

Welcome to our Christmas newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you enjoy reading about all the wonderful things that have been going on this half term. As 2024 draws to a close, it's always nice to look back at the year and reflect on our achievements. Back in the summer, we were absolutely delighted to have our Primary students achieve the best SATs results we have ever had and particularly pleased to see the improvements that have been made in reading. We also had our best ever set of results for our Year 11's - with more passes in more subjects than ever before. A real reflection on the hard work they (and our staff) put in over the years.

Springwell Leeds Academy has received a number of awards this year that show and celebrate the range of work that goes on across the academy.

This year we have achieved; Health and Wellbeing Beacon School Status (including recognition as a Food Friendly, PSHE Friendly and Mindmate Friendly school), The Eco Schools Award, The Anti Racist Schools Award, Investors in Pupils Award and Wellspring Safeguarding Gold Standard Award.

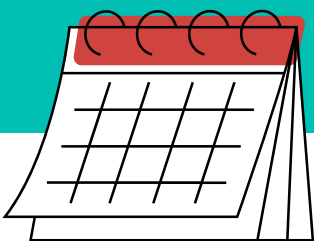
We were also really pleased to increase our attendance for the third year in a row following the pandemic. There is still work to do to improve it further and you can help us by making sure that your child does not miss out on this or on the start of the new year by ensuring that they attend regularly - every day counts!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and peaceful 2025.

Key Dates

- Schools close Friday 20th December and re-open Tuesday 7th January
- Parent Review Day will be held on Monday 6th January

<https://springwellacademyleeds.org/school-calendar/>



Scott Jacques
Executive Principal

North Site



College Visits

To enhance the support for post-16 opportunities that we provide, at Springwell Academy North, we have facilitated multiple trips to different college provisions. As a part of our experiential learning this half-term, our year 10 and 11's have accessed a range of college tours and private workshops. Giving them the chance to explore these new environments is designed to spark interest in college and help students explore potential courses available that align to their needs and current interests. We have recognised that for most of our young people, just experiencing these visits builds confidence and impacts the success of learning in the classroom. These college trips are an invaluable part of our experiential learning program. Facilitating them empowers our students to make informed decisions about their future and take the next steps towards a successful career. As a trust, we strive to continue supporting the aspirations of our young people and assisting the transition period from Springwell to post- 16.

Phonics Advent

At North site pupils have enjoyed listening to various Christmas stories with lots of different adults. They sat around the Christmas fireplace listening to a 'Poop Powered Christmas' and listened to what Santa and the elves get up to on 'The Night After Christmas'. They're looking forward to hearing many more Christmas stories throughout the final few days. It has been a calm and festive end to each afternoon in Orange Pod.



Celebrations at Springwell

Our week ends with a warm and inviting community cafe. Students gather to share a hearty breakfast, play board games, and engage in fun activities. This positive atmosphere sets the tone for a calm and purposeful end to the week. Following the cafe, we hold celebration assemblies. recognising achievements for out student's in academics, behavior, and personal growth. Star of the Week awards are presented, and special Care Team awards honor positive choices made by young people through the week.

Students also have the opportunity to earn rewards in each pod. These rewards range from exciting treats from Ms. Wason's shop to cozy hot chocolates with the Care Team.

We're incredibly proud of our students' positive behavior and respect for one another during these celebrations. It's heartwarming to see them take pride in their own achievements and those of their peers. By fostering a culture of recognition and appreciation, we aim to inspire and motivate our students to continue striving for excellence.

East Site

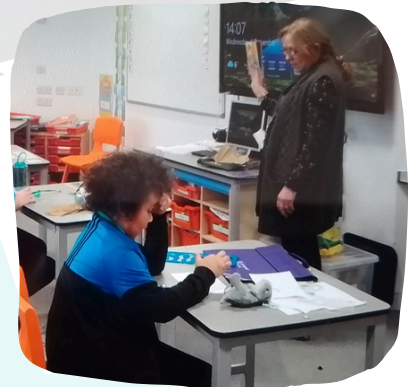


Children in Need Talent Show

Primary pupils performed some amazing acts to celebrate Children in Need - wee done to all those who took part!

Reading Advent Calendar

Throughout Springwell Leeds Academy, across our three festive sites, Primary classes have participated in a daily Reading Advent Calendar. Students unwrap their Christmas story book for the day, and a special storyteller visits the class to share the story while students listen over milk and cookies. It has been enchanting to watch students listen with careful ears, pay attention with curious eyes, and share wonderful moments together, during Advent time.



Science at East

For KS4 Science this term pupils have been learning about plant organelles and making a model of a plant cell. In KS3 Science, we have been learning about the Heart and circulatory system including performing a heart dissection!

Anti-Bullying Day

Staff and pupils wore odd socks to celebrate diversity and raise anti bullying awareness!



Christmas at East

We have lots of exciting things happening in the lead up to Christmas including the return of our annual tradition - Christmas Door Competition!



South Site



Our New Pet

This term, Mrs Boci and a few of the girls from Girls club went on an exciting trip to Paws for Thought to pick up an axolotl as a new school pet. They chose a baby male and have named him 'Gilbert Brian Springwell'. He is roughly 12 weeks old and he is loving his new habitat in Mrs Boci's room. He is growing so fast. The girls love to help clean his tank and help feed him; they are not keen on giving him live worms, but don't mind feeding him frozen blood worms!

The girls regularly check his water temperature and the pH levels, as these can be dangerous if they get too high for him. He is proving to be very popular with the students and Gilbert will be spending the Christmas holidays with Mrs Allen. We are hoping to give Gilbert a friend to join him in the tank after the Christmas period as he looks a little lonely in his giant tank.



Welcome, our New Admin Manager!

We have a new Admin Manager at South, Deborah Hughes, who is looking forward to her new role having previously worked in the SEN Admin role at Springwell.. I am sure you are all looking forward to meeting her!



First Prize - Design a flag for the National Education Union

Ellis said "I printed a map of Wakefield and drew the landscape of the city on top of it with the dawn painted in the background. I put the rhubarb triangle over the top and used the word 'RESPECT' to represent respect for schools, teachers, students and education."

I am really happy that I won first prize for my flag design and I can't wait to see it on the flag!

Polite reminder

Please remember how hard our whole team works - class teams, pastoral staff, leaders and admin all contribute to the learning experience your child gets, to maintaining safety and to meeting their needs. We will not tolerate rudeness, swearing or aggression and we expect that all families treat our staff with respect and kindness.



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.

Please remember, we welcome (and indeed expect) children to attend with minor ailments such as a runny nose or an ache or pain. If your child has been sick, give us a call to talk this through - depending on the cause, they may not need to stay home for 48 hours. If your child is unwell but feels able to 'give it a go' please call Reception...they can let the class team know, and we can get in touch if they can't manage the full day. Lots of our children struggle with the disruption to their routine that being away from school brings, so we would always encourage attending wherever possible. We can look to make short term adjustments to support them.

As the Christmas holidays begin, please use this opportunity to book things like dentist appointments, so these don't impact on attendance next term.

Online Safety

