



Dear Parents / Carers,

## Welcome to another edition of the Springwell Leeds Newsletter!

I hope you enjoy the items that follow that showcase the wonderful work that is happening across our three sites.

I was particularly thrilled this week to see that another group of our students at the East site had become published authors. Working with author, Russ Litten, they have written a collection of short stories and poems that have been published by First Story in a book called “Many Roads to a Happy Ending”. This book is the sole work of our children, even the cover design was produced by one of our talented students. If you want to read more, you can order it here on Amazon. This is a particularly appropriate time for this to happen as we have just entered Leeds’ “Year of Reading”.

The Leeds Year of Reading Leeds runs from until September 2020 and is a city wide initiative lead by Leeds City Council around reading and the love of reading. The aim is to promote reading for pleasure as there is clear research evidence that children who read for pleasure have better educational outcomes than those who do not. The initiative states that “a love of reading leads to a love of learning and this helps to underpin achievement in all subjects” – something with which I agree wholeheartedly. If you want to find out more about the Year of Reading in Leeds, the website is <http://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/YearofReading>

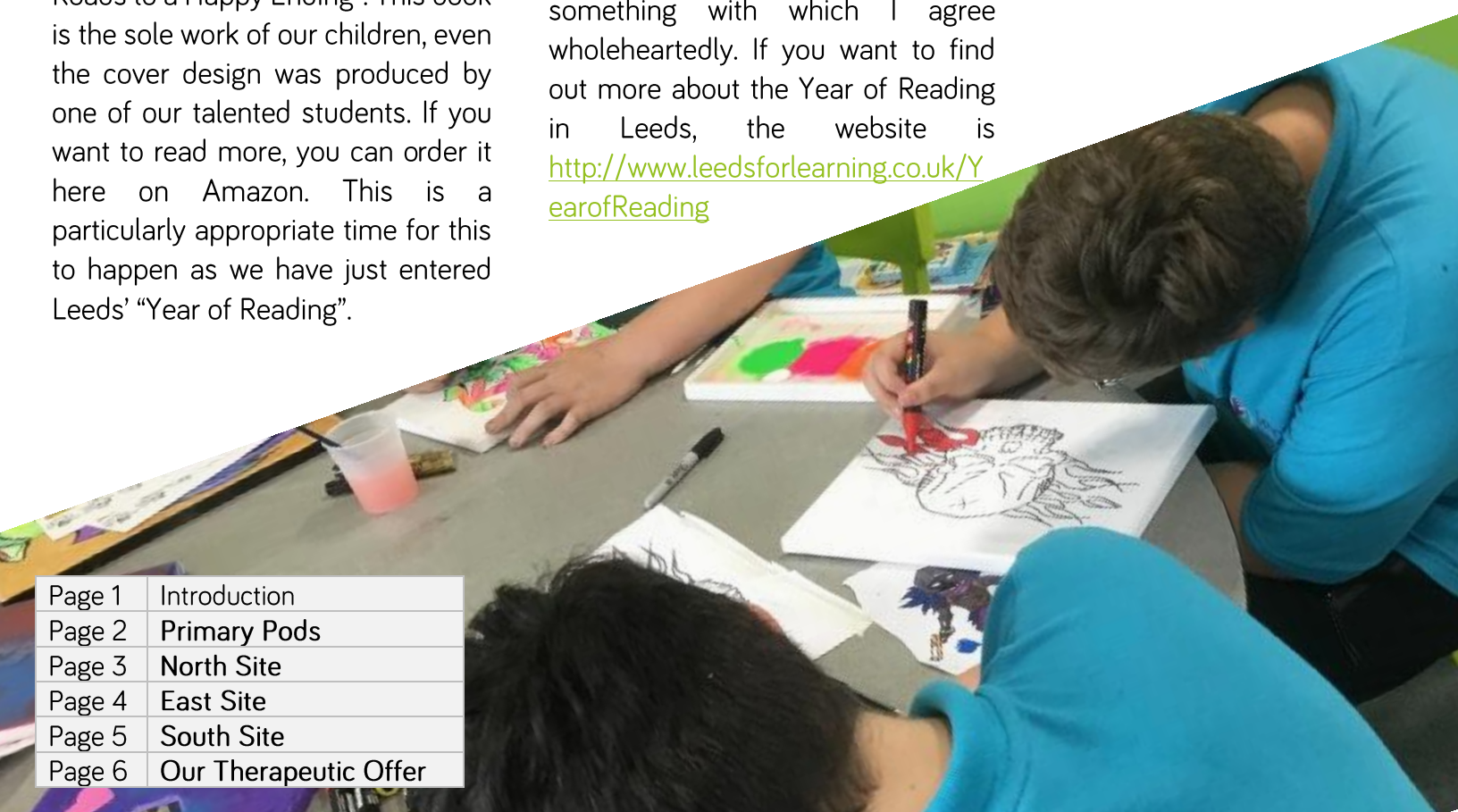
Finally, I am delighted to say that attendance in the first half term this year of this year was up in every key stage when compared to the first half term of 2018/19. Well done to all and please keep supporting your child to attend regularly. Every day counts and every day makes a difference.

