

Half Term 1

2026/27



Springwell Leeds Newsletter



Welcome to our first newsletter of the school year

It seems like only five minutes since we welcomed our pupils back after the summer break so it has been great to see them all settling back into their classes, adjusting to new timetables, and reconnecting with our staff. Returning after a long summer break can feel overwhelming, but our young people have shown remarkable resilience and positive attitudes. Across all our sites, we are already seeing fantastic progress in classrooms, during therapeutic sessions, and throughout social times. This success is down to the joint hard work of our dedicated staff, our fantastic pupils, and your continued support as parents and carers.

As we look ahead to the next half term, we want to gently remind everyone of the vital role that regular attendance plays in your child's success. Every single day in school provides essential routines, emotional support, and learning opportunities that help our pupils thrive. If your child is struggling with attendance or facing challenges coming into school, please reach out to us early. Our staff are here to listen, support, and work alongside you to make sure your child feels safe, valued, and ready to learn every day.

Thank you for a brilliant first half term, and we wish you all a restful and enjoyable break!

I hope you enjoy reading about all the news from across our sites.



Scott Jacques
Executive Principal



Mr Bell Named Classic FM Music Teacher of the Year!

We are delighted to share that our Head of Arts, Mr Adam Bell, has won the prestigious 2026 Classic FM Music Teacher of the Year Award in the Special Educational Needs category! Presenter Aled Jones personally broke the exciting news to Mr Bell, praising his dedication to our students. Mr Bell then travelled to London to receive his award during a special ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall.

This award highlights the incredible difference Mr Bell makes at Springwell. Through 1-to-1 lessons, live performances, and exciting opportunities—like our music tour to Italy earlier this year—he helps pupils build confidence, discover their musical talents, and feel proud of what they can achieve.

Reflecting on the award, Mr Bell said: "I'm thrilled that the work we're doing with our young people has been recognised. It's a testament to the efforts put in by all our staff to support our students through music."

We are so proud of Mr Bell and feel that winning a national award of this importance is a fantastic achievement. It reflects the deep impact that the music and arts provision he leads has on our pupils every day. Please join us in sending a massive congratulations to Mr Bell on this well-deserved achievement!



Dates for the Diary

Schools close
Thursday 22nd October

Schools reopen to students
Wednesday 4th November





Eureka

Our Primary trip this half term was to Eureka! to develop our knowledge and experience of immersive science and link in what we had been learning in school. We had the opportunity to take part in a live action show, and it certainly brought our digestive system to life! Students enjoyed exploring the giant mouth, comparing heights with the world's tallest man, and a super smelly workshop 'Chew to Poo!'. We then had the chance to explore the tiny village, with students engaging in hands-on play real life lessons. This incredible provision offers small world banks, post offices, supermarkets and more - giving children the opportunity to role play different careers. After a quick bite to eat, we then entered the immersive real world where we looked at robots, how to clean our teeth and the world around us. The students were incredibly respectful and a credit to our school, the staff had a wonderful time too. A fabulous day was had by all, and we look forward to our next adventure!

Fire Safety

With Bonfire Night soon approaching, primary students at Springwell were all visited by their local firefighting squads and received a safety talk. Cookridge Watch, Killingbeck Watch, and Hunslet Green Watch arrived at our 3 sites in their fire engines raring to go. The students were engaged throughout the visit and asked brilliant questions about what to do if they are ever burned, close to a fire, or in a dangerous situation. The firefighters praised the students on how serious they took the topic of keeping safe, and encouraged them to continue being responsible. It was a fantastic opportunity and all of our primary students had a great time - we are so proud of them!



MUSIC THERAPY AT SPRINGWELL

It has been a busy half term of Music Therapy at Springwell South with our school Music Therapist, Henry. Children have been joining weekly group and one-to-one sessions, using music-making to build confidence, express themselves, and connect with peers.

Making Music Together

A huge highlight this term has been our group music sessions. Blue 1, for example, have been improvising music together: creating their own rhythms and songs using tambourines, drums, shakers, guitars and even their voices. We have even had some dancing! The therapist has been encouraging children to take 'solos' to build their confidence, and supporting them to explore collaboration through joining in with each other's ideas. Teachers have shared how lovely it is to see the class working together as a true team, enjoying the freedom of making music without worrying about mistakes.

