

Welcome to our newsletter

February 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of the Springwell Leeds Academy Newsletter. It feels like this half term has really flown by and is coming to an end just as it has started.

School is closed on Friday 9th February for the Wellspring Trust Festival of Learning. This is an annual event where all the staff in our academies come together to share practice, learn from each other and celebrate our community of schools. This is part of our commitment to ensure that the staff working with your children have access to the best training and development opportunities available. Investing in our staff leads to well trained teams in classrooms, meaning better learning and a better experience in school for your children.



Our commitment to our staff is a commitment to all our children. School is closed the following week for February half term and we look forward to welcoming all our children back on Monday 26th February.

Scott Jacques
Executive Principal





North Site



Jambalaya

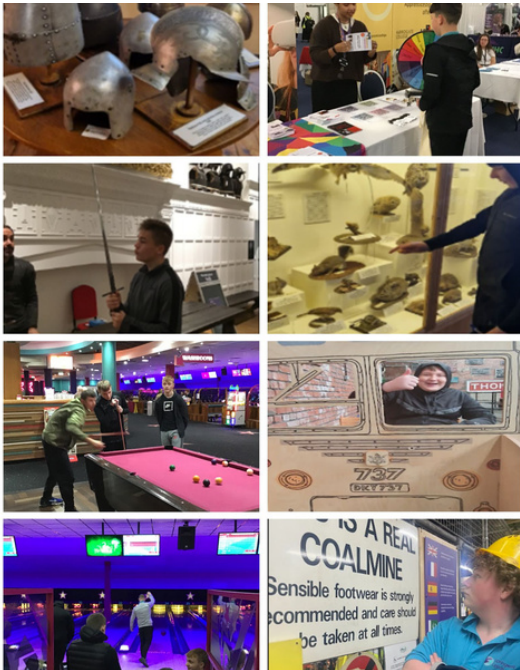
Springwell North were delighted to welcome performers from local band 'Jambalaya' on Friday 15th December. Due to illness only two out of the three members were able to join us on the day but they did a fantastic job of engaging students with their unique versions of popular songs. The duo led workshop sessions with KS2 and 3 students before being put through their paces as they were interviewed by students working towards their level 2 certificates in Arts subjects. The interactive workshops were highly engaging and the band even fielded some song requests from students that included a Christmas classic and a special version of 'Happy birthday' for one very lucky young man!

At the end of the morning the band performed a variety of folk and pop songs inspired by traditional American music for staff and students and involved a number of students in the short concert, inviting them on to stage to play alongside them. The day was made possible thanks to the 'Live music in schools' project offered to schools in the city by Leeds Music Education Partnership.



Trips Out

Recently our children have enjoyed several exciting trips to the following places:



- Bolling Hall where the students were fascinated with the history of medieval Bradford and slightly terrified because there was a 58% chance of a ghost being in the room!
- Royal Armouries where students took part in a variety of exhibitions and activities throughout the museum
- Cliffe Castle looking at all the various animal displays
- Pool and Bowling which was enjoyed by all - staff and students!
- Bradford Industrial Museum where children had a great time working on the buses and learnt about the blacksmith trade.
- Careers fair showing our children different career paths to give them a better idea of what they want to do post 16.
- Students in Blue 3 went to an art exhibition called "and she built a crooked house" in Headingly



East Site



Reading Vending Machine

East site installed the Reading Vending machine in the reception area to further enhance pupil's love of reading. Pupils have really taken to working for tokens to spend in the machine!



Graft Workshops

East welcomed the rapper Graft to work with KS4 pupils. They created their own music and then performed to KS3 classes. The pupils not only developed musical skills, but also self confidence, self esteem and resilience throughout the day. Well done to all those involved.



What have we been up to?

Primary pod recently completed lifesaving training including how to deliver CPR in an emergency. Well done to all those involved!



