



SPRINGWELL SKY

Where learning matters for everyone



Issue 25 – December 2019

THE HEADLINE

To all our parents, carers and friends of Springwell, it is a pleasure to welcome you to our winter newsletter 2019 and share some of the wonderful things that have been happening across Springwell Learning Community since the start of term.

This term, the longest of the school year, is always incredibly busy, however as I take a moment to reflect on all the positive experiences it never fails to fill me with great pride. As visitors walk around Springwell they speak positively about the conduct of our pupils and how our values of kindness, compassion and connectivity can be



felt in the atmosphere around school. We continue to have a strong focus on spreading a community of kindness across the organisation and beyond. Whether it's the small acts of kindness on show around

school, the charity fundraising or the creating of gift boxes for the homeless people of Barnsley our pupils continue to make a positive contribution to the local community.

We were all incredibly proud to announce in November that following a full day inspection we were awarded the



Trauma Informed Schools Award. This is a real success as we are one of only nine schools in the UK to hold the award. This is the result of the research, hard work and dedication that our staff show day in and day out.

Suzie Franklin, TISUK Senior Consultant was keen to make reference to the clear passion, commitment and skills of the adults in school that enable our children to feel safe, develop their self-worth and recognise and manage the challenges they face. Well done to all!

In addition, we have also been named in the UK's EdTech50 – an award celebrating the top 50 schools in England who are using technology effectively. It is an honour to be recognised alongside many inspiring schools embracing change and being passionate about making a

difference. Technology continues to provide us with the opportunity to connect, communicate, collaborate and create on a local, national and global scale with such ease and transparency. It



teaches our pupils to be responsible digital citizens and allows them to express themselves in different ways.

As we enter Spring Term, we continue to have a real push on attendance across the Learning Community. I know you understand the importance of attending school every day and I hope that you will continue to support your child by making sure that their attendance is excellent.

So, as the busy term draws to an end, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Key dates for the diary – Spring Term 2020

- Academies open for Spring Term: **Monday 6th January**
- INSET Day – Academies closed to pupils: **Monday 20th January**
- TRUST INSET Day – Academies closed to pupils: **Friday 7th February**
- Academies close for half term: **Friday 14th February**
- Both academies re-open: **Monday 24th February**
- INSET Day – Academies closed to pupils: **Friday 6th March**
- Family Learning Day: **Wednesday 1st April**
- Academies close for Easter: **Friday 3rd April**
- Academies open for Summer Term: **Monday 20th April**



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As part of the Elements topic around dinosaurs Class 1, Class 2 and Class 5 had a very special visit from Jurassic Parties! The pupils played the role of palaeontologists and excavated dinosaur bones, teeth and fossils from under the ground. They then had a discussion around different dinosaur bones before being introduced to Trixie the T-Rex! Luckily, Trixie turned out to be a friendly dinosaur and wasn't on the hunt for her next snack!



On a rainy evening in November two KS4 Students went to the Civic Theatre to join other performers from local schools to celebrate the wonderful array of music on offer in the area. Ash Johnson sang an original composition accompanied on the ukulele and Luke Saunders performed a Launchpad duet with our very own Mr Mitchell. The mayor and other dignitaries were present and the whole experience was excellent.

We look forward to this becoming an annual event for us and we are very grateful for the support we have received from the Barnsley Music Hub.

**Alex Francis Music Hub Lead Officer
Barnsley Music Service said:**

"A huge thanks and congratulations for a memorable Winter Celebration. The high quality and diversity of music making we were able to demonstrate together was outstanding, it is such a privilege and pleasure to work with you all."

"I have already received many emails from invited guests and councillors asking me to pass on their thanks and to say how much they enjoyed everyone's performance, so please do pass on to the young people involved, they really were amazing".



It looks like Springwell has a couple of troublesome elves. Meet Viktor and Baubles. They have both been up to no good, so keep checking the school blog to see what other merry mischief they have been getting up to. It may be cold in the North Pole but all's toasty and warm in Class 5!!





STAY SAFE WITH TECH THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time of year when many young people turn to technology. It could be because they've been given a console, phone, tablet, laptop or other online tech device or it could be because they're bored or the weather is inclement, they might turn to these devices to play, communicate, collaborate and have fun. With there being a higher chance of young people using technology and being online, so the associated risks with that activity can be heightened too. The advice below can help you stay safe.



