

Half Term 3

2025/26



Springwell Leeds Newsletter



Welcome to our latest newsletter

I hope you will enjoy looking back at all the things that have happened over the last weeks across our sites. As we reach the end of this busy and productive half term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible journey our students and staff have embarked upon since the start of the year. It has been a term defined by resilience, creativity, and the strengthening of our unique school community.

We have seen remarkable progress across all our sites, and the quiet triumphs of personal growth as our "one system" approach continues to flourish, allowing us to share expertise across the city to ensure every child receives the high-quality support they deserve.

I know many parents will have heard in the media and elsewhere about proposed changes to the SEND system that are being brought in to help address some of the current issues for children and their families. The lack of details about this may be causing some worry and anxiety and so, when the information is published, I will write to you all to set out what I think it means for all of us. In the meantime, speculation may not be helpful and may cause further anxiety that may not be needed.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the "Vision 2030" plans we have created and will share with you all soon. We are committed to fostering an environment where every student feels they truly belong, can achieve their aspirations, and ultimately thrive. Your partnership is vital to this mission; the feedback and engagement we receive from you drive us to keep innovating.

During the break, I hope you and your families find time for rest and relaxation. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the second half of the spring term, where we will continue to focus on "making a difference" every single day.



Scott Jacques
Executive Principal



Making a Splash: Our Students Dive into Success!

We are absolutely thrilled to celebrate some of our South Site students achieving their Swimming Award 2 this half term. After all their dedication and hard work, several of our students have officially passed!

Passing Stage 2 is often the point where children feel a true sense of independence in the water.

Swimming is more than just a sport; it's a vital life skill and a fantastic way to build confidence. Seeing our students progress from hesitant paddlers to confident swimmers has been fantastic!

What a brilliant achievement!

EGG-citing News: The Chicks Have Arrived!



We are thrilled to announce the arrival of our newest (and fluffiest) classmates! The excitement peaked when the "pipping" began—the process where the chick uses its egg tooth to break through the shell.

Witnessing the chicks work hard to break free and finally emerge as wet, tired, and eventually fluffy birds has been a powerful lesson in resilience and nature's timing.





Welcome Sarah, our Speech and Language Therapist

Hello! I would like to introduce myself—my name is Sarah, and I have joined Wellspring as the new Speech and Language Therapist.

I am fully HCPC registered and a member of the RCSLT. As part of the broader therapy team here, my goal is to support students in reaching their full potential in their speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). I believe that communication is central to everything we do; it is fundamental to a child's learning, social happiness, and self-esteem. And, amongst others areas, I will be working with students across speech and language, attention and listening, social interaction and alternative augmentative communication (AAC).

It has been great getting to know the students, staff, and schools so far, and I look forward to working alongside the rest of the therapy team and getting stuck in!

Siobhan, our Counsellor

I'm Siobhan, the Therapeutic Counsellor at Springwell Leeds. I hold a Postgraduate Diploma in Counselling and Psychotherapy and have eight years of experience across mainstream and specialist schools, supporting young people through both one-to-one and group sessions. My approach focuses on building positive, trusting relationships necessary for effective intervention. I aim to empower students and give them the tools they need to manage challenges by helping them understand their own brain chemistry, develop practical coping strategies and provide a safe, supportive space where they feel heard. Outside of work, I enjoy cooking and spending time with family and friends.





EXTRA CURRICULAR

Turner and Townsend Surveyors

The Leeds based surveyor company, Turner and Townsend, came to our East site to discuss construction and surveyor career routes with our students. They then worked with classes on a lego based construction challenge.

They discussed the range of skills required to be successful in the construction trade, and then set students off on their creative lego challenge. Across each class, all pupils were engaged and determined - all whilst enjoying a different and practical task.

Visit from Kevin Millar and Paul Hogan

Pupils engaged with our external visitors, Kevin Millar and Paul Hogan, who shared lived experiences - focusing on perils of crime, prison, the importance of making positive choices and the opportunities available to lead successful lives.

Pupils were interested in the experiences and asked relevant and interesting questions, giving real thought to the impact their choices in life can have.

Eqypt Day

Well done to all those involved in our Primary Egypt day, linking in our Elements curriculum. Pupils at East designed and fashioned Egyptian clothing, took part in hieroglyphic and canopic jar workshops, and enjoyed an Egyptian feast.



Springwell North, Duke of Edinburgh Students Making a Difference

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the outstanding commitment and hard work demonstrated by our Duke of Edinburgh Award students this term. The students have been working on their volunteering section of the Award and the purpose of this section is for participants to give back to their community, use their time to help others, and become more engaged, active citizens. Our students achieved this through a series of brilliant fundraising initiatives over the term, and the students have successfully raised a significant amount of money for two very worthy causes: Children in Need and the Leeds Children's Hospital. The students organised and executed several popular events, demonstrating excellent teamwork, planning, and entrepreneurial skills: such as the Charity Bake Sale, Raffle Extravaganza, and "Guess the Reindeer's Name" Competition raising over £400 for the charities.

Their collective efforts have not only raised vital funds but the students demonstrated remarkable progress in;

- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Planning and running events required excellent communication, compromise, and shared responsibility.
- **Confidence and Initiative:** Stepping up to approach staff, students, and especially local businesses to ask for donations required immense courage and self-belief.



*Celebrating Our Duke of
Edinburgh Students'
Fundraising Triumphs*



Continued..

- **Problem-Solving:** The students handled logistics, managed funds, and overcame unexpected challenges, developing practical, real-world solutions.
- **Community Responsibility:** By working together for others, they built a strong sense of empathy and understood the positive impact they can have on their wider community.

Thank You to Our Local Supporters

A massive thank you must go to the incredibly generous local businesses who supported the students by donating prizes and contributions for the raffle and events. Community support is what makes efforts like this truly successful.

We extend our sincere gratitude to:

- David Lloyd (Leisure Club)
- Peaceful Body, Peaceful Mind Sound Bath
- Recovery Float
- Canon Hall Farm
- Sainsburys

Your generosity provided a huge incentive and made the fundraising a success!

Well done again to all the Duke of Edinburgh students—you have made a real difference in the lives of children in need and those being cared for at Leeds Children's Hospital.



*Sending a massive thank you
to all those who have
supported our DoE students*



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.

Key Dates



Schools close on **Thursday 12th February**

Schools reopen **Monday 23rd February**