that our anti-covid measures are robust. You will be aware that this term, regular testing of staff and pupils has become part of our measures to control the virus.

I would like to thank all the staff who were involved in setting up and rolling out the testing process so quickly, safely and effectively in each of our settings. Be assured that if we are asked to expand this programme, we will inform parents and carers of those children affected and we will not carry out any testing without parents and carers consent.

I would like to remind parents and carers that you can help keep our school community safe by:

Keeping your child at home if they have Covid-19 symptoms

Following guidance on quarantining if you or anyone in your household has Covid-19 symptoms

Further guidance on this can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/>

Despite the challenges of the continuing pandemic, learning continues across our sites and in your homes. We have invested significantly in Google Chrome books this year meaning that we have been able to offer online learning to more students during the current lockdown and we have been really encouraged by how many children have been able to join the online sessions and live lessons that staff have been delivering. I would like to thank all parents and carers that have supported their children with their learning during this time, we know that it takes time but we also know that it makes a difference to what the children get out of it.

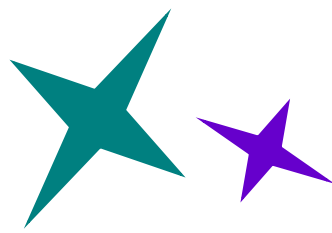
Take care, stay safe

*Scott Jacques*

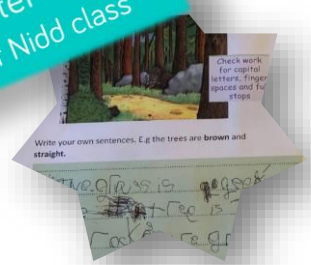
Executive Principal

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# Primary



Star Writer Award  
Felix of Nidd class

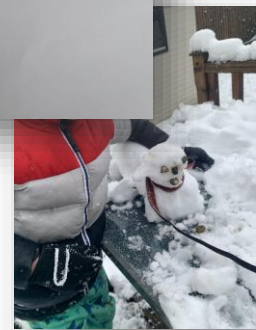


Pupils and staff have been hard at work making our East site primary pod look more beautiful than ever! Lots of reading displays popping up as well as feelings monsters to help us articulate how we are feeling. Next half term our topic will be 'Our Planet' and we will become 'Springwell Eco Warriors!'



East Primary sword fighting linked to our myths and legends topic

Springwell Leeds North site Orange Pod children have been completing their home learning whilst also experiencing the winter weather. Oliver persevered and successfully made a snow sausage dog despite the cold and wet conditions outside in his garden. Lily-May and her mum went into their garden to talk about what they could see and feel as part of learning about the seasons in Science. Lily-May was asked what clothing she might wear and why and also what weather we might have. She then drew a picture of what she associates with winter which included a snowman with a hot chocolate and herself wearing a winter hat and coat.



In Primary we are developing our Outdoor Learning Curriculum. On 7th January we welcomed Chris Harman aka 'The Den Man' to school. We were very fortunate with the weather as you will see from our photographs - the sun was shining on a sparkling day. The children spent the day working together in pairs and teams to design and build their own dens - before testing them against the elements. We did not want pupils on remote learning at home to miss out on the fabulous opportunity so we have rebooked Chris to visit again in the Summer term when we hope to be back to normal. He will spend a full week with us at Springwell, not only working in Primary - but extending this great activity to all pupils.

# North Site



Thanks to Booktrust for the lovely books

Miraim runs an artist residency on Thursdays in the art room, pupils have been able to view her work, ask her questions and then produce outcomes inspired by her paintings. The skills, techniques and processes taught in these work shops have included, drawing, mark making, mixed-media painting, and varied printmaking techniques.

Miriam has also run GCSE workshops for our yr10 and 11 students which have been highly successful, students are producing high quality ambitious outcomes this experience has increased their confidence and understanding enormously.

