



Dear Parents / Carers,



Welcome to this half term's newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year ! I hope you will enjoy reading about all the amazing things that your children have been doing across all three Springwell Leeds sites this half term.

This is the first September since the COVID pandemic where we have not been greatly affected by high numbers of staff and pupils suffering from that awful virus. This has meant, as you would expect that our attendance this term has been higher in every year group than in the last two school years.

Although we are obviously pleased at the improvement there is still room to get better and so we would like your help to ensure that your child attends every day at school that they can. Learning happens at the Academy every day of the week and therefore every time your child doesn't attend, they miss out on their learning and their progress is in danger of being affected.

The best way you can support your child's learning is to keep them attending school every day.

We were delighted with the outcomes our Y11 students achieved this summer with many of them gaining a good collection of GCSE and other qualifications. Every year we are looking to add to the range of qualifications on offer so that our KS4 students have a chance to achieve in subjects that interest them. To this end, staff across all the Springwell Leeds sites have worked hard to create a refreshed curriculum for all our pupils. Details of this can be found on our website on the curriculum page: <https://springwellacademyleeds.org/curriculumoverview/> . More will be added to this soon.

Have a happy and safe half term!



Scott Jacques
Executive Principal



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North Site

Therapeutic Art

Miriam Laville is our therapeutic artist in residence and has established an art studio in blue pod at Springwell North called 'Indigo Art Studio'. It's a calm and creative environment where students can regulate their mood to take part in their 1:1 therapeutic art session. The sessions vary from simple craft based decorative practise; to learning new art techniques and skills for the more artistically able. The students respect the space and respond well to their surroundings asking questions about what is around them. Miriam accommodates small groups of students at team time facilitating fun art activities, such as making up quirky faces with stickers and photo printouts.



Our Therapeutic Art

Transition

In Summer 2022, Springwell Leeds North took a different approach to class transitions. Formal lessons were exchanged for a fun filled transition timetable that brought about a whole school focus on relationship building. The task was simple: provide multiple opportunities for low stakes, low demand interactions with new classroom friends and new teachers. Classes went on trips around the community and welcomed visitors into school, such as the circus, farm animals, the army and even a bouncy castle! Putting these opportunities in place before the summer helped students leave for a long summer holiday with positive memories and budding relationships with their class teams and specialist teachers. The start to the new academic year has benefited from the transition timetable, it has forged a path straight to settled learning built upon the foundations of the positive relationships formed.

What have North Primary been up to?

Classes in primary have really enjoyed getting stuck into their new English curriculum. Each class has begun focusing on high quality texts that engage pupils and give them the confidence to write. Classes have looked at The Three Little Pigs, The Whistling Monster and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. The younger pupils enjoyed acting out the Three Little Pigs with puppets and then creating their own versions of the familiar story. Whereas the older pupils used the 4 Ps (place, people, problem, peace) to summarise the story. There's been lots of paired and group work going on in classrooms too. The children are all proud of the work they have completed so far this year in English.



East Site



Our trip to the Thackray Museum



Getting stuck in with science!

KS3 students have learned about the valves and the chambers that comprise the heart. We have also looked at the veins that bring blood back to the heart and the arteries that carry blood away. KS4 students have compared the arteries and veins and looked at how the left side is more muscular. We have also identified the coronary artery and discussed risk factors that increase chances of blocking this artery causing a heart attack.

Special Achievements

Every teacher knows that children learn at different paces, and some children need a lot more practice than others! However, with some children, it feels that despite extensive practice, they still don't seem to retain the knowledge required to execute a particular skill, that is, until the magic 'click' occurs and the metaphorical penny actually drops! At this special moment, true joy is experienced, not only in the long-suffering teacher, but in the child that experiences the thrill of achievement, sometimes for the first time.

At East, one such moment occurred for a very special student who has worked tirelessly on her reading. However, despite genuine difficulties such as dyslexia, her reading progress was very slow...until now. Following more than a year of focused intervention and some practical adjustments (such as using a coloured reading overlay), she recently took her annual reading age test to discover that she has made more than two years' progress! This girl literally skipped back to her classroom with a real sense of fulfilment.

Welcome!

My name is Liam Stanton and I am starting as a Care Team Leader at Springwell East. Prior to this role, I spent 5 years working at Adel Beck Secure Children's Home as a Senior Practitioner before joining the Youth Offending Team as a Youth Justice Worker. Staff wellbeing, safety, resilience, effective de-escalation and promoting positive relationships are huge workplace passions of mine and I am keen for these to be incorporated into my new role. I am thrilled to be joining Springwell Academy and I look forward to meeting everybody.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Primary pod welcomed staff for the Macmillan Coffee morning in September. It was lovely to see so many parents / carers at the start of the year and to raise some funds for such an important charity.



South Site

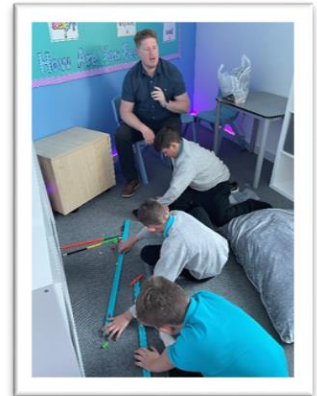


South Primary enjoyed their first swimming lesson of the year



Numicon

Students in our primary pod have been learning how to divide numbers using Numicon equipment with Mr Hilling-Smith. The practical resources help them to visualise the times tables and provide conceptual understanding of division. Division can be a very challenging topic to understand and the students have mentioned that these methods really help them to understand how to answer division questions.



Welcome!

This term, we welcomed two new school pets to South - Gucci and Tinkerbelle, our dwarf hamsters. Based in Green and Yellow, the hamsters are offering comfort and a listening ear to our students, supporting Care Team with interventions and helping to teach the children about showing responsibility around small animals. They have worked hard all term and are looking forward to a break at Mrs Reader's house this half term!

Springwell's Big Breakfast

At Springwell Academy Leeds, we are proud of the relationship we have with the parents and carers of our students. We have listened to parent/carer voice feedback and are committed to help develop your understanding of SEMH. In doing so, we are pleased to launch 'Springwell's Big Breakfast', an opportunity to attend a range of workshops run by Springwell Academy staff, to meet other parents and carers and share your knowledge and experience of SEMH, whilst enjoying a big breakfast. The workshops will take place every other Friday at @Springwell Academy Leeds. Workshop 1: Understanding Autism - 4/11/22 9:30-10:30am, Workshop 2: Supporting Anxiety in Young People - 18/11/22 9:30-10:30am, Workshop 3: What is a Nurturing Approach? - 2/12/22 9:30-10:30am, Workshop 4: Supporting Transitions- 16/12/22 9:30-10:30am. To book your place on one of the workshops please contact 0113 4870555 or email a.knapton-smith@springwellacademyleeds.org. We look forward to seeing you.

The #Take20 Parents Hubs

Talking to young children about how they feel is hard, for them and us! We dedicate the start and end of the day to check-in with each child, through a range of activities that have proven success. By taking 20 minutes with them to do an activity you'll both enjoy, you'll create a relaxed space to start those conversations. Visit: <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-mental-health/> for more information and a range of activities to try at home and to make talking that bit easier.

Summer School



Take a look at some of the photographs from our Summer School where children took part in various activities and was thoroughly enjoyed by all!

