

Dear Parents / Carers,



Welcome to the first newsletter of the year

Dear Parents and carers,

What a half term it has been ! We returned to school in September hoping that this year, unlike the previous two, would not be blighted and disrupted by COVID-19. The changes in regulations have meant that there has been less disruption than before the summer, however the numbers of cases locally has continued to remain high meaning that inevitably we are seeing children and staff being absent. Sadly, we have, like many schools, not been able to safely cover absence and have had to limit childrens time in school or close classes and provide home learning. Although this is not on the scale seen previously it is disruptive for the children and for you, our parents and carers. We are still in unprecedented times and I ask for your continued patience whilst assuring you that we are doing everything we can to keep classes open wherever we can.

Despite the disruption, there has been much to celebrate this term so far. We have continued to invest in our facilities adding and new climbing boulder and outdoor playground to the South site.

This is by no means the end of our investment. We will continue to add to and develop our favulous resources.

Springwell Leeds Academy achieved another award for its work last week. This was the Trauma Informed Schools Award which recognises how well we are able to effectively support children and teenagers who suffer with trauma or mental health problems and whose troubled behaviour acts as a barrier to learning. You can read more about this on our website.



Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and when it comes, have a happy and safe Half Term.



Scott Jacques

Executive Principal

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Primary



Bikeability

Primary pupils at East spent 2 days with external instructors completing the Bikeability road safety awareness training, with practical sessions including on public roads. All pupils passed Level 1 or Level 2, developing a fantastic life skill. The instructors commented on pupil's attention, manners and cooperation. Well done everyone!

Leeds United

Each week Leeds United coaching staff have been delivering sessions to Primary pupils. Engagement has been fantastic and staff have also been involved in the weekly fun sessions. The sessions have



Enjoying the box craft session

Box Craft

Our primary children really enjoy their box craft sessions which take place in lots of lessons including DT, Art and English. We save all of the cardboard boxes when we have deliveries to our Primary Pod which also promotes recycling. We then design and create a variety of artefacts which we keep in school to play with and redesign or sometimes we take them home to share with our families. Declan in Orange 3 made himself into a robot in DT and then in English he was

Our Primary classes are hooked on reading!

Our phonics teaching has started effectively this half term, with all students accessing daily sessions with their class. Their teachers have skillfully assessed each child to identify their phonics pathway for the next term. In addition to this, Josh from Leeds Utd enhances our weekly offer with his active phonics sessions, which combine fitness and literacy elements to engage students in learning their sounds. All of this work around the early building blocks of reading has hooked in our students, who are now partaking in DEAR - drop everything and read - each day, which allows them to read or be read to, and immersed in a story.

Reading is crucial to all of our children's development, and as families, one of the best ways to support your child is regular reading or discussion of books at home. If you need any support or would like book recommendations, please get in touch with Mrs Reader.

North Site



Bake Off

Our staff have been very inspired by the TV programme The Great British Bake Off 2021. As a result of this they decided to hold their own Bake Off in school. The staff baked their entries at home and the students were invited to be the judges of the competition. This was really very exciting as they got to taste all of the delicious cakes and buns. It was a very difficult decision as they were all so tasty



LUFC Football Match

Our students and staff were gifted with complimentary tickets for the Leeds Watford game at Elland Road and a very excited group of football fans attended the match. It was raining heavily but the result of Leeds 1 Watford 0 and a steaming cup of hot chocolate helped to make a perfect fun and exciting day for everyone. The staff said that the students were amazing with great sporting attitudes and the staff were really proud of them. For one of our students it was



Rainbow Creation

The students in Yellow 1 are taking ownership of and getting involved in brightening up their classroom. They are excited to put "their story in year 7" pictures on to the rainbow to celebrate their successes and individuality throughout the year. The shared creative class responsibility is

Letting Culture Loose Billboards

Here are some pictures of the posters and billboards which we produced inspired by children's ideas as part of the 'Letting Loose in the City' project last term. Our marketing team used the illustrations and drawings produced by the artists as part of a billboard campaign. They were displayed in Leeds Trinity



East Site

Therapeutic Interventions

Here at East we've had a cracking start with pupils accessing their intervention sessions. We've had some brilliant work around self-regulation, exploring and experimenting, getting in touch with nature and a whole lot more.

