



# SPRINGWELL SKY

Where learning matters for everyone

Issue 17 – December 2016

## THE HEADLINE



Many years ago, when I was just 19 years old, I met someone who became a lifelong friend. It was my first day at University and he was living on my floor in the halls of residence. We became great friends, studied together and socialised together. We shared a house in our second and third years at university before both settling in Yorkshire and becoming teachers. During those years we spent many days rock climbing together. We would spend weekends and holidays up mountains and on rock faces. As we grew older we both had families and spent less time having fun in the mountains. However, we remained great friends and our careers even took the same path. We both became head teachers. Throughout this time my friend always wanted to be a mountaineer. He had a drive and determination to one day climb the highest mountain in the world and spent years working towards this goal. He believed that you can achieve anything in life if you truly work hard and show commitment and determination. Last May he achieved that goal and stood on the top of Mt. Everest. Years of hard work paid off. His drive and fortitude allowed him to achieve a lifelong ambition.



A few weeks ago we were lucky enough to have my friend, Andy, in Springwell. He came and shared his Everest experience in primary and it was amazing.

Having great friends is so important. Being able to trust your friends and rely on them when you really need them is vital. That is why we should also think of others as well as ourselves. We should treat people how we would expect to be treated. Friendships take patience and commitment because` sometimes you might not agree about everything. It is also important the we don't give up and we try our best to achieve our goals.



I was proud to have Andy in Springwell. Seeing the photo of him standing on the top of the world fills me with a feeling that anything is possible if you really try hard. Let's all believe that if we try hard we can achieve our goals and ambitions. Let's all aim to climb the highest mountain in the world if that's what we want to do!

### Key dates for the diary – Spring Term 2017

- School opens for Spring Term: **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**
- School closes for half-term: **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February**
- School INSET Day: **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February**
- School re-opens: **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**
- Family Learning Day: **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April**
- School closes for Easter: **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April**
- School opens for Summer Term: **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April**



Please visit our blog on a regular basis to see all the latest work created by Springwell pupils. Please feel free to comment on the blog in an e-safe way. Our blogging rules can be found on the blog. All comments are moderated by school staff before they become public.

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WELLSPRING  
ACADEMY TRUST

# Forest School

Here at Springwell Learning Community, Forest Schools isn't a badge or a place, but a philosophy and an ethos where students work outside to build creativity and confidence, self-esteem and gain transferable skills for all learners to take with them.

The ethos of Forest School is based on a fundamental respect for children and young people, and for their capacity to instigate, test and maintain curiosity in the world around them. It believes in children's right to play: the right to access the outdoors (and in particular a woodland environment); the right to access risk and the vibrant reality of the natural world; and the right to experience a healthy range of emotions, through all the challenges of social interaction, to build a resilience that will enable continued and creative engagement with their peers and their potential.

A large, ornate golden picture frame is the central focus. Inside the frame, at the top left, is a graphic of two hands forming a heart shape, with names like 'JOSHUA', 'SPRINGWELL', and 'KINDNESS' written inside. To the right of this is the text 'random acts of Kindness'. Below the text is a paragraph of text. At the bottom left of the frame is a QR code. At the bottom right of the frame is another QR code with a caption. Below the main frame, there are two smaller framed images: one showing a 'Kindness Tree' with the text 'Acts of kindness make me bloom' and another showing a group of people in a room with a globe on the wall.

random acts of Kindness

In November, the pupils at Springwell Special Academy were set the challenge by Mrs Dale and Year 7 class to complete as many random acts of kindness as possible towards the staff, pupils and visitors they come into contact with every day. Each day the pupils were asked to vote for pupils who had shown them kindness with a reason explaining what they had done and how it had made them feel. This culminated in the creation of the Springwell Kindness Tree and a celebration Assembly to acknowledge the kindness champions and overall kindest class award. The week was a great success and we hope to continue to keep making Springwell Special Academy a kinder place to be.

Scan the QR code to view the brilliant kindness video produced by the pupils of Springwell.