STAY SAFE WITH TECH THIS CHRISTMAS!

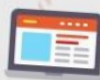
IPADS



Be careful what you download
Play games appropriate for your age
Ask to set up agreed parental controls with you to help



LAPTOPS



Make sure to take care with what information you share!
Be careful about online games - are they appropriate?
Make sure you know who you are talking with



CONSOLES



Take close care who you play with online!
Try to play games that are suitable for your age.
Make sure to take it in turns playing games with others

SOCIAL MEDIA



Use social media appropriate to your age
Use a safe profile picture
If you are pressured into sharing something you aren't comfortable with ask an adult

PHONES



Ask permission before taking a photo or video
Do not show off your phone in public
Make sure you keep enough credit to make calls

FAKE NEWS



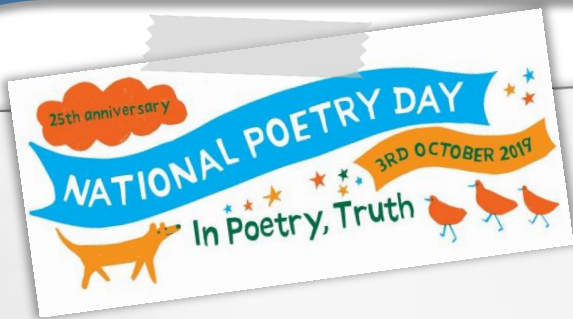
Don't believe everything you read online, including email
If unsure, ask a trusted friend or adult
Don't share stories that aren't true



LIVE MUSIC NOW UK

Earlier this term we had a visit from **Live Music Now**. Live Music Now is a UK-wide initiative, created by Yehudi Menuhin and Ian Stoutzker in 1977. Every year, their musicians deliver thousands of interactive music programmes to care homes and hospitals. We were lucky to have them visit us and our pupils loved every minute. Music continues to be at the heart of what we do. It's a great way to help our learners express themselves, regulate and even relax.





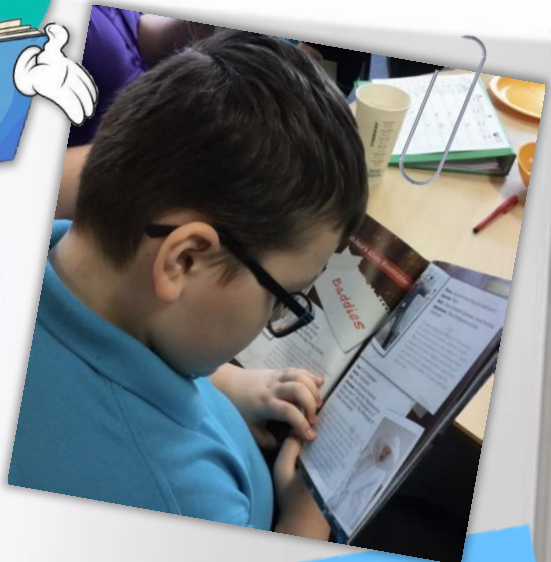
At the start of the term we celebrated **National Poetry Day**. The theme of the day was "Truth" and the pupils produced some brilliant poems that were shared across School. Dominic Heslop, a spoken Word artist from Sheffield, came in on the day to talk to pupils about what had inspired him to start writing. The pupils were blown away by Dominic's poetry performance and were even inspired to perform their own poems on stage during our Poetry Showcase in the afternoon.



THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD



WHY WE READ EVERY DAY...



1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.

After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.

2. Reading exercises our brain.

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching TV, for example. Reading strengthens brain connections and builds NEW connections.

3. Reading improves concentration.

Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.

4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.

Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.

5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.

6. Reading develops a child's imagination.

As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story, we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.

As children develop, they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.

8. Reading is a fun.

A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it anywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.

9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.

Reading together on the sofa, bedtimes stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.

