

Welcome to our Easter newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you enjoy reading about everything that has been going on over the last few weeks. As you will know, we received a visit from Ofsted last week. It's the first time they have visited us since our first inspection in 2019, so this was not unexpected. Over the two days, they looked thoroughly into every aspect of school life at Springwell, spending time in lessons, meeting with staff and leaders and talking to many of our pupils, parents and governors as well as looking at pupils' work, our policies, practice and safeguarding arrangements. Their rules mean that I can not publicly share the outcome just yet, but I can say that we were happy with the feedback we received and I look forward to sharing the report with you once we are able to.

As we head towards the Easter holiday, I would like to remind you that we are unable to authorise any holidays during term time for our pupils. By making sure your child attends school regularly, you are supporting their educational and social outcomes and helping us achieve the best for them.

Finally, a reminder that the last day of term is Friday 4th of April and that school reopens for all pupils on Tuesday 22nd April - the Monday is a Bank Holiday. We look forward to welcoming everybody back then. Happy Easter!



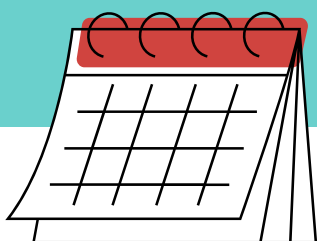
Scott Jacques

Executive Principal

Key Dates

- Schools close Friday 4th April
- Schools reopen on Tuesday 22nd April

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





North Site



Careers Week

Our Key Stage 4 students recently immersed themselves in a fantastic Careers Week, designed to broaden their horizons and equip them with valuable insights for their post-16 journeys. The week provided opportunities to explore different career paths and develop employment skills.

A highlight for many was the chance to undertake in-school work experience. Students gained hands-on experience working alongside our site team and catering teams, acted as science and music technicians, and acted as community volunteers. This provided a unique glimpse into the daily realities of various roles and allowed students to contribute to the smooth running of our school. Throughout the week, curriculum lessons also took on a career focus, exploring diverse employment sectors and the various post-16 pathways available. Students engaged in discussions about different industries, the qualifications needed, and the skills valued by employers.

The feedback from students regarding their work experience was overwhelmingly positive. They not only enjoyed their time but also gained a deeper understanding of the specific roles. Importantly, many students were able to identify and discuss the transferable employment skills they developed during their placements, such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and time management – skills that will undoubtedly support them in their future endeavours.

Careers Week in KS4 has been a resounding success, providing our students with practical experience, valuable knowledge, and increased confidence as they begin to plan their next steps. A big thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made this enriching week possible!

Dogs Trust Visit

Our primary students at Springwell Academy North Site recently enjoyed a wonderful and informative visit from the Dogs Trust on March 21st! The session was a fantastic opportunity to learn even more about how to stay safe and feel confident around dogs.

The Dogs Trust representative made everyone feel incredibly welcome, and our pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the engaging Dog Safety Workshops. This visit, alongside our students' ongoing positive interactions with our own school dogs, plays a vital role in helping them develop a strong understanding of dog behaviour and how to interact safely.

We are delighted that this experience further reinforces our aim of ensuring all our students feel secure and happy in the presence of dogs. The Dogs Trust was so impressed with our students and their engagement!

Keep an eye out for a special Dogs Trust certificate that will be shared with the children to celebrate their participation in this valuable workshop. We encourage you to discuss what they learned at home too! A big thank you to the Dogs Trust for their visit and for helping us continue to build a safe and dog-friendly environment for all our students.



Springwell
Leeds

Nurture Inspire Achieve

East Site

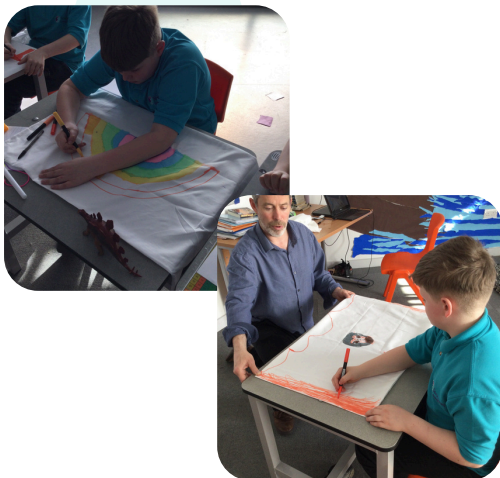


Netflix Star

Well done to Dexter from Blue pod - who has appeared in the recent Netflix series - "Adolescence". Dexter has also appeared in "Waterloo Road" and we look forward to following his acting career develop!!

World Book and Pyjamarama Day!

Well done to all those who took part in World book day. As ever there were some fantastic outfits from both staff and students! Our Primary pod also enjoyed celebrating Pyjamarama day by spending the morning of reading in the comfort of their pyjamas!



Pillowcase Project

Primary and Key Stage 3 pupils are currently looking at climate change during Elements. Primary pupils at East have accessed the British Red Cross Pillowcase project - planning and designing pillowcases that would store vital resources in the event of an extreme weather event.

Skelton Grange - Stone Age Day

Primary pupils had the opportunity to spend an immersive day based on what it would be like to have lived in the stone age - linking to last half term's Elements work. They learned how the Stone Age people lived, they learned how to build a home, make a fire, prepare and cook bread and fish along with some hunting skills! Students listened, followed safety rules and were respectful to the tutors.



South Site



Family Thrive

At Springwell South we are very excited about our upcoming Family Thrive Course starting on the 30th April. This will be a 6 week course delivered by Mrs Boci. We have invited 10 parents to attend, and we are very excited to work with our newest cohort. In this course, parents will learn a series of strategies to help understand the behaviour their child is displaying and to understand what they are trying to communicate. We will also be looking at how the brain works and develops, and how to build highly effective relationships.

If you are interested in learning more about this please contact Mrs Boci at the South site.
j.boci@springwellacademyleeds.org

Therapeutic Interventions

At Springwell, we believe every child deserves to feel supported and nurtured. All staff weave inclusion and wellbeing into everything we do, ensuring our curriculum meets each child's individual needs. We use careful assessments, support plans, and internal referral systems to help children thrive, and we openly talk about mental health to create a safe and understanding environment.

To support our children further, we offer a range of therapeutic activities, led by Springwell's Therapeutic Intervention team, as well as external commissioned services. Springwell Academy's therapeutic intervention offer includes;

- Theraplay - Theraplay uses structured play to build secure attachments between parents and children. It focuses on nurture, structure, engagement, and challenge, leading to improved emotional wellbeing and family interaction.
- Thrive - We use the Thrive Approach to understand and support your child's individual emotional and social needs. This helps us create personalised plans to build their confidence, manage emotions, and develop healthy relationships, all while recognising the impact of any past experiences.
- Lego Therapy - Lego Therapy is a team-based activity where children use Lego to build together. It helps them improve social skills and communication, and it also uses their strengths to support areas where they might find things more difficult. It's a fun and supportive way to build confidence and social understanding.



As well as many more, if you want to learn more about the therapeutic offer at Springwell Academy, please email a.knapton-smith@springwellacademyleeds.org or come into school for our next SENCO Surgery.

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