

Half Term 6

2025/26



Springwell Leeds Newsletter



Welcome to our last newsletter for this academic year

Welcome to the last newsletter of what has been, once again, a incredibly busy and deeply rewarding school year. As we approach the summer break, it is the perfect opportunity to reflect on the outstanding achievements of our young people and look ahead to the new term.

I want to begin by celebrating our Year 11 students who have recently completed their GCSE examinations and will soon be leaving us. The whole of the Springwell Leeds were immensely proud to see how they applied themselves to these exams. We wish them luck for when the results arrive and their next steps, we will be proud of them whatever the outcomes are. The exact same praise goes to our wonderful Year 6 pupils, who undertook their SATs at the same time. Facing these formal tests can feel even more daunting for our younger learners. Sitting them at all is a massive milestone, regardless of the eventual outcome.

We extend our huge congratulations to all the pupils, alongside a massive thank you to our dedicated staff team for supporting them through this period so brilliantly. We wish our departing Year 11 cohort the absolute best of luck and every success as they take their next exciting steps in life.

We had an important first this year at Springwell - our wonderful school band went on a residential trip to Italy a couple of weeks ago. They had an incredible time, seeing the sites around Lake Garda by day and performing to the Italian public in the evenings. They made fabulous, lifelong memories. Huge congratulations to them and many thanks to the amazing staff team who secured the funding to pay for the trip, planned it and then went with the students to support them on the visit.

As we move into the long summer holiday, we wish all of our families a very happy, peaceful, and safe break on behalf of everyone here at Springwell Leeds. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new academic year.



Scott Jacques
Executive Principal



Step Back in Time: Our Victorian Day

At our East site, Orange pod was transported back in time to the Victorian era. To bring our Elements curriculum to life, the children spent the day experiencing what life was like for a pupil in the late 19th century.

The day was packed with authentic, hands-on activities, such as learning how children entertained themselves without technology - and pupils had an opportunity to make toys that were popular in the Victorian era.

Our main event was a Traditional Victorian Wash Day, where children learnt the hard work behind laundry before the invention of the washing machine. Logan and Ramae said, "the day was good fun but they would stick to using their mum's washing machine!!"

Springwell East Summer Fair

Well done to the Primary team, who raised an incredible **£400** for charity! The money was raised through arts and crafts stalls, a tombola and the very popular "soak the teacher"!

The event was extremely well attended with parents / carers and families - as well as pupils from upper school visiting. Well done to all those involved.

**£400
raised**





Trust-wide Art Gallery Exhibition

Springwell East students visited the DMC building in Barnsley to see their artwork displayed alongside pieces from other Springwell and Wellspring Trust schools. CEO Mark Wilson cut the ceremonial ribbon and chatted with students during the opening ceremony.

Afterwards our students thoroughly enjoyed exploring the building's unique architecture. Following the success of the launch, the gallery is now going on tour!

The aim moving forward from this experience is that we have a future exhibition at the Cooper Gallery in Barnsley.



Dates for the Diary

Schools close
Friday 17th July

Schools reopen to students
Thursday 3rd September

Parent Review Day
Wednesday 2nd September





A Note Worthy Trip!

After a year of fantastic engagement, Cole's music therapy sessions came to an end this term. Cole loves pianos, and so we thought a great way to end our work together would be to visit Besbrode Pianos, a legendary piano shop in Holbeck.

Cole played not one, but two pianos worth £100,000; the oldest upright piano in the world, and one that was supposed to go on the Titanic! Cole also enjoyed exploring one that belonged to King Edward VII. Cole's confidence shone through and he continued to play his absolutely beautiful music, unphased, as people moved around the shop. He also asked some very insightful questions to the manager about the pianos and the three-hundred year old building that housed them.

It has been amazing to see Cole's social confidence and skills develop this year whilst we have been working together. He was a truly wonderful representation of our school on this trip - well done Cole! Thank you also to the team at the shop who were so kind and accommodating.

Transition Success



As one of our core nurture principles, transition is paramount in supporting our students to feel confident and safe in their new classes and to begin building positive relationships through shared experiences. It has been wonderful to see students old and new transitioning to their new classes and building relationships with their new teachers and peers.

Students had the chance to participate in specialist lessons tailored for Yellow, Blue, and Green pods allowing for relationship building within class teams.

Overall, transitions have been a great success, fostering a positive and supportive environment for our students as they transition into their new academic year. We look forward to seeing the continued growth and development of these new relationships!

THE SCHOOL BAND ON TOUR

Eight lucky students from the Springwell Leeds North school band recently returned from a 4 day visit to Lake Garda, Italy, embarking on an unforgettable cultural and musical tour.

The band put on two, outdoor, 90 minute performances. On the first night, after a storm cleared just in time for their concert to start in the beautiful town of Ponti sul Mincio, they delivered an energetic set that got the locals up on the dancefloor!

Under the Italian evening sky, the group took the stage once more in Affi. Delivering another marathon 90-minute performance, they earned a well-deserved standing ovation and kind words from the Mayor of Affi at the end of the concert.

The packed itinerary included a day trip to the historic city of Verona, where the group explored the breathtaking Roman amphitheatre, piazzas and narrow medieval streets.

Next up was a splash of adrenaline at Gardaland, Italy's premier theme park. The students braved roller coasters and water rides, enjoying a brilliant day of team-building and laughter.

To round off the sightseeing, the group took a scenic boat trip across Lake Garda, enjoying the stunning views of dramatic mountains and visiting the lakeside towns of Lazise and Sirmione.

The eight students represented Springwell Leeds North with immense maturity, kindness, and enthusiasm. They embraced a new culture, tackled a demanding performance schedule, and made memories that will last a lifetime.



Rockin' the Recording Studio!

Last week we took four students to a professional recording studio to record an original song written by them. This was an amazing opportunity for them and they absolutely excelled in a professional recording environment.

The studio contained music equipment used on multi platinum albums and was recorded to an industry standard by producers that have worked with all manner of artists across the world. Our students rose to the occasion, making us incredibly proud and wonderfully representing our school.

Despite initial concerns about whether we could get the whole thing recorded in one day our students outdid themselves and performed so efficiently that we were completed with time to spare to add extra parts that we didn't expect to have time for.

The staff at the studio continually said how impressed they were with how much they got done and how focussed they were.

The song will soon be released on Spotify and all other major streaming platforms and we urge you to listen and support this wonderful piece of artistic expression that stands as a testament of what our students are capable of.



What an experience for some of our East site students, recording a song in a professional recording studio!



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