Individual Milestones

In one-to-one and paired sessions, the clinical focus centers on relational attunement and physical agency:

- **Relational Attunement:** By closely mirroring a child's pulse, dynamics, and musical phrasing at the piano or drums, the therapist provides important experiences of attunement. This helps pupils feel truly heard, build emotional safety, and safely practice sharing control.
- **Physical Agency & Embodied Expression:** Pupils use strong physical actions—such as energetic drumming or acoustic singing—to express themselves and connect with others. In paired work, pupils engage in reciprocal listening, share taking leading roles, and innovate games, engaging in intentional, positive self-expression.

Across both group and individual work, music therapy continues to offer our pupils vital experiences of joy, agency, and meaningful connection!



Marching on Together Programme

We are delighted to announce an exciting new partnership called the Marching on Together (MOT) programme. This is a first of its kind collaboration between the Leeds United Foundation, Leeds Rhinos Foundation working with our schools in Leeds, including Springwell.

The MOT programme gives young people exciting new opportunities to help them do well in and out of school. It helps everyone feel included and connected to their community. By using sports and the support of these famous clubs, MOT will help young people build confidence, learn new skills, and reach for their dreams.

MOT focuses on: **Engagement & Participation, Health & Wellbeing, Belonging & Community, and Opportunity & Thriving.** Together, these strands ensure that every young person has access to activities and support that encourage them to succeed, regardless of their starting point.

Engagement & Participation aims to remove barriers that may affect a young person's ability to participate in school life as well as sporting activities. We aim to work closely with pupils, school staff and families to improve attendance and encourage active participation.

Through our **Health & Wellbeing** strand, we encourage young people to make positive lifestyle choices and to develop healthy habits for now and for later in life. Our Health & Wellbeing sessions allow students to build their knowledge and confidence to support their physical and mental wellbeing.

The Belonging & Community strand aims to strengthen connections between young people, their schools, and the wider community. By working with families, developing partnerships and support networks, we aim to help build confidence and a strong sense of community belonging.

Finally, Opportunity & Thriving focuses on raising aspirations and helping young people find and achieve their short-term goals and long-term goals. Through our mentoring sessions, we build the confidence, resilience and important life skills in young people. We want all the children we work with to realise their potential and look forward to their futures outside of the school gates.

Watch out for news and events with Leeds United and Leeds Rhinos throughout the year.

Marching On Together !



Parent Governors



We are looking for a Parent Governor

Do you want to help make our schools even better for children and young people ?

We are looking for 2 or our parents or carers who want to speak up for our pupils and help us make good decisions for our schools.

What Does the Role Involve?

As a Parent Governor, you will help our schools for four years. You will work alongside school leaders, staff, and other team members. You do not need any special experience and training and support will be given to you.

Your main jobs will be to:

- Share Parent Views: Tell us what life is like for families in our schools.
- Guide and Support: Work with leaders to make sure learning, safety, and school support are working well.
- Join Group Reviews: Take part in meetings about money, school rules, or safety, or focus on helping a specific school.

This board oversees the North and West Yorkshire Special Partnership (NWYSP), which includes Springwell Leeds Academy, Forest Moor School, Green Meadows Academy, Penny Field School, The Forest School, Springwell Harrogate, and South View Academy.

Time Commitment

- Main Meetings: Five meetings a year (about one per half-term).
- Extra Meetings & Visits: Occasional group meetings or visits to discuss school plans with school leaders.

How to Apply / Express Interest

If you are a parent or carer of a pupil in any NWYSP school, we would love to hear from you!

- How to apply: Write a short message telling us why you want to join and how you can help.
- Email your message to: Francesca Lenny at f.lenny@wellspringacademies.org.uk
- Last day to apply November 13th 2026
- New governors will be chosen after that - if more than 2 applications are received there will be a ballot of parents to decide.

Help us support our schools and make sure every child gets the chance to succeed!

To find out more, contact f.lenny@wellspringacademies.org.uk

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