Kind regards,

*Scott Jacques*

Executive Principal

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# Primary



In our Primary pod at North, we made our own scary spiders and pumpkins. They were fiddly little creatures to make but we persevered!



Here at South Primary Pod we have had a wonderful first half term in our new school.. As well as learning about World War 2 and The Egyptians we have been lucky to work with subject specialists from upper school. The highlight has to be weekly music lessons. It has been wonderful to see the confidence in some children who now sing solo and we hope to put on a wonderful Christmas concert later in the year.

Next half term sees the start of weekly Football sessions delivered by Leeds United coaches and our first school trips as we take part in the Intofilm festival - a national initiative using film to teach literacy skills. We will also be holding our first 'Cafes for All' parents coffee morning, an opportunity to invite families into school on a regular basis and strengthen the relationships between home and school.

It's the end of a long eight week half term in our Primary Pod and the children and staff have now all settled really well and happily into our new home at the North site. We have welcomed new pupils and adults into our Orange Team over the past few weeks and everyone has made sure that we continue to look after each other.

One of the highlights of this half term has been the weekly swimming lessons at Kirkstall Leisure Centre where some of the children in Mersey and Trent class have really improved their competency and speed skills in the water.

On a Friday morning our peripatetic Music teacher Tom hosts a very popular 1:1 music session. The children are taking it in turns each week to play the instruments of their choice in our lovely Music room upstairs. So far and not surprisingly, playing the drums has been very popular!

Halloween DT and Creative Arts activities have helped us to develop and improve our creative and imaginative skills as well as having lots of fun and pretending to scare each other! We have written stories about monsters, sewn patchwork pumpkins and made masks for Trick or Treat evening. We have even entered some of our models and pictures into a Halloween competition.



A big thank you to all our Parents and Carers for your support with a successful transition!

# North Site



How great do Orange 1's pumpkins look!



In English, Year 10 completed a cross curricular media project - the final product being their 'Springwell Zombie Apocalypse' film. Students acted and directed in the piece as well as making their own props.



Year 11 students have been studying hard for their Eduqas GCSE English Paper in the Summer, successfully completing a Paper 1 mock.

KS3 have been covering a range of topics from 'Film and Media' to 'Advertising.' A number of Year 8 students have successfully completed two thirds of their English Entry Level 3 qualification which is a fantastic achievement. Students, such as Alex Deighton and Toby Thorpe have been rewarded with a trip to Waterstones in Leeds to choose some books for themselves.

We have been delighted to welcome our Primary students who had the chance to experience a 1:1 Music lesson with our peripatetic teacher on a Friday morning in the hope of inspiring our next generation of instrumentalists, they have all done a superb job. The Primary pod were also treated to a live performance by Ryan, one of our Year 9 students, who performed a version of 'Faded' by Alan Walker. Ryan performed confidently and answered questions from the students afterwards, demonstrating all the attributes we would hope to see from a positive role model. We have also invested in 4 DJ controllers which have been purchased with the help of DJ School UK. Students have been able to work with Jim from the DJ school who has been coming into school each Tuesday afternoon and will continue to visit us until Christmas. Jim has been so impressed with our students that he has offered any students that attend regularly the chance to complete the AQA Unit Award qualification in 'Basic DJ skills'.



# East Site

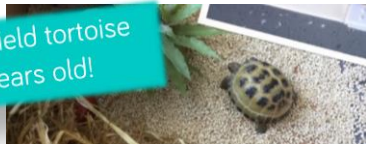
## Our Class Pet



Students in Year 7 Blue had a new addition to their class this half-term; Toy-Toi the Tortoise! Toy-Toi is a Horsefield tortoise who is 1 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  old. The boys in Year 7 Blue have been learning how to care for Toy-Toi and enjoy the responsibility of looking after him. As you can imagine, many other students have wanted to visit the class to meet Toy-Toi too!

A big thank you to Miss Tompkin's Mum for kindly donating Toy-Toi to our class! He has settled in very well!

Did you know a Horsefield tortoise can live up to 40 years old!



East held its second Coffee morning with parents and carers. After completing the serious business of constructing towers from spaghetti and marshmallows, feedback was given about the solutions which had been put in to place since the last meeting. Future meetings are being arranged including more coffee mornings, specialist speakers, parent/carers support groups and fundraising events. Watch this space!

Orange Year 7/8 had a wonderful experience visiting Herd Farm on Monday. They were challenged to climb and jump off the totem pole. Although they were very nervous, staff were incredibly impressed with how the children showed determination and support for each other. Every child got to the top! Children acted in line with their class virtues of 'team spirit' and 'kindness'.



Starting after half term, Springwell East will be hosting students from Leeds Beckett University who will be supporting learning with a number of students and groups across school. The students have already made preliminary visits to meet our pupils. The visitors will deliver sports such as badminton, basketball and run some intervention sessions with selected students. As we continue to build links with the School of Sport at LBU, it is hoped we will be able to take our pupils to visit LBU and to taste life as a university undergraduate.

