

Half Term 1

2025/26



# Springwell Leeds Newsletter



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## Welcome to this half term's newsletter

We have had a good start to the year, and everyone is impressed at how smoothly and positively most of our students have settled back into their learning routines. The energy and focus in the classrooms and throughout the academy have been truly inspiring to see.

I want, once again, to mention the importance of good attendance at school. Being in school every day not only supports academic progress but also consistently reinforces the vital social and emotional routines that are essential for our students. Every day counts, particularly in our supportive environment, where regular attendance builds the relationships and consistency needed for stability and growth. Our OfSTED inspectors last year commented that those students who were not attending well enough were really missing out.

We are absolutely thrilled to share that Springwell Leeds Academy has been announced as a finalist in the prestigious Education Today Awards, in the category of "Best Overall School". This national recognition is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and innovative practice of our entire staff team, and most importantly, the incredible progress and achievements of our students. We look forward to sharing further news as soon as the results are announced.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we look forward to a successful and rewarding year ahead!



*Scott Jacques*  
Executive Principal



Two groups of primary children from Springwell Leeds North recently conquered the walls at Armley Climbing Depot over five fantastic sessions! This incredible opportunity was a joint project with Leeds Beckett University, who generously funded the sessions. From the moment the pupils first faced the walls, they showed incredible determination. They didn't just stick to the easy bouldering problems; they pushed themselves to tackle walls of increasing difficulty, scrambling up the coloured holds that looked impossible at first glance.

The real success story was the sheer resilience they displayed. There were lots of really positive examples of pupils supporting each other and celebrating success. They learned that sometimes the toughest problems require a helping hand and a lot of loud encouragement.

By the end of the final session, every pupil had smashed their personal goals.

*What a brilliant achievement!*

## Exciting Trips

Pupils at East have started the academic year with a variety of activities to supplement the formal curriculum including our KS4 trip to see *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Oak class from East site enjoyed a visit to The Web Adventure Park in York where they fed animals, had a picnic, played on the outdoor activities and had fun in the soft play indoor area. Primary pupils from East attended a 'Go Paddle' event organised by Leeds Well School Partnership. They paddled along the Leeds Liverpool canal, learnt new skills and showed fantastic team work.







## Pupil Focus - Preston's Recipe for Success

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the fantastic progress of Preston, who has been thriving in class this term!

Preston has shown remarkable growth in his ability to manage his emotions and self-regulate, creating a calm and focused learning environment for himself and others. This emotional control has opened the door for him to build amazing relationships with his peers, fostering a positive and supportive atmosphere within the classroom.

A huge part of Preston's success has been channeling his passion for cooking. His enthusiasm for Food Technology is infectious, and he consistently takes the initiative to encourage and involve his classmates in the practical sessions. He's not only learning a new skill but is also demonstrating real leadership and teamwork.

Well done, Preston, on all your hard work and for showing us all what it looks like to thrive!

## Wonderdome

Pupils across the Springwell Leeds site have had the chance to experience the wonders of the universe in a planetarium, learning all about the planets, galaxy and the universe.





