

Springwell Leeds



Dear Parents / Carers,

May 2019 | Issue 7

Welcome to another edition of the Springwell Leeds Newsletter!

We are well and truly into exam season now and I am delighted with how well our students have coped so far with the additional stresses and strains that these can put on them. Rest assured that they are being superbly supported on all sites by our staff teams to make sure that have the best possible chance of doing their very best. I was also delighted and proud of our Year 6's who took their SATs just before the half term holiday and tried their best in what is a difficult week for all Y6's. Thanks again to the staff who supported them so well and to parents and carers for getting them to school so they take part in the tests.

We are looking for a **Parent Governor** to join the team. If you are interested, please contact Lauren Harper on L.harper@springwellacademyleeds.org or by calling 0113 4870504.

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I would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers about attendance. At this time of year in particular, our overall attendance tends to drop off and not be as consistent as the start of the year. This is probably due to the good weather and the holiday season being around the corner. With regard to holidays I would remind parents and carers that the Education Regulations (2013) make it clear that schools cannot authorise any requests for children to be taken out of school for a holiday during term time. A leave of absence can only be granted in exceptional circumstances which must be applied for in writing before the holiday is taken. Parents / carers who wish to take their child out of school during term time, must apply in advance and should do so by completing the relevant form, which is available from the Administration Office at the site attended by your child.


Any absence in term time that is not authorised may require the academy to take further action, up to and including court action.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of attendance in what we do at Springwell Leeds. Every day matters and every day counts. I know when the sun is shining and the weather is sunny, children may want to be off doing other things and this can be a challenge, but it is important that we work together to try and push as many of children as we can to attend every day.

Finally a reminder of some key dates that have arisen due to the coming closure of the Oakwood site.


To allow the building to be closed and emptied and transferred to the new sites;

Oakwood site will be closed to pupils on:

 22nd, 23rd and 24th of July

To allow time for preparation ahead of the transition

The North, South and East sites will be closed to pupils on:

 Friday 28th of June

All our key holiday dates for next year are now available on the academy website

Kind regards,

Scott Jacques

Executive Principal

Primary Site

Our trip to Go Ape

This term, despite the short weeks, has been action packed at our Primary Site. This term has seen all of our children go out on trips and visits to add to their exciting learning experiences. Mersey, Trent and Wharfe Class faced their fears when they visited 'Go Ape'. The staff were overwhelmingly impressed with the perseverance and resilience that our children showed, as well as their excellent behaviour and manners when out and about on their trip. Well done everyone, these experiences are the ones that we all remember from Primary School and help to give our children a broad and exciting primary school experience.

Take a look at our snaps from the day...



At the Primary Site, as part of our curriculum development CPD, we have been digging into our teaching of Maths. We spent some time looking at the mastery approach and how concrete resources can enable children to develop more secure, deep understanding of mathematical concepts... and we had great fun doing it! 😊



Our staff at all of the sites have also been engaged in some great learning this half term. Ann-Marie (Principal of our South site) and I have been putting science into the hands of the general population with our Trauma-Sensitive 'Wow-in'. Everyone got the chance to see the Resilience Movie, discuss the impact that this approach could have for our children and started to think about how we can evolve our practice with our growing understanding and knowledge. Exciting times ahead.

If you can get the science into the hands of the general population they will invent wise actions...

North Site

At the North site, our students have been spending time learning outside the classroom with a variety of educational visits planned by our staff. Learning in different contexts is beneficial for all young people, and specifically supportive of the work we do with young people at Springwell in developing positive community experiences and opportunities to practice positive social skills outside of the school gates. We had a number of trips ranging from farm visits at Hesketh Farm, Bolton Abby to local trips at Meanwood and Golden Acre Park. Some of our trips were linked to specific curricular areas such as Science, where students are learning about different living things and animals, or in Design Technology, where our photography students had the opportunity to practice the new techniques they learned around Leeds City Centre.

Other trips have been to develop and practice positive social skills and relationship building. One trip in particular was linked to the progress our Yr7 students were making in their readiness to learn that has resulted in excellent progress in English lessons. I think we would all agree that the learning process is far more engaging when we are having fun and we look forward to providing students with many more exciting opportunities for experiential learning in the future!



East Site



Football Thriller

Friday 10th May saw a much awaited and anticipated away match for Springwell East, travelling across the city for a 'local derby' against Springwell South. Led by our captain, we entered the sports hall with excitement and a good deal of nerves.

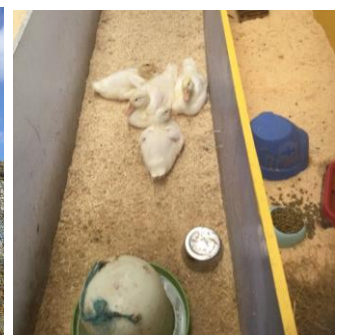
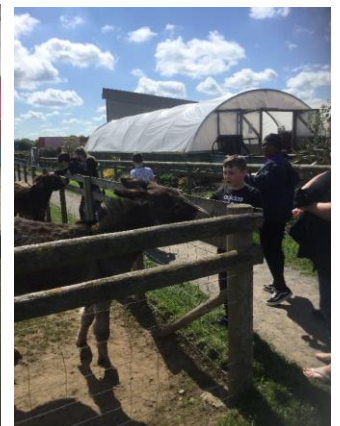
The South team flew out of the blocks to make home advantage count, taking a 3 goal lead, much to the delight of the home crowd. Gradually the good football, modelled on a Leeds United possession game, of the East took control and goals flowed. All players contributed to a fabulous display and the East team lead by 9 to 6.

