

**Dear Parents / Carers,** 



## Welcome to the last newsletter of another busy year

I hope you will enjoy reading about everything that has been going on across our sites this half term.

You will be aware, I am sure, of the continued disruption to normal school life caused by coronavirus which has continued this term. Sadly, this has meant on a number of occasions that we have had to close classes and educate children remotely. I am sure that you share our sense of frustration with this and hope as I do that next year will be much more settled and more back to normal.

Despite all the challenges of the year, I am extremely proud of the way that pupils and staff have coped with the disruption. Learning has continued, progress has been made and children have been successful in their learning. As well as this, Springwell Leeds has managed to gain a couple of awards, recognising the great work that goes on here.

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We are seeking another parent to join our board of Governors. 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

The first of these awards is being awarded Champion Music School status. Springwell Leeds Academy is only one of four schools in the city to achieve this status which recognises our success in providing quality music education for all.

I am also delighted to say that Springwell Leeds Academy has been awarded the Carnegie Mental Health Award for Schools. Springwell Leeds has been awarded this at the Gold Level which is the highest award possible for this particular award that recognises the work that the Academy does to support children's mental health.

Two peices of very good news to finish the school year I am sure you will agree! I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe summer holiday and look forward to seeing all our pupils again in September.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter.



Scott Jacques
Executive Principal

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# **Primary**

#### Scarbados/Scarborough End of Term East Primary Trip

All pupils and staff had a brilliant time at the seaside. We visited the Sea Life Centre, played crazy golf, built sandcastles, played frisbee on the beach, went crabbing and swam in the sea. We witnessed happy smiling children having fun! Some comments from our pupils were, 'can we do this every week?, this has been the best trip ever!, I've never been to the seaside!, this is amazing!, I can't believe I have swam in the sea!, and many more. Parents told us how much their children loved the day and a member of staff at Sea Life Centre came to tell us that she had to find us to say that Springwell pupils were amazing, asked loads of questions in the touching pool, followed all the rules and listened. She said they were a credit to our school. They really are





This half-term in Primary at South, we have been working on our reading areas making more cosy spaces to enjoy sharing a fabulous story. Just take a look!

Mrs Boci, a Wellspring expert practitioner in Theraplay, has been working with our pupils to support their social skills development through the use of Lego therapy. It is great to see pupils taking turns and working together whilst being so creative. This helps to develop speaking and listening as well as cooperation and problem solving.

Finally - as we begin our new school year we said 'Good luck' to our Year 6 pupils who have moved up from the Primary pod to join Key Stage 3. Everyone in Primary is very proud of all of their achievements this year and we look forward to seeing the amazing progress you will make and all new learning opportunities ahead.

In Primary Pod at North we celebrated the Queen's birthday with a fabulous party. We made cakes. We did some writing. We sang happy birthday to her Majesty. We danced. We played party games. We had lots of fun!

We hope Queen Elizabeth did!

# **North Site**



#### **Artwork**

Our Primary students had wonderful fun and creative morning with the artist, Burley Banksy.

Miriam our Artist in Residence has led some inspiring Art sessions which staff and students have enjoyed immensely.

They have been able to develop their creative skills and knowledge of specific methods used in Art which has led to a massive sense of achievement and pride for all of those involved.





Ben, one of our secondary students, had a photography project which meant a trip into Leeds City Centre. He focussed on the shape, angle, perspective and colour of a range of buildings and statues. We think that Ben has got a real talent and eye for detail!

## **East Site**

## **Building Futures Together**

In partnership with the Pudsey based G and H group (a large mechanical and electrical company) pupils are given hands on learning experiences covering plumbing and electrical work in the G and H Apprentice Training Academy. The aim is to introduce pupils to the opportunities available within construction, and prepare them for the world of work. Selected pupils from East have had the opportunity to attend 2 full day sessions, covering pipe work and electrical projects. The pupils have all enjoyed the sessions and to quote the Building Futures Together manager: "It has been an absolute pleasure having the young people from school with us. Their standard of work, interest and attitude is first class." Well done to all involved!