Acts of kindness make me bloom

Kindness Tree

## Understanding QR Codes

You may notice a number of these strange looking square codes throughout this newsletter. They are QR codes and can be scanned to get information. They can contain images, links to websites, sounds, numbers and messages.

### How do QR codes work?

You can scan the QR code on a device, like a smartphone or tablet. You need to make sure you have a QR reader, like Qrafter, for free from the app store. The QR codes within this newsletter will direct you to further information or even videos that the pupils have produced.

1. Open the QR reader
2. Point it at the QR code
3. Scan it and the link will open. Easy!



## Workshops with Jas Singh

During Kindness week, Jas Singh led workshops with classes across the Special and Alternative Academy on 'First Impressions' understanding the harm of judging someone because of the colour of their skin, the clothes they wear, or their religion. He also led drumming and rapping workshops. Year 10 produced a stunning selection of raps on the subject of anti-bullying.



## Opening Minds Week - Lincs 2 Nepal Fundraising Classroom Challenge

We launched our fundraising focus for this year at Celebration Day, which is to raise enough money to build a Springwell classroom in the Jeevan Jyoti School in Nepal, a school which provides education for children who otherwise would not be able to go to school. Garry Goddard, who leads the charity led an assembly on the school at the start of the term and ran workshops as part of our Opening Minds week focusing on the Lincs2Nepal classroom challenge.

Our target is to raise £1,000 by the end of July. The pupils across both academies will be coming up with enterprising ways to raise money to reach that goal. Any contributions towards this project will be gratefully received.

For further information please visit the Lincs2Nepal website and scan the QR code to view our Nepal awareness film.:

[www.Lincs2Nepal.org](http://www.Lincs2Nepal.org)



Bullying is a vessel for the weak,  
Listen up close and hear me speak!  
Do not hate ... be a mate!  
Don't be unkind ... open your mind!  
Violence, can't be the case,  
Can't just punch them in the face.  
Have some respect for the human race.

People feel helpless when they have no one.  
Let's work together so bullying can be gone.  
You're not alone so do not fear,  
Look into you mind and things will come clear.  
You'll never know how many people shed a tear,  
God placed me here to try and help with our class  
that is mint!  
Together we'll make bullying extinct!



Scan the QR code to see how we brought our raps to life using the iPads.

**Cameron Felton**

## Parent Council

All parents are welcome to contribute towards the Parent/Carer's Council. The next meeting will take place at Springwell Special Academy on Tuesday 7th February 2017 at 12:30pm. Any parents wishing to attend but struggling to get to the venue please contact Rachel Musgrave PSA on 07702897563.

The Lead Parent Partnerships Award will be reviewed in March 2017. Please can parents offer their support with the assessment process. Contact Rachel Musgrave on the number above for more details.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

At the start of the year Kendray Key Stage 4 began working towards completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. In order to complete the award every registered student is required to undertake 3 to 6 months of an activity from a skills section, physical section and 12 hours of volunteering within the community. Students will also have the opportunity to complete an expedition at the end of the award which includes one night of camping. Recently our students completed 12 miles of cycling in a round trip from Penistone to Dunford Bridge along the Trans Pennine Trail. The ride took around an hour to complete, stopping off to look at points of interest on the way. The students are hoping to complete some of their 12 hours of volunteering with the Trans Pennine Trail maintenance team who help maintain the trail and keep it usable for the public. Well done to all involved!



## THANK YOU

First of all, thank you to anyone who made a cake for the coffee morning. We raised £105 on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. A big well done and thank you goes to everyone who got involved.



**TEXT SANTA**  
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We also take part in the Christmas Jumper Day each December to help raise funds for not only Save the Children, but also Make-A-Wish UK.

So donating £1.00 to wear a silly Christmas jumper for one day really is worth it! We will update you on how we get on after the Christmas holidays.



This year we supported Children in Need by participating in a **'Pudsey Pyjama Party'** fundraising event. We raised a massive £169! So well done and thank you to all who got involved, we can definitely make a difference.