Mr Skirrow (South) and his coaching staff then played a tactical masterstroke and sneaked an extra player on court and much to everyone's surprise (not) the South caught up to tie 9 - 9. Once rumbled, East added a sixth player to again take the lead 10 - 9. With 10 seconds to go and the whistle at the ready, South got an equaliser to make it 10 - 10. Without doubt, football was the winner.

A thoroughly good time was had by all and all the team are looking forward to the next fixture which should be another 'local derby' with the North or South!!

Here at the East site, we have been delighted to receive confirmation that six of our students have achieved Functional Skills Level 1 in reading or writing, and ten have achieved Entry Level 3 in reading, speaking and listening. These were all first time passes and testament to the hard work of the students involved. One of our students who achieved Level 1 is just in year 8, but was determined to keep up with his year 9 peers, completing 49 pages of reading exercises at home! All students are now well underway in completing the remaining parts of their respective qualifications to achieve the full awards by the summer break.

Y6 Swithens Farm Visit



South Site

Here at the south, we have had a very busy month across all pods. Many classes have been spending time at Herd farm and have had an amazing time biking, mountain boarding, climbing, archery and an assault course.

Both students and staff had an amazing time and the staff at Herd farm have been very patient and amazing with our students.



We have introduced “family dining” where all children sit together in their pods to eat. How cool do our new table and chairs look?! The children seem to have adapted really well to them.

Sensory intervention fun



Orange 1 2 and 3 have been having great fun den building. There were some amazing dens including the one made for the ladybird they found in the quad area.



Next month we will be having a visit from Jollyes petshop who will be bringing in animals for the children to handle.

Experimenting with static in science with Dr Khan



'The child may forget but the body remembers'


For years we have separated physical and mental health but the body does not. As an ethical educator, the link between wellness and readiness to learn has always been a point of interest. It wasn't until I read 'the boy who was raised as a dog' by Dr Bruce Perry that the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma was brought to my attention. Suddenly, it all made sense. I realise I was probably a decade behind some of my colleagues however, what I took from this moment of realization was the hope that many other people would also transform their practice if we could get the science into their hands.

So it began, in my work with Wellspring, I was lucky enough to meet similarly like-minded people who had also been ably equipped with a growing knowledge and understanding of, not only the effects of ACEs and Trauma but also, the skills to be the one safe, nurturing adult to help and heal. In January of this year, we were lucky enough to attend the conference 'Towards Trauma Informed' with NVR Northampton, Dr Karen Treisman and Matthew Portell (Principal of a Trauma-Informed School in Tennessee. As part of this incredible two-day experience was a screening of the Resilience Movie.

Resilience Movie: 'Researchers have recently discovered a dangerous biological syndrome caused by abuse and neglect during childhood. As the new documentary Resilience reveals, toxic stress can trigger hormones that wreak havoc on the brains and bodies of children, putting them at a greater risk for disease, homelessness, prison time, and early death. While the broader impacts of poverty worsen the risk, no segment of society is immune. Resilience, however, also chronicles the dawn of a movement that is determined to fight back. Trailblazers in pediatrics, education, and social welfare are using cutting-edge science and field-tested therapies to protect children from the insidious effects of toxic stress—and the dark legacy of a childhood that no child would choose.'

Following the two-day event, Ann-Marie and I felt compelled to share our experience with every Springwell professional because, after all, we are working with the most vulnerable children in Leeds and a Trauma-Informed ethos is the path to breaking the intergenerational cycle. Ann-Marie and her team did the hard work following our initial planning meeting. They sourced the film, planned the sessions and got the party bags and popcorn ready!

Since that date, every Springwell staff member has now completed an introduction to Trauma-Informed practice which included a screening of the Resilience Movie and a had a try at the Brain Architecture game. As Ann-Marie states at the start of the event, Trauma-Informed isn't something that happens as a result of attending the training once or watching the movie. It is an ethos, a culture, a way of working and living. This will be a long journey but I am confident that it will be a successful one due to the incredible number of like-minded professionals who we have on board. In November, many colleagues from Springwell and Wellspring will join Dr. Bruce Perry at a Trauma Informed conference in Glasgow to continue to learn with the aim of developing a truly Trauma - Informed academy.



WELLSPRING
Wellness & Education

Springwell Leeds Academy
Invites you to a FREE screening of
"Resilience"
& an introduction to
Trauma Sensitive Practice

Tuesday 11th June - Springwell Leeds Academy South
Monday 24th June - Springwell Leeds Academy North
Tuesday 9th July - Springwell Academy East
All Screenings run from 4.00pm - 5.30pm

RESILIENCE
THE CHILD MAY NOT REMEMBER, BUT THE BODY REMEMBERS

About "Resilience"
Researchers discovered a dangerous biological syndrome caused by abuse and neglect during childhood. As the documentary "Resilience" reveals, toxic stress can trigger hormones that wreak havoc on the brains and bodies of children, putting them at a greater risk for disease, homelessness, prison time, and early death. While the broader impacts of poverty worsen the risk, no segment of society is immune.

Trailblazers in pediatrics, education, and social welfare are using cutting-edge science and field-tested therapies to protect children from the insidious effects of toxic stress—and the dark legacy of a childhood that no child would choose.

Whether you are a professional working in education, policing, social care or mental health services, our event aims to share the message that, for all adults working with children, you can be the change, you can be the one and, together, we can change the path of life for our most vulnerable children.

For venue locations and to book your free place, click here:
<https://springwellacademyleeds.org/events/>