East have taken part in two football fixtures during the past half term. Our senior team hosted the South team and in a very competitive match tasted defeat 7 - 12. The team were hampered somewhat by the absence of 2 key players and did remarkably well to fight back having conceded 5 goals in the opening 12 mins. The junior team headed to the North site to take part in a triangular match with North and South. With a 5 a side team, East made a great start defeating the hosts 4 - 2 before moving confidently into a fixture with South. In a very even contest the extra players and freshness of South enabled them to win 3-1 against a tiring East team who to their credit never gave up. At East we are hopeful that we can start to extend our fixture lists to other schools both inside and outside the Wellspring Trust and to perhaps play new competitive sports. Well done to all involved so far.!

# South Site



## Autumn Fair

Here at South we had an Autumn Fair to fundraise for a playbus for the students. There were various stalls for the tombola, books and guess how many sweets in the jar. Alongside this, staff and students made cakes to sell at the Springwell South café and it was great to see parents and members of the community visiting and supporting the fundraising. A big thank you also to Jason Lupton from Veritas Education who came to help out on the day and brought some prizes along with him. In total we raised £382.35 with a generous donation of £250 from Veritas.



Our Green 3 class at South thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Jump Arena. Our children could not have represented the school any better!



Investors in Pupils Award

Here at South, we have now had two fantastic Theraplay sessions for all staff. This means that going forward, we will be working in a Theraplay-informed manner, incorporating play and regulation activities into all aspects of school life. Every member of staff is now equipped to lead sunshine circles and to use playful interventions – and already, the impact has been massive! As you can see, staff and students alike are loving this way of working. In the near future, we will be leading parent-friendly sessions on how to incorporate play into daily routine, so watch this space. If you have any questions about Theraplay, please contact Mrs Reader, Vice Principal (South).



# Springwell Guide to Therapeutic Support

At Springwell Leeds we recognise that many of our children need additional support over and above the specialist teaching they receive from their classroom staff. We now have a Therapeutic Support Guide available which includes details of the targeted interventions we deliver and services that we support access to, in order to ensure that every child's needs are met.

If you would like a copy, please ask reception on site.

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**Beck**  
The Beck at GIPSIL provide a Wellbeing Worker who works with our children aged between 11 and 16, offering individual support sessions around self-esteem, resilience and confidence. The Beck use a range of methods including outreach, home visits and family interventions. Our children can also access holiday activities at The Beck where appropriate.



**Mable**  
This an award winning on line speech and language therapy service that provides bespoke 1:1 sessions. Our children use this service to become engaged, develop confidence and achieve better outcomes.



**Applied Psychologies**  
This team of Education Psychologists help our young people to learn better, interact more easily and ultimately become happier, more independent learners.



**Theraplay**  
Theraplay is a child and family therapy for building and enhancing attachment, self-esteem, trust and joyful engagement. It is based on the natural patterns of playful, healthy interaction between parent and child. This therapy is fun, personal and physical, focusing on four essential qualities found in parent-child relationships; Structure, Engagement, Nurture and Challenge. Theraplay is designed to create an active, emotional connection resulting in a changed view of the self as worthy and lovable and of relationships as positive and rewarding.



**Sensory Play and Exploration**  
Sensory play includes any activity that stimulates our young children's senses (touch, smell, taste, movement, balance, sight and hearing). These activities facilitate exploration and naturally encourage children to use scientific processes while they play, create and explore. The sensory activities allow children to refine their thresholds for different sensory information helping their brain to create stronger connections to process and respond to sensory information.

**Kooth**  
This is a free online service for young people accessible through mobile, tablet or desktop. Kooth offers expert and peer support from a diverse team of friendly counsellors including self-help resources, drop in and structured counselling.



**Music Informed Therapy**  
Music at Springwell is used within a therapeutic relationship to address physical, emotional, cognitive and social needs of individuals. Music therapy provides avenues for communication that can be helpful to those who find it difficult to express themselves in words.



**Thrive**  
The Thrive Approach draws on insights from recent advances in neuroscience, attachment theory and child development to provide a powerful way of working with children that effectively supports social and emotional development.

**Art Informed Therapy**  
This is a form of psychotherapy that uses art media as its primary mode of expression and communication. Within this context, art is not used as a diagnostic tool but as a medium to address emotional issues which may be confusing and stressing for our children.



**Nurture**  
Here at Springwell we use a nurturing approach that underpins everything we do, offering a range of opportunities for children to engage with missing early nurturing experiences.



**Horticulture**  
Children can learn to develop gardening projects and support enterprise activities.



**Unconditional Positive Regard**  
This approach runs throughout Springwell Leeds Academy and refers to accepting and supporting our children as they are without evaluating or judging them.



**Animal Assisted Therapy**  
The therapy dog at Springwell is trained to provide affection, comfort and love to our children. It supports all aspects of SEMH including mental wellbeing, trust and friendship. We also have a number of school dogs who are therapy dogs in training.



**CAMHs**  
Where appropriate, we support parents and carers to access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services for children under 18 and their families.



**MindMate**  
This Leeds wide service is helping our children understand the way they are feeling and finding the right advice and support.



Check out our new drone photographs on our website!

