

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to this half term's newsletter

I hope you will enjoy reading about all the fabulous things that have been going on across our sites this half term.

March 8th saw the Government reopen all schools again to all children. I know that many of your children have been attending school throughout the recent lockdown, but it has been lovely to see all children back into school and learning again. All the staff here at Springwell have been looking forward to having our children back in and were delighted to see them all.

The pandemic has been very disruptive to education and for some children will have got them out of the habit of attending school regularly. We want to get them back into that habit quickly, so that we can begin to make up for the time that has been lost. Before the lockdown, Springwell Leeds had the best term of attendance we have had since we opened, I would love us to get back to that as soon as we possibly can, so please help us and your child by making sure that they come to school every single day.

You will be aware that one of the things that has been brought in to support the safe return of children to school is COVID testing for staff and pupils. All of you will have been sent a home testing kit to use with your child. It is really important for the safety of all of the Springwell community that you carry out these tests twice a week. It is particularly important that you test your child the day before they return to school after the Easter holiday. If you receive a positive test, you and everyone in your household must follow the Government guidance and self isolate. Guidance on what this means can be found on the NHS website at www.nhs.uk

It is now a year since the first lockdown began and I hope that by working together, following the guidance and using the testing system, we can begin to return to a more normal next 12 months.

Take care and stay safe and have a happy Easter!



Scott Jacques
Executive Principal

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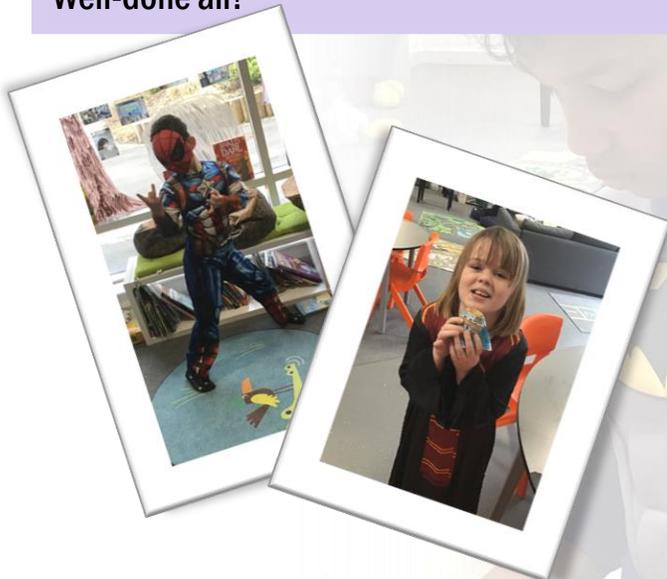
Primary

Our superpotatoes



Sensory Maths!

In Nidd class at East, we have been learning about position and direction. The pupils extended their learning in the areas of provision and used the diggers to show half and full turns. Some of us began to extend our knowledge and apply it using mastery maths approaches. Well-done all!



In Orange Pod on Comic Relief day Orange 4 dressed up as their favourite Superheroes and played imaginatively with each other throughout the day. Spells were cast! Villains were slayed and mountains were climbed! Lovely creative work was produced which made the children and staff feel very proud at the end of the day!

In Primary at South we have been having a wonderful time with lots of hands on learning, we have been making campfires and toasting marshmallows with Miss Razaq in our outdoor learning sessions. Then we have been enjoying healthy eating in PSHE, we have also been busy cooking up tasty healthy meals, we all enjoyed trying what we made. We have also been using our chromebooks to research what careers we are interested in, we loved using our new technology.

For our topic we have been learning about monsters, myths and legends, we have made some interesting discoveries. Then we started to look at our planet, we have discovered the benefits of recycling and how important it is we all do our own bit. We will be finishing the term off with lots of outdoor learning and fitness sessions, bring on the fun!

Cooking up our tasty meals



North Site

Beamsley Beacon Walk

As spring approaches, North site Blue 1 ventured out for a walk to Beamsley Beacon last Monday. The students showed high levels of resilience and teamwork helping one another reach the top and a fun day was had by all students and staff involved. Everyone felt a great sense of achievement after the walk.

In Yellow Pod the creative wall art designed and painted by our students continues to be of an outstanding quality which enhances the environment for everyone. This recent piece completed by Adam has impressed and motivated both students and staff to continue to ensure that the pod is always colourful and visually exciting.