10. Children who read achieve better in school.

Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

The more that you read,
the more things that you'll know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go.
- Dr. Seuss

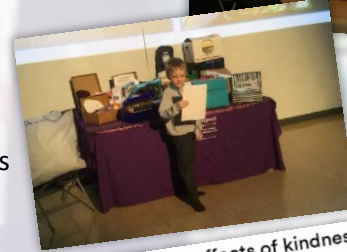


WE LOVE READING!

Kindness Week 2019

Every day we encourage our pupils to be kind to themselves and to one another, but what do we mean by kindness? For us at Springwell it means sharing, it means doing something to make someone happy, it means saying nice things to people, it means writing a note to someone who has lost hope and telling them we are thinking of them. This is exactly what we did during Kindness week 2019.

All classes gathered items, used or new, and created a gift box for a homeless person. Every pupil wrote a kind message saying how much they were thinking of them and how we hoped things would soon get better. Peter from the BCDP came to collect the boxes and he was truly moved by how much Kindness, Compassion and Care we displayed. There were some very moving moments when pupils read out their messages. Well done Springwell, you truly are Kindness Champions!



did you know?

The positive effects of kindness are experienced in the brain of everyone who witnessed the act, improving their mood and making them significantly more likely to "pay it forward." This means one good deed in a crowded area can create a domino effect and improve the day of dozens of people!

student
COUNCIL

Voice of Change- Working together for a better future!



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK



The newly democratically elected Student Councillors have already started working hard this year to ensure we all benefit from a better school, a better community and a better planet.

As well as continuing the campaign to reduce plastic and recycle in school, promoting and supporting our school values, they have voted for our new charity focus this year. This year we will be supporting a local charity: the BCDP, a local charity for the homeless in Barnsley and a national charity: Cancer Research.

The Student Council also worked very hard to organise Kindness boxes for the homeless during Kindness Week.

During our last meeting we shared ideas for Family Learning Day and discussed ways in which we can improve life at school

We are very proud of our Student Council, the ideas shared, the maturity and commitment shown, and we always look forward to making a positive contribution to the life of the school.

We are grateful to the Department of Work and Pensions who have been delivering sessions across our Learning Community about work and the role of the Job Centre. We look forward to them coming back after Christmas to deliver a 12-week programme with our Year 10 and Year 11 students and to deliver sessions to our KS3 Alternative Academy.

The pictures show some of the great work that our students have produced around the theme of aspirations that is proudly on display at the Barnsley Jobcentre. Lyndsey Morgan, Schools Advisor is extremely grateful for all the hard work and very happy with the end result.



jobcentreplus

Springwell @springwellLC - 29/11/2019
 We are proud to have achieved the Trauma Informed School Award @TISUK. A massive well done to all involved! Keep doing what you do colleagues ❤️ #wemakeadifference #kindness #compassion #connectivity @WellspringAT

3,204 views
 10 20 100

Springwell @springwellLC - 25/11/2019
 We could not be any prouder of these two for waving the Springwell flag at this years @Barnsleymushub Winter Celebration @BarnsleyCivic. You guys rock! 🙌

Wellspring Academy Trust and 2 others
 2 3 21

These are some of our top tweets from the last term.
 If you have not already done so, please follow us to keep up to date with everything that is happening at Springwell.
 @springwellLC

Springwell @springwellLC - 15/11/2019
 Kindness and compassion has been on show all over Springwell this week. Let's keep the love going! ❤️

2 10

Springwell @springwellLC - 27/09/2019
 Thank you to all who supported our #macmillancoffeeevening2019. We raised a massive £307. Great effort Team Springwell!

4 26

You Retweeted
 David Fallis @dsfallis - 10/11/2019
 Moving assembly on Friday delivered by Mr Philburn and our Y10s complete with a surprise performance of the last post by the very talented Mr Webster. Pupils respectful throughout. Well done to all involved #Springwellremembers @springwellLC @DannyRoss80

409 views
 1 4 25

Springwell @springwellLC - 23/10/2019
 Thanks to @LiveMusicNowUK for visiting us today. You were all brilliant and the children loved every minute! Please come back soon! @LadyBernieH 🎵🎸🎤

4 13

Springwell @springwellLC - 27/09/2019
 Lego phonics! Now we're talking. Great stuff Primary 1. Love it! 🙌

1 16

Springwell @springwellLC - 13/09/2019
 Work hard, dream big! Thanks @Dynamomagician for the inspiration. Please watch our #GrowthMindset film produced by the pupils at Springwell. 🎥📺📺📺
 youtube.be/BGfDnTVHpo

Danny Ross and 5 others
 1 4 13

You Retweeted
 The Difference @TheDifferenceEd - 28/11/2019
 Can you change behaviour of excluded pupils? Unconditional Positive Regard: "We make the children feel loved. It doesn't mean to say we let them get away with stuff...We have consequences logical to what's happened." LISTEN for insight into @springwellLC.