Thrive Intervention (using Arts)

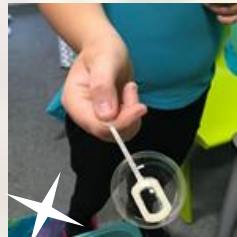
HR has been out exploring in the woodlands collecting raw materials to create his amazing flower pot.

Anxiety Based Intervention

Some amazing up- regulating activities supporting our pupils transition back to class after their intervention.

Theraplay Intervention - Building relationships through bubble activities

Here are some pictures from our



Macmillan Coffee morning

Orange Pod held a coffee afternoon with parent / carers to raise money for this fantastic charity. £35.60 was raised and a lovely afternoon of tea, coffee and cakes (along with a chat). It was lovely to see parent / carers in the flesh again, and many thanks to those who provided / baked caked cakes for the event. Thank you to all the pupils for their hard work decorating, serving and

English at East

What greater reward could we receive than when a student exclaims that we have 'changed their life'? Two class teachers were delighted to be the recipients of this tribute from one of our Year 11 boys this week.

This student has spent the past few years at Springwell working through SEMH challenges and learning to self-regulate. With such profound difficulties, which haven't gone away but he has learned to manage them more effectively, English can become one of the greatest challenges at school. To be able to manage the simultaneous layers of requirements to write a single piece of creative prose coherently (communication and organisation, vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation) can seem monumental for children who are very easily distracted and have working memory difficulties. However, this boy achieved exactly this for the first time in his life - a sustained

South Site



Cuthbertson Cup 2021

On Friday 8th October, we held our first annual Cuthbertson Cup, a football tournament launched in honour of one of our students, Bailey, who tragically died earlier this year. Bailey's family were in attendance, including some budding young players who took to the field alongside our Springwell students. The way our students conducted themselves and the level of respect they showed to one another, and to Bailey's family, made us all incredibly proud. Our youngest and oldest students played alongside each other in mixed ability teams (with some super keen staff joining in!). The winning team each received an individual trophy, and will be presented with a shield to remain in school for years to come, to commemorate their victory at this incredible event. Every student who took part was presented with a medal, whether they played, provided the musical entertainment or just cheered on their peers.

As the tournament drew to a close, Bailey's dad made a speech to the entire school, telling our students to be proud and stay unique. He urged the staff to keep changing lives, and requested that all proceeds from the charity collection go straight into school funds to help us do more good work for our students. We are in awe of the strength of Bailey's family, and of our staff and young people. Thank you for making this a day to remember

Thank you Morrisons!

We wanted to thank Morrisons, specifically Pamela Abbott, on behalf of the children and staff at Springwell Leeds Academy. Their help and donations have provided much needed support to help our children's families through difficult times. Their kindness and generosity have certainly made a difference – thank you!

KS4 Curriculum

This year, South KS4 students have started their options lessons, for the first time ever. This means that they can choose to specialise in DT, Art or Music, with a qualification pathway in each available. We are so proud of the way our students have begun their qualifications since returning to school in September, and we are thankful for the great provision our



Healthy School Holiday Club

Our Healthy Schools Project

Despite all the turmoil that COVID caused, Springwell Leeds were successful with a bidding proposal to host its second Healthy Holidays project in the summer break. This was a bit in partnership with our regional Early Help Hubs and West Yorkshire Police.

The holiday club provided a safe space for children from all three of our sites and thanks to the cooking skills of Caroline Fisher, all children were provided with two hot meals and refreshments throughout the day. We invited Springwell primary pupils for the first part of the club and reached out to schools across the city to invite vulnerable students between the ages of 10-13 for the second part.

There were many varied sessions that were run by third party organisations, Active Leeds provided a great session on health



We had a number of volunteers that made this event possible and would like to show special appreciation to Jenny Ellis, Karlene Hannman, Charlotte Hannman-Bingham, Charlie Beard, Caroline Fisher and all our SSPO's who took the time to staff the club and support with the planning leading up to the event.

We very much look forward to hosting the



"..he liked everything and [child's name] said there was nothing he did not like"

"..he really enjoyed riding on the bikes."

"..it was brilliant! He loved the bikes, there's nothing he didn't enjoy, he liked it all"