Check out our creative wall



Blue Pod students took part in Bushcraft exercises in a wood near Ripon. Students had to collect wood to make a fire, work together to set the fire up and light it using a flint. They also had to find a particular stick and use a knife to create a point allowing them to hygienically eat from them. The picture shows all students toasting marshmallows on the campfire.

Art Workshops

Miriam Laville our North site Artist in Residence continues to deliver inspiring and creative Art workshops for our secondary and GCSE students. The work being produced by the students is truly wonderful and something for us all to be very proud of.



East Site

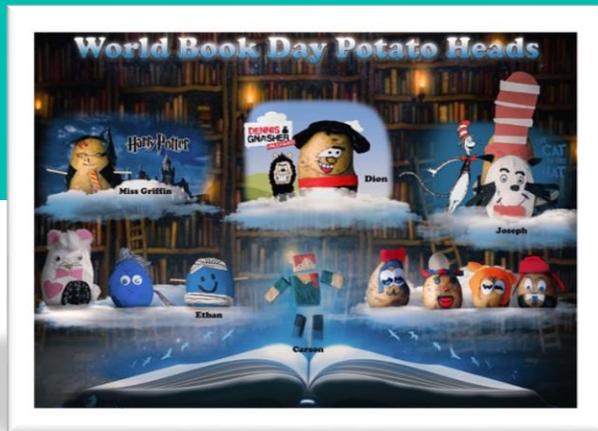


Operation Mineral

Pupils at East engaged with the West Yorkshire Police firearms unit, who delivered sessions to all our KS3 as well as groups of KS4 pupils. "Operation Mineral"; discussed the dangers around weapons and gun/knife crime and, although hard hitting, was a really interesting and informative session. At the end of each session pupils viewed police issue weapons and asked officers about their work.



Check out the wooden boxes and tealights made by our students



World Book Day Potato Head

Despite Covid19 restrictions, fewer children in school and issues with rotting potatoes, East were not prepared to be defeated and celebrated World Book Day with our usual vigor and enthusiasm. The announcement was the hardest part, since this inevitably leads to a 'snow day' and the event being postponed, so much so that East staff perpetually wear a wry smile just at the acronym. However, onward and upward, we entered a 'Make Your Favourite Book Character out of Potatoes' competition, and got a winner! Alex Mackie of Tyne class in Primary, won a £10 book token through an external company. The event was celebrated in exceptional style with the help of Mr Powell, who spent a weekend on his computer digitally enhancing the entrants' photos to create impressive wall art displaying whole-school results, and guess what....the weather was glorious!

maths exam success

Well done to those pupils who passed exams in Maths – a fantastic effort given the exam was at the beginning of the third national lockdown. Congratulations!



South Site



School Dog Magic

We have been using school dogs this academic year at for the first time. We knew lots about having a school dog (or two!) because we had thoroughly researched the benefits. This quote from a study of students at Washington State University shows the healing power of animals: "*Students in our study that interacted with cats and dogs had a significant reduction in cortisol, a major stress hormone.*" We also know of the positive experiences of using school dogs at our other sites, so we were keen to get involved and share the benefits. We have been blown away with the positive impact that our dogs' presence is already having.

Chewie is our oldest school dog. Although he is still only 14 months old, his training has been going really well and he has been able to increase his time in school and amongst the pupils and staff. Some of the work he has carried out includes: facilitating restorative meetings; meeting and greeting nervous new pupils; being read to by reluctant readers; giving cuddles to pupils and staff who have had to sit with some big emotions this half term, and being a friendly face at morning arrival time. He is ALWAYS happy, and never judges, whatever he is doing.



Our school dog, Chewie

Read all about it!

Here at Springwell, we are mad about reading! We recently celebrated World Book Day across all three sites, sharing our love of books, dressing up, making characters, playing The Masked Reader quizzes and generally indulging in stories.

We have recently launched an online library - please visit our website to see this incredible resource in action. The library is categorised into age ranges, and is free and simple to use. Just click on the book, and you will be taken to a reading or performance of the book...some are even by the authors themselves! we would widely encourage the use of this amazing resource for students from all of our sites, so please have a look and see what takes your fancy.

Thank you to all who contributed to the creation of the library - it will go from strength to strength as we continue to develop online learning.