We Are In Beta Podcast: Unconditional Positive Regard. on Apple Podcasts
 podcasts.apple.com

1 10 25

Springwell @springwellLC - 2d
 Top work Class 6! 🙌

3 19

Springwell @springwellLC - 15/11/2019
 Dissect a sheep's heart you say... why not! Super Science in Year 10!

1 8



Magic moments from around our Learning Community

Class 9 Visit to Barnsley FC.

Class 9 were extremely grateful to be invited to a "RESPECT" workshop at the Oakwell Stadium this half term. The pupils enjoyed a tour of the ground, before meeting a Premiership referee. The pupils even got to have a go at refereeing themselves and played together in a game of football. Well done to everybody involved!



What happened when the bombs dropped?

Class 4 have immersed themselves in exploring what happened during World War Two. They have sat at the station waiting to be evacuated, tried gas masks and other artefacts, made air raid shelters to protect themselves during the air raids overhead and visited Barnsley museum to look at how the War impacted the people of Barnsley!



Netherwood KS3 Alternative Academy's Outdoor Learning Projects

Alternative Allotment

Netherwood have gained access to a fantastic opportunity at an allotment. We have been very busy getting it tidy ready for winter. As a group we have also made benches, gates and are in the process of building an enclosure for some rabbits. Exciting times ahead.



Fantastic Farm

Recently Netherwood AA have been busy at the farm, making Christmas features. These include carved wooden reindeer, with timber from Kendray farm's own forest, which can be sold on Family Learning Day.



As mentioned in the Headline on page 1 of the newsletter, we love using technology across the school to engage, motivate and inspire pupils. In Class 6, pupils have been using a range of iPad apps to enhance their learning and help with creative writing. They have also been using Minecraft to help with maths calculations.



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who made a cake for the coffee morning. We raised a fantastic £307 on the 28th September for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. A big well done and thank you goes to everyone who got involved.



**'LAUGHING,
YUMMY CUPCAKES,
GETTING TOGETHER...
AND HELPING FAMILIES
AFFECTED BY CANCER.'**



WE'RE MAKING THE WORLD BETTER WITH A SWEATER

On Friday 13th December we all donned our daftest, most wonderful woollies to help raise funds for Save the Children.

It was a great day with plenty of smiles and we managed to raise £78.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

As ever, we are proud to have contributed to this year's poppy appeal. As a learning community we raised £98. Thank you to all who helped. Without the donations, The Royal British Legion would be unable to continue their vital welfare and benevolent work.



BBC children in Need

This year we again supported Children in Need by participating in a **'Pudsey Pyjama Party'** fundraising event. We raised a massive £106! So well done and thank you to all who got involved, we can definitely make a difference.

Natural Disasters Key Stage 1

This term in Elements, the pupils in KS1 have enjoyed learning all about natural disasters. They created erupting volcanoes spilling with lava, destructive tornadoes in bottles and ferocious tsunamis. The pupils even experienced a damaging earthquake in their classroom, which destroyed the villages that they had cooperatively worked together to make as well as a violent hurricane that they witnessed inside a tent. These experiences really intrigued the children to want to research more about these damaging disasters that we are powerless to prevent. The immersive experiences provided the children with the stimulus needed to write descriptive pieces exploring the different natural disasters and the impact that they have on the places that they hit. It really allowed the pupils to think about the feelings of other people and how people come together to rebuild their communities.



Cinderella

This year, we didn't need to make our annual Panto trip to the Academy Theatre in Birdwell, as the show came to us! On 12th December the whole of Primary were lucky to be able to enjoy Cinderella right here at Springwell. It was fantastic and the pupils had a great time!



Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year