In Science, Orange 3 pupils thoroughly enjoyed learning about the heart with a practical dissection series of learning

Exams

Well done to all those year 10 and 11 pupils who sat Number and Measure examinations - on the very first day back after the Christmas holiday. A difficult day to sit an exam but pupils showed great resilience and effort.

WELCOME



A welcome to Mrs Brown, who joined us as DT teacher at the start of term. She has already worked hard to build relationships with pupils, and some KS3 work on pop up cards have been a highlight already!



South Site

I've
So much to be
THANKFUL
for

We are all thankful and grateful in Yellow

World Gratitude Day was held on September 21st this year. It is designed to encourage people across the globe to show their thanks and appreciation for the people in their lives and the things they do for them. In Yellow South we had a gratitude breakfast together and we shared all the things we are grateful for with all pupils and staff in the pod. It was a great opportunity to express our gratitude but also to interact positively with people from outside the classroom. It was a great success



Positive Futures

Springwell South took part in another successful program with Positive Futures. Designed to prioritise broadening students' culture capital and exposing them to a wide range of new activities, Green 1 have been developing their self esteem and confidence with the team from Positive Futures. Stepping outside of their comfort zones, students took part in rock climbing, scootering and a graffiti and rap battle workshop. We were proud of their bravery and conduct throughout the programme.

Leeds Trinity University

Springwell South have been working with Leeds Trinity University (LTU), starting a 4-year long project aimed at widening pupils' knowledge and experience of further and higher education. Pupils and LTU staff have worked together to discuss what life in higher education might be like and done work on identity and ambition. On 31st January, 9 pupils from Year 8 were able to spend a full day on campus at LTU, experiencing some of university life and touring the fantastic facilities. One pupil said, 'I never thought I could go to university, but I would love to come here.' They are now busy planning future visits and activities.



Safer Internet Day

Keeping your child safe and happy online

- Be a role model - ensure your child understands what your expectations are for online use at home.
- Talk to your child regularly about their use of online platforms - these conversations keep you informed and shows interest in your child's online world
- Research the online platforms/content that your child enjoys the most - this gives a much needed insight into your child's life online
- Know where to go for support - there are many helpful links and guidance on the Springwell Leeds website alongside our monthly online safety newsletter

For Key Stage 2/3

- Join in - spending time online with your child shows them how to behave and what to look out for
- Talk to them - let them know to come to you with any questions or worries they might have
- Be aware - it is important that you know what your child is engaging with online and any influences they might have such as adverts, online friends etc.
- Keep up to date - your child's interest will change and so will their online use. It is important to stay up to date with what they are accessing

Please report any concerns about your child's online use or any worrying content to school, so that we can offer support and guidance.



Parent Support

CLICK THE IMAGES FOR MORE ONLINE SAFETY SUPPORT

Attendance



HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE?

What if my child is poorly?

We can accommodate children in school with sniffles and minor ailments, and we will try to keep them comfortable, for example giving extra fluids, space to rest or a slightly shorter day. We would ask that parents liaise with us, so we can work out what is best for them on the day. If your child is likely to become dysregulated due to pain or illness, we would welcome a conversation to help keep them settled and safe. Some children really struggle with the break in routine that illness can bring, so it is always worth seeing what we can do to keep this continuity in attendance going.

What if my child is refusing to attend?

Call us as soon as possible, so we can offer a call with a key adult and/or offer flexible options such as a slightly later start or a meet and greet. Often children feel empowered to tackle any difficulties and barriers to attending if they can speak to staff in advance.

What if my child missed their taxi?

Let us know straight away. It is the parents' responsibility to get their child into school, so if the taxi is missed, please bring them in or try to arrange a lift with a relative or friend. In rare circumstances, we might be able to support by collecting your child.

What if my child has a doctor/dentist appointment?

Where possible, please try to book these after school or in the school holidays. We understand emergencies happen, and that it isn't always easy to get an appointment. Please bring your child to school before and after their appointment, to maximise their learning time and ensure they get their attendance marks.