Our children learning some plumbing and electrical skills

## Improving our fitness out and about

Over the last few months we have been taking our primary pupils on long walks to improve our fitness and stay healthy. Some places we have been are, Hetchell Woods, Roundhay Park, Local Community walks, Temple Newsam and the local skate park. The children love going out and about and thoroughly enjoyed all the visits (even in the rain and snow).

Year 11 Students here at East have shown incredible resilience this term. Despite the interruptions this crazy year has brought, students were determined to take away something positive and worked tirelessly to do their best in their exam board assessments. Most students completed all of the assessments in exam conditions, resulting in palpable pride and delighted parents. We wish them great success in the future.

## **Maths Superstars!**

Well done to the following pupils, who have made continued excellent progress towards accreditation this term, despite some of the disruption: Freddie, Liam, McKyle, Jevell and Ronan. Keep up the good work!

## South Site

## **Outdoor Learning**

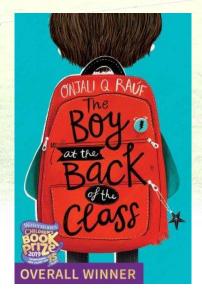
On Thursday, lower school continued with their outdoor learning sessions at Middleton Woods, where they worked together to complete lots of fun activities. Green 2 mentored our primary children by exploring the woods. We made dens out of natural resources we found and then put hammocks up. We also went bug hunting and tried to discover new insects! We then completed our session by collecting lots of sticks to use back at school for our next project! The pupils showed incredible teamwork throughout the day and the older children were fantastic role models for our younger students.



#### **Our Staff Book Club**

This month at South, we launched the staff book club. Each month, those involved read a chosen children's book, then get together to discuss the themes, messages and ideas for teaching or celebrating the book, to further promote literacy in school.

Our first read was 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' about a little refugee boy who joins a primary school in England, quickly making friends, defeating bullies and winning the hearts of those around him, as his heroic pals set off on a mad adventure to Buckingham Palace. We all agreed this is a must read, so have a think about sharing this heartwarming tale at home this summer as a family.



#### **Equality and Diversity**

This month, we had some fantastic virtual staff training from Jeffrey Boakye, bringing all staff on site together in a virtual format to discuss equality, race, gender and more. Staff were challenged to ask themselves tough questions and reflect on their experiences, the curriculum and their contributions. Feedback was excellent and we all felt privileged to learn from Jeffrey, and to take inspiration from his experiences into our next steps of learning on equality and diversity. We have added his book to our staff learning library and hope to work with him again next year, ensuring we stay abreast of current thinking and challenges, and helping us to give our children the most rounded education possible.



## **Sporting Success**

We had a worldwide celebration to launch our Elements topic 'Sporting Success'. The topic has incorporated study of worldwide sporting events, such as the olympics, and as such it seemed only right to launch the topic with a world breakfast buffet!

## Other Springwell News

Trainee primary teachers from the Wellspring Schools Direct programme spent 2 days at Springwell Academy South recieving high-quality science training from our in-house expert practitioner, Dr Waheed Khan. The trainee teachers learnt how to effectively deliver the primary science curriculum with brilliant ways to engage children in working scientifically, learning using fun experiments and positive relationships.



## **Springwell Leeds Awards**

Some great news to share with you at the end of term - Springwell Leeds Academy has been awarded the Schools Mental Health Award at Gold Standard by the by the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools! This is a national award which promotes the link between positive mental health in schools and successful outcomes and provides a framework for educational settings to evidence policies and initiatives that work towards improving emotional health and wellbeing for both staff and pupils. It is a comprehensive external audit of our systems, policies and practices in supporting mental health and we were awarded it at the Gold Level, which is the highest possible. Massive thanks and congratulations to John Gillard for pulling all of the evidence together and wider thanks and congratulations to all Springwell Leeds colleagues for working to support childrens' mental health every single day.

Details of the Award can be found by following this link

https://www.bouncetogether.co.uk/training/mental-health-award

We are delighted and proud to announce that Springwell Leeds Academy has been awarded "Champion Music School" status by the Leeds Music Education Partnership Board. We are one of only four schools to gain this status that recognises schools that have made a significant impact on their pupils' lives through music offer and who have an outstanding commitment to music. See here for more information <a href="https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/Article/87733">https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/Article/87733</a>





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