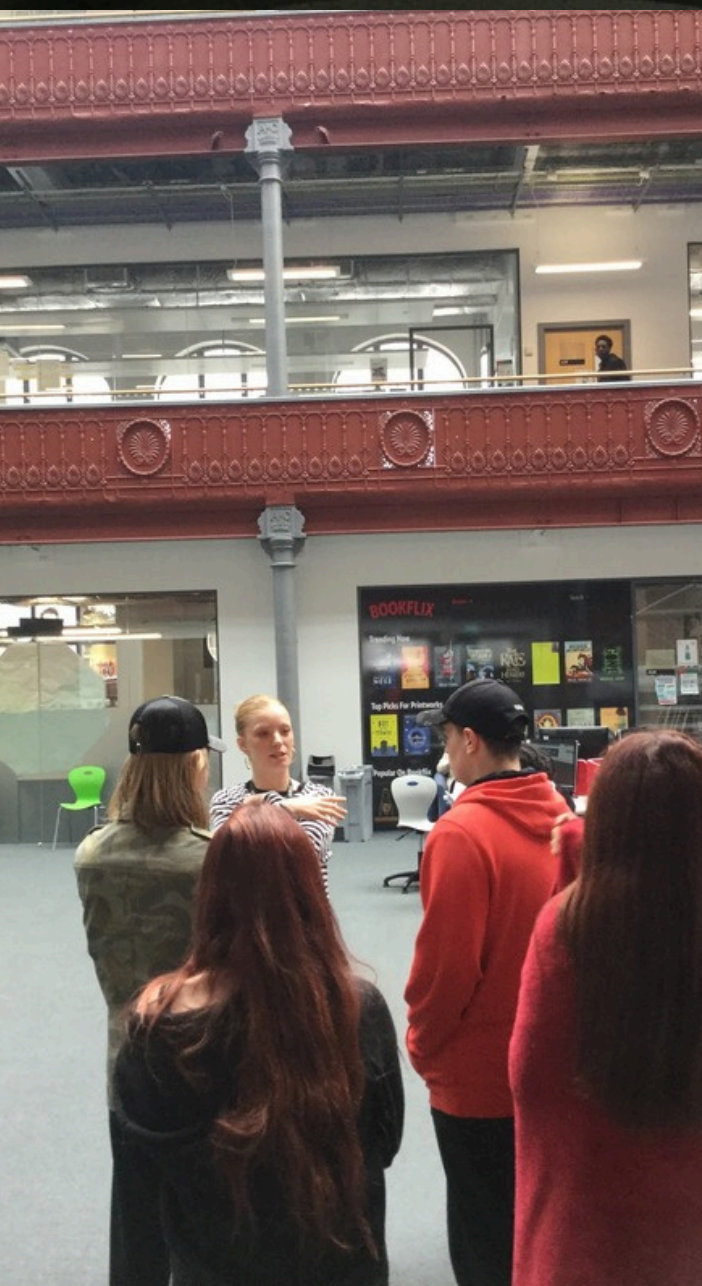
# Careers and Post 16 Education

As part of our Experiential Learning curriculum our pupils have been provided with opportunities to visit a range of colleges and Post 16 provisions. The purpose of this is to enable our learners to make informed choices linked to further study and career pathways. Our learning program has included detailed tours of the three main sites of Leeds City College, exploring a range of course levels and departments.

Some pupils have also been fortunate enough to visit the South Campus of the Leeds College of Building and an alternative vocational training provision called Fast Forward.

All pupils are encouraged to engage in careers conversations particularly with our Careers Advisor, Lance DePass which provides further information and advice to support pupil progression into further study.

We have also had the pleasure of the company of a Leeds University Law student called Gabriel who delivered an in-depth presentation expressing the importance of achieving a Level 4 GCSE in English and how this affects future career and study choices, the likelihood of securing a job interview and pay levels.



**For further information or if you have any queries around careers and Post 16, please contact your child's individual site.**



**CONTACT US**



# Scout at Springwell!

Our lovely school puppy, Scout, has now graduated initial puppy training! We are all very proud of her, and most importantly, of the way the children have welcomed her and cared for her as part of our school community.

