

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of this academic year

I hope you will enjoy reading about all the exciting things happening at Springwell Leeds across our 3 sites. You will notice as you read, that we have secured the services of a new School Counsellor, Siobhan Paines, who joined us in September and has already begun working with children across all sites. This is just one layer of the additional support for your children that we offer here at Springwell which also includes Educational Psychologist, Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language services. These specialist professionals work closely alongside our own expert practitioners in school to ensure that we are effectively supporting the needs of your children and helping them to flourish and grow. We are constantly looking at ways of bringing new, well researched ideas into school as well as ensuring all the adults working with your children every day have access to great training so they keep being the experts we want them to be.



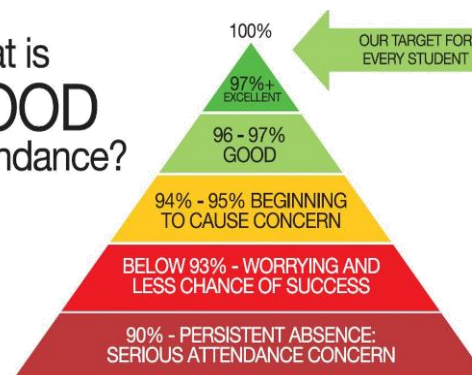
Scott Jacques
Executive Principal



Attendance at Springwell

We are aware of the barriers our students can face in getting to school every day. There are however direct links between student attendance and student attainment in GCSEs. If there are any way we can help or support or remove barriers to attendance please contact your child's class team

What is **GOOD** attendance?



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Please remember, we cannot authorise holidays in term time. Whilst we understand the reasons for going at these quieter times, please consider the length of holiday and the best time to take this; all leave will remain unauthorised.

We are seeking another parent to join our board of Governors. There is a commitment of attending 6 meetings a year which are held at each of our sites in turn from 4:30 – 6:00pm. If you are interested in this important role, please contact Lauren Harper on 0113 4870555 (option 4) or email us at office@springwellacademyleeds.org

North Site

Phonics

Phonics lessons are working really well in Primary, it is now part of a daily routine across all primary classes; phonics is happening each morning at 9.30am. Pupils are working through the Phonics International units, committing new sounds each day to their long term memory. This is then having a really positive impact on reading. It has been great to listen to lots of pupils gain confidence in blending and segmenting more complex graphemes.

Welcome New Starters!

Over the course of the last half term we have proudly welcomed 17 new starters across the school. By the end of the next term our school will be full! We have enjoyed getting to know all our new students and families and the key focus of staff has been to promote and build class communities through developing important skills around relationships and social skills.

Our school staff community has also grown! We have welcomed 7 new staff across school including two teachers in our Primary Pod covering maternity leave for Ms Chapman and Ms Wilby.

Hi, I'm Mrs Ibbetson, class teacher in Orange 2, North Site. I love teaching maths, phonics and science and I have a particular passion for early learning. I am really looking forward to the coming year, getting to know all the children really well and working hard for them.



Hello, I am Miss Weatherhead, class teacher across Orange Pod. I enjoy teaching maths, reading with the children and crafting. I am looking forward to the year ahead, learning and creating new things.



Star attender of the half term - Jayden

Jayden and his Nan get four buses every day to get to North site and back. Jayden has achieved 100% attendance this half term. To say well done Jayden received two tickets for a Leeds United match and we got Lisa some chocolates to say thanks and well done for the brilliant support she is providing for Jayden.



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East Site

Coffee Morning

Primary Pod welcomed families and carers to our Macmillan coffee morning, enjoying home made cakes, biscuits and hot drinks alongside raising money for charity.



Our Macmillan
Coffee Morning

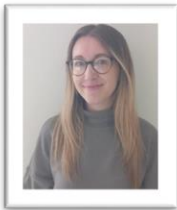
Welcome

A welcome from our new Maths Subject Leader, Beech and Spruce class leads:

My name is John Costello and I am the class teacher in Orange 3, which is a mixture of upper KS2 and lower KS3 children. I have been a primary school teacher for almost 15 years and am looking forward to using all my experience to help educate the children of Springwell in every way I can!



Hello, I am Mr Lumley and I am the new Subject Leader of Maths at Springwell Academy Leeds (East site). I have previously worked as a maths teacher in a secondary setting and am delighted to now be here at Springwell Leeds East teaching maths to KS4 whilst leading on the delivery of the mathematics curriculum in KS1,2&3.



I am Mrs Convy, class teacher in Spruce, Primary Pod. I enjoy teaching phonics, playing maths games, and writing poetry. I look forward to the year ahead and all of the accomplishments we can achieve together.

Year 10/11 Careers

Year 10/11 10 pupils attended the NEXGEN careers fair at Elland Road, where pupils were a credit to the school. They received careers guidance and ideas from various sectors / businesses as well as being given a bag of goodies!



Welcome our new school councillor!

Over the past few weeks, we have been getting to know Siobhan Paines, our Therapeutic Counsellor from Just Be. She has been very busy getting to know our young people and has already started to work directly with a small number of pupils offering a 'listening ear'. We look forward to seeing our pupils develop further regulation strategies with the support of Siobhan. For further information, visit our website; <https://springwellacademyleeds.org/send/intervention/therapeutic-counsellor/>



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South Site



Welcome New Starters!

We are very proud to have welcomed 16 new starters to South Site this term. This means that our school is very nearly full! Our new children have come from a range of different settings and we have really enjoyed getting to know them all. It has been lovely to see new friendships being made and to see our children helping each other and having fun together every single day. Whilst we understand the changes to existing routines and relationships can be a little unsettling for some of our students, this term of transition means that we will have far less disruption going forward, and we can settle properly into the new school year with our new friends and all work together to achieve our goals.

ADHD Awareness

We have recognised this very important month by continuing to develop our staff's awareness of this condition, which many of our children live with. Even more importantly, we have had a real focus on ADHD with our children. Most diagnostic reports would state that learning about their condition is a key part of treatment for children with ADHD. This is because a confident understanding of who they are and how their brain works can help boost self-esteem and decrease the shame which can be linked to frequent forgetfulness, hyperactivity and other behaviours shown. The following websites maybe helpful for you to talk about with your child - whether this is to help them understand themselves or their friends.

<https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/resources/> <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/adhd/> <https://childmind.org/article/school-success-kit-for-kids-with-adhd/>

Black History Month

We are in the middle of celebrating Black History Month, and our children are taking part in lots of learning, fun activities, and cultural opportunities. The month will culminate in a door decorating competition, where every class will choose a topic or country relating to black history to celebrate. We have had a series of informative assemblies over the month and we are working towards a non-uniform day at the end of term, where children and staff can dress in clothes to celebrate their heritage, which will showcase the wealth of culture we have amongst us at Springwell Leeds South. Although this month we shine a light on black history, it is important that diverse stories and role models are woven into the entire school curriculum, which is something we are very proud of being able to offer our children.

Parent Pop-In

Come join us for our next parent pop in on 30th November. Our last session was a great opportunity for parents to meet with our SENCO and occupational therapist.

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