

Dear Parents / Carers,

## Welcome to this half term's newsletter

Firstly, I would like to say how very proud I have been of our students over the last couple of weeks while they have been sitting their exams. All those children and young people who have taken these external tests, whether they be SATs or GCSEs, have shown huge determination, resilience and a willingness to "give it a go", doing something that they find challenging and difficult at times. I hope that they will get the results and the reward they deserve for their efforts.

The end of this month sees an important date in the calendar for everybody involved with Springwell Leeds. The 1st of July is the 10th anniversary of the birth of the Wellspring Academy trust. The Trust started in 2012 with a single primary school called the Forest Academy in Barnsley and has since grown to include 28 schools across six different local authorities. The benefits of being part of a wider organisation like the Trust are absolutely clear to anyone working within one of our schools. There is access to superb training and development opportunities and a network of people who are able to offer help, advice, and support to those who need it.

We are also unusual that we have a large number of special schools within the trust including a number for children with SEMH needs. This means we are able to work together colleagues from across the region to share practice and ideas and work out the best way to do things. This has huge benefits to all our children, meaning they get a well trained staff working with them to achieve their best.

Happy birthday Wellspring Trust! Here's to another successful ten years



*Scott Jacques*  
Executive Principal

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# North Site

## Gardening at North

The sun has finally been shining at the North site! We are fortunate enough to have many keen staff gardeners as well as a number of students who are developing their gardening knowledge and skills as well as a love of gardening. Our Outdoor Learning Provision is progressing well and we have been planting and tending to the plants in one of our garden areas.

We look forward to enjoying the different and colourful plants and flowers which are slowly emerging from the ground.

## Our DT Lessons

Our secondary students have been working exceptionally hard with their personal designs of items they wanted to create in Design Technology lessons.

The inspiration for the hedgehog house came from a love of nature and a desire to make something which would be useful and also support the environment.

The girls had lots of fun making the other artefacts using different materials and interesting bits which added a uniqueness to their characters!

The colourful picture was especially made with care and thought for a particular member of staff to hang up in their office so that they can look at it and smile at all the beautiful colours!

How good do they look?



## What have North Primary been up to?

Our Primary students have enjoyed and engaged in some wonderful learning experiences which have helped them to further develop a wide range of skills. Our daily Phonics lesson has empowered them to be confident and acknowledge that they can read words which previously they couldn't! This is developing into a love of books within the class and a care and respect for the Reading Corner.

A daily Maths lesson within a classroom environment of play provision means that creative Maths activities are fun and accessible to all.

Food Technology sessions enable counting, weighing and estimation skills to be practiced regularly. The tasting part at the end of this activity is obviously the favourite part for everyone!

# East Site



## Books, books and more books

Mr Wilson's class have formed very strong opinions! Since September, they have almost completed five novels during DEAR time, and each book has been given a class rating. These are their opinions on each of the books they've enjoyed (or not!!!):

Holes, by Louis Sachar, received a mixed response and was given between 1-5 stars.

Stone Cold, by Robert Swindells, was even less favourably received and got between 1-2 stars.

Skellig, by David Almond (recommended by a now unpopular member of staff) was seemingly endured to the end and didn't even achieve a complete star.

However, top of the charts came the historical novel Kensuke's Kingdom, by Michael Morpurgo. The class were truly captivated through the adventures of Michael and Kensuke, and were transported from Seacroft to an imaginary tropical island every morning.

Currently, they are reading Trash, by Andy Mulligan, and this is rating very highly, threatening to draw with Kensuke's Kingdom.

How exciting is the wonderful world of books!

## Science at East

We are extremely proud of our pupils for their achievements in Science. Ronan, Crystal and McKyle have achieved their Level 3 Entry Level Science qualifications and Damion and Brandon have achieved their Level 2 Entry Level qualifications. A huge well done to them. In Science, we have also had plenty of fun in our experiment based lessons in our KS3 topic of chemical reactions!

## What have we been up to in Primary?

Our Primary children have been working really hard in Maths exploring numbers with numicon.

In PSHE we have tried different healthy foods and we've learnt about the food pyramid and the importance of a healthy diet.

Some of our year 6 pupils attempted SATS papers throughout the week and we are really proud of them all for showing resilience and for having a go!



Here are some pictures



# South Site



## Back Chat Brass

We had the most wonderful day spent with a local brass band (of the very cool variety!). Our children were offered a workshop with the band, where they learnt how to handle and play the instruments, and play along to some popular modern songs. The hard work of the day was brought together in a crescendo of noise and talent as they performed for a full audience of staff and peers. Our children, across key stages 3 and 4, worked together to belt out hits from Dua Lipa and Ed Sheeran, to the delight of their cheering fans. As Principal, days like this give me an immense sense of pride and joy. Not only did our children make beautiful music, but they worked together, presented themselves well in front of visitors, and then finally they stepped outside their comfort-zones by performing publicly. Our young people are a joy to be around and I am pleased we can give them such a range of exciting curriculum opportunities.

## Student Voice – we are listening!

We have recently begun to revamp our South School Council. One of the things our students have challenged me on this year is our school food. I am happy to report that I am now having termly meetings with our catering supplier, and the food on offer is better than ever - our children have called it 'terrific' and 'really, really nice!' We are enjoying healthy, tasty pizza, fish goujons and hearty beef stew. Best of all is the fresh salad on the side of every meal, which the students love. If your child hasn't tried the new menu, and would like to give it a go, just let their class teacher know.

## PRIDE at Springwell

We have been celebrating Pride month at Springwell, culminating in our 'dress as the rainbow' day on Friday 17th June. As part of our drive to be a fully inclusive school, we felt it important to mark this special event. All of our staff have this year had training on LGBTQ+ issues and other diversity issues, to give them a richer understanding and the confidence to tackle these issues in class and upskill our young people. Mr Stockton has produced a wealth of materials for our teachers to use with their classes, and our students have been really interested and have shown great tolerance of difference and those around them. Lots of our students feel an affinity with the LGBTQ+ community, and others see themselves as allies - able to support and to challenge hate. Please talk to your child about Pride month and their experiences learning about the movement in school this term.

There is nothing wrong with you,  
There is alot wrong with the world  
We live in.