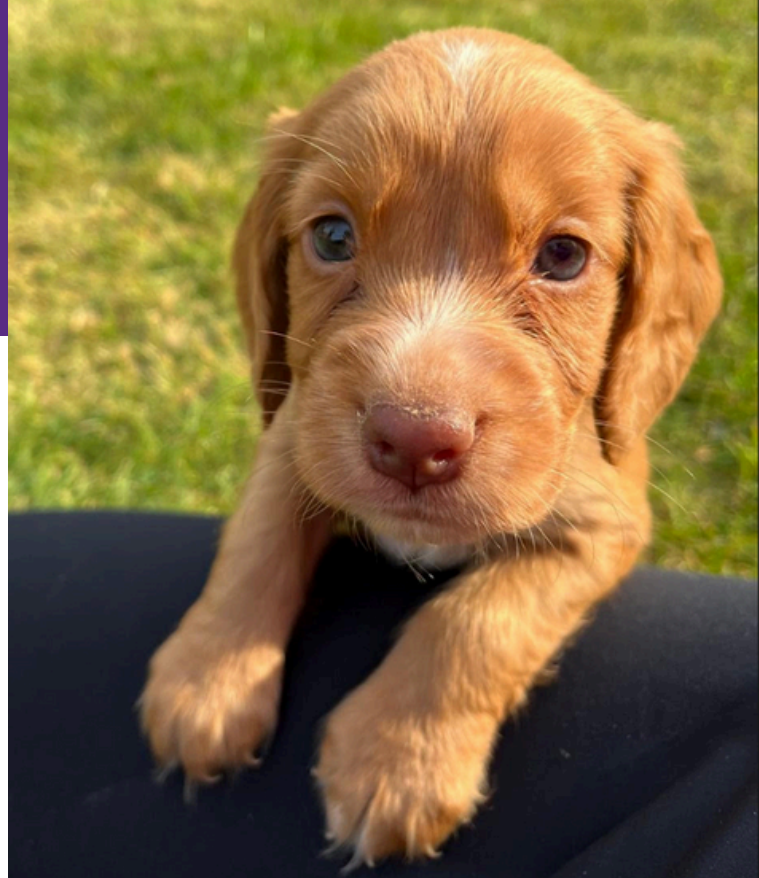
Scout keeps herself busy at school, and in a typical day she might:

- have a stroll at taxi time and meet and greet pupils and families
- help children to overcome any anxieties when coming into school
- listen to children read
- show off her training and tricks
- stretch her legs on the astroturf chasing her ball
- have her fur brushed by the children

Scout is a working cocker spaniel, so she is full of energy!

Dogs are scientifically proven to reduce stress and anxiety in humans, and to increase the 'happy hormone' oxytocin - here at South, we have seen a highly positive impact from our daily interactions with Scout, for students, staff, and even families.

Next term, Scout will begin a therapeutic dog training programme, as well as continuing to master the basics (not sitting on Mrs Reader's desk spying out of the window is top of the agenda for next term!).



**Scout is settling into Springwell life!**





# A New Governing Board

## North & West Yorkshire Specialist Partnership

You may remember last year I wrote to you last year about a change to our school Governing Body. We have now formally become part of the North West Yorkshire Specialist Partnership (NWYSP), along with 5 other schools from within the Wellspring Academy Trust. This group of schools will work closely together under a single Local Governing Board.

The LGB are a group of committed people who support, advise and work with the school's leaders to make sure our school is the best it can be. The LGB helps by:

1. Setting the Direction: They make sure everyone agrees on the school's goals, its values, and its plan for the future.
2. Keeping Leaders Accountable: They check on the school's senior leaders to make sure students are learning well and that the staff are doing a great job.
3. Managing Money: They watch over the school's budget to ensure every penny is spent wisely and helps the students.

We're very happy to welcome a dedicated and skilled group to the LGB. This team cares deeply about our schools and is ready to help us keep improving. Here is the list of our new Local Governing Body members:

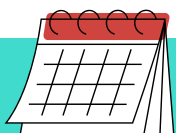
- Ken Morton
- Robert Stott
- Andrea Cowans
- Jayne Rowe
- Jane O'Gara
- Jo Laidlaw
- Caroline Day (Parent Governor)
- Stella Croot (Parent Governor)
- Shaunagh Barker (Staff Governor)
- Chris Plowright (Staff Governor)
- Scott Jacques (Executive Principal)
- Shona Crichton (Executive Principal)
- Mark Wilson

Their mix of different experiences and their commitment to our community will be a huge help to NWYSP. We look forward to working with them to plan for a successful future for all our students across the region.

If you ever need to get in touch with the Governing Body, please email our Governance Officer, Francesca Lenny, at [f.lenny@wellspringacademies.org.uk](mailto:f.lenny@wellspringacademies.org.uk).



## Important Dates or Events



Schools close Friday 24th October and reopen on Monday 3rd November

Schools close for staff training on Monday 1st December  
<https://springwellacademyleeds.org/school-calendar/>

# Attendance Matters



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