## Everest Conquered!

The Elements focus in Key Stage 2 this term has been around snow and ice and we were delighted to welcome Andy Taylor to share his experiences climbing Mount Everest! Andy shared photographs of the expedition and spoke at length about the effort and resilience he put in to the project. He even brought a bag full of equipment he used on his 3-month journey to the top of the highest mountain in the world. The visit from Andy engaged and educated all of the children and even inspired their ideas for story writing.



## Primary visit Narnia!

Pupils in Primary have been working on the story of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe this half term and one of the tasks required them to turn detective and look for clues. Following an initial visit to Narnia, where the children met Mr Tumnus, the Heart Space was again turned into Narnia but this time it was a crime scene with obvious signs of a struggle – tables were overturned, cups smashed, photographs destroyed and there was blood on the floor and door. Each pupil took their iPad with them and got lots of photographs which they used back in class. Lots of Speaking and Listening skills were used in the discussion of evidence and the children learned how to write a factual report.

Scan the QR code to see our interview with Mr Tumnus



## Global News!

Bonjour tout le monde!



In September pupils and staff took part in the European Day of Languages and learnt a French word in every class; year 7 even baked some Pains au Chocolat to immerse themselves in the French culture.

We also had a visit from Gary Goddard from Links to Nepal who introduced our fundraising focus for the year.

The Links to Nepal charity is aimed at developing resources and premises for schools in Nepal. We are proud to support children from different countries and cultures in their quest for a better education.



In addition, we have received a letter from Mr Dan Jarvis MP who acknowledged our plea to ask for education for all. He has promised, in his letter, to raise the issue at Parliament level. We feel we are constantly making a positive difference globally.

Finally, due to all the hard global and international work from pupils and staff at Springwell, we have been awarded the very prestigious International School Award from the British Council. We would like to thank parents, carers, pupils, staff and all members for the school community for supporting global and international ventures this year.

Well done! Felicitations! Muy Bien!

**INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL AWARD**



# Magic Moments

## from around our Learning Community



### KS3 Owl Experience

As part of their topic on A Kestrel for a Knave and the theme of caring, KS3 met a selection of owls and birds of prey. They held them and learned how to take care of them. It was a great afternoon and all the pupils were enthralled and extremely well behaved!

### Springwell @ Horizon

We are always very proud of the students at Horizon AA. We are a new team of students and staff in a new setting and are working hard together to build relationships and key skills such as resilience in order to help prepare students for GCSE's. We have enjoyed a great day out for our reward when we joined with Kirk Balk AA for a game of outdoor laser tag. We have really enjoyed the planning and preparation for our celebration meal for GCSE Hospitality when we welcome the parents / careers of our students to treat them to a 3 course Christmas Meal with all the trimmings. As part of the preparation we visited the Open Kitchen at Barnsley College (pic attached). We really enjoyed our careers day when we went to the Metrodome in Barnsley and spoke to all the business and higher education leaders.

### Year 9



On Thursday 24th November as part of their PSHE curriculum Year Nine pupils went on a trip to Crucial Crew at the Lifewise centre in Rotherham run by South Yorkshire Police. Pupils watched presentations, video clips, and listened to talks from

the police, fire crew and St Johns Ambulance. They learnt about gun and knife crime, road safety, fire safety and first aid. They had to spot fire hazards, carry out basic first aid on each other and even handled guns!



### Springwell @ Kirk Balk volunteering at Barnsley Food Banks

For the last two 'Community Days', Springwell @ Kirk Balk have visited Barnsley Food Banks to help support with the sorting of food and packing of parcels. The students enjoyed the experience so much that they asked if they could volunteer on a regular basis. Every other week, two of the students go down to volunteer their time. The students have gained valuable work experience and helped families/people who are in desperate need of help, especially at Christmas time. We are so proud of the students for making a massive difference to people's lives.



## HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS



The pupils in Primary had great fun learning all about mini-beasts. They even produced a fantastic film all about the day they were shrunk to the size of a tiny ant. Scan the QR code to view their great work.



Finally, we have been rehearsing lots and working really hard at remembering our lines for our Christmas nativity.

Don't forget to get your tickets and come and see us on 16th December.

Merry CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY New Year