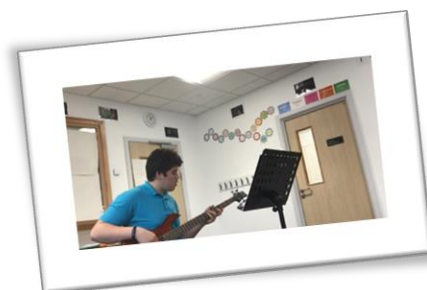
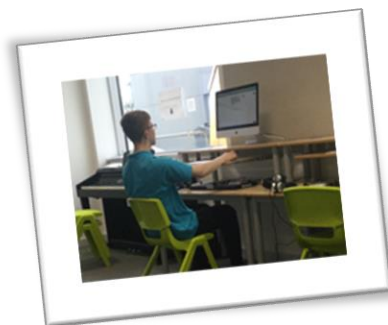


## Music Exam Success

Despite all of the uncertainty of the past few weeks one thing that has remained constant at Springwell Leeds North site is the positive attitude three of our Key Stage 4 students have shown in studying GCSE Music. Alex, Alfie and Jack have attended every session since September, working towards their qualification by completing a composition, rehearsing their performances and studying for the listening exam in which they are expected to answer questions on music from a variety of periods, written in a wide range of styles. Our students have shown an impressive commitment to the course and it has been a privilege to observe their progress since September.

Another exciting development in Music came about in December when Jack took part in one of the new virtual exams run by the exam board 'Rock School'. Jack was taught by our visiting peripatetic tutor and we returned in January to the fantastic news that Jack had received a 'Distinction' for grade 3 Bass Guitar meaning he scored 90% or more. He is now working towards his grade 5 which he hopes to take before he leaves us in summer - this is classed as an equivalent to a grade C at GCSE by most higher education institutions and would be a fitting reward for Jack's hard work in Music in recent years.

We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude to work shown by these fantastic young people.



# East Site



## English and Maths

Students at East have been working hard in their Functional Skills English exams this half term. Results have not been published yet, but students have demonstrated incredible resilience in revising and attending for these exams despite the current Covid19 situation. Some students have come into school solely to take exams, despite increased anxiety about social contact, and school have gone to great lengths to ensure these students felt safe by arranging for all to be individually invigilated at a safe distance. When an SEMH issue threatened to forfeit one of our most vulnerable Year 11 students from sitting his first official exam, a member of our Care Team and a class teacher sent a flurry of emails and made many phone calls late into the evening to try to resolve things to ensure he didn't miss his opportunity. He didn't and is now brimming with confidence and ready for the next one!

A really big well done to all those pupils who sat Edexcel Maths exams in the first week of lockdown. A fantastic effort given the situation at the time.

## Music

Pupils at East are starting to benefit from time with specialist Drum teacher – with some fantastic engagement (and a lot of noise coming from the music room). Along with in school music, online sessions are ensuring the music plays on at East.



Bailey continues to develop his amazing photographic skills at Roundhay Park.

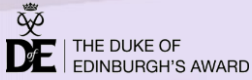
Bailey built up enough confidence to compose himself, change the settings manually on the camera then take a picture of fishermen as they stood by watching him.

The Photography sessions are proving to build confidence, expression and self-control while looking for interesting images and then figuring out how to take the shot.

We are impressed and excited to see amazing images come from Bailey, as he continues to create his own photography wall in school!



# South Site



Although the past year has been a tumultuous one, we vowed not to let the pandemic hamper our ambitions for our students. Mr Tazzyman was tasked with introducing the Duke of Edinburgh award across our Springwell Academy Leeds family, something he is hugely passionate about and has years of experience leading.

The students across all 3 sites have worked hard to ensure that they managed to claim sectional certificates for volunteering, skill and service. Across the three sites we had 50 bronze participants. There have been a range of activities undertaken, from working with the site team in school for the volunteering section, to creating an art mural in the school building to demonstrate a skill, to playing for a local rugby team for the physical side of the award. The hard work of staff across the sites and the tenacity of our students, as ever, demonstrates they are capable of great things. After the current lockdown finishes, plans will be made to allow different forms of expeditions to take place to enable these awards to be turned into full Bronze Awards. These will be the first awards to be achieved by Springwell students. We would like to congratulate each and every one of them and look forward to the imminent expedition season.

## Remote Learning

We have been wowed by the commitment of our students in our 'virtual school' this term. Many have used a Chromebook for the first time during the pandemic, and have adapted very well to the new way of working. Google Classroom has been introduced, alongside live lessons and SEMH check ins. Our teachers have undertaken hours of professional development and peer support, to enable them to deliver a highly personalised online package.

We have had students engaged frequently in all kinds of academic and therapeutic learning, from GCSE preparation to Theraplay. The vast majority of students have been graded as 'highly engaged' in home learning, with many choosing to use technology to support this new phase of learning. We are always looking for exceptional performance, and award WOW vouchers weekly to our top in school and virtual learners. We also celebrated our Hegarty superstars this week, for the most correct answers completed in school.

Thank you all for the support for our teachers and young people; without your support, this level of engagement and continuity of learning simply would not be possible.

