



# SPRINGWELL SKY

*Where learning matters for everyone*

Issue 26 – Summer Term 2020



## Executive Principal Message



I am delighted to introduce myself as the Executive Principal of the newly formed Special Provision Partnership that includes Springwell Learning Community, Greenacre School and Joseph Norton Academy in Kirklees. As some of you will know, I was appointed to the position earlier this year and have enjoyed visiting each of the schools since Christmas. Already I have been impressed by the hard-work and commitment shown by every staff member and would like to thank both the staff and the children for the warm welcome I have been offered. I am very much aware of the responsibility I have to continue and develop the wonderful work that takes place at each setting and look forward to meeting you as soon as I am able.

This newsletter contains important information about the term ahead. It shares some of the achievements from what was a very busy term prior to the Easter holidays. It also captures and celebrates some of the great virtual work that has taken place over the last few weeks and shares important information about online learning, changes to exams and proposals regarding the school day. If you require additional information about any of these areas, please do not hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, I hope you, your families and your friends are safe and well during this extremely difficult period.

**Sarah Wilson**

## Executive Vice Principal Message

I would like to thank you for your continued support during this extremely challenging time. As a school we have endeavoured to facilitate as much as we can, whilst maintaining the balance between care for our pupils and their families and the protection of our staff team. You will appreciate this has been extremely difficult and I am grateful for everything you have done to support us.

While I would love to welcome everyone back to school for the summer term, the vast majority of our pupils remain safer at home. At this point, we have received no further guidance from the Government as to when this situation will be resolved, however, we will get in touch as soon as possible if anything changes.

## Online Learning

Although this is an anxious time for everyone, our children continue to access online learning and it has been great to see what everybody has been doing on Twitter and Seesaw.

Our staff team will continue to upload activities to Seesaw daily and ask that, where possible, you encourage your children to log in and complete them. This week, the BBC has also launched Bitesize Daily, and children can access topics including maths and English via the BBC Red Button, and again on BBC iPlayer.

If you would like additional support putting together a learning routine for your children, please let us know. Most importantly at the moment, however, we encourage everyone to read, be active and have fun.



## **Qualifications**

As you will know, this year's summer exam series has been cancelled and the government are organising a new system to ensure every year 11 is issued with accurate exam grades. We will be in touch as soon as we have full details of this system. Please be assured we will do everything we are able to ensure our pupils receive the grades they deserve and can transfer successfully to their next stage of education or training.

## **Our Core Day**

To improve pupil engagement and support the further development of our curriculum, we would like to share some proposed changes to the structure of our school day. These changes are based on good practice from other settings and feedback from staff, parents, and pupils. We believe that these changes will be beneficial to the school community and will have a positive effect on your child's education.

Should the changes be implemented, from September, the formal school day will start at 09:00 and finish at 14:30 with clubs and other activities taking place until 15:30. On Friday, the school day will be extended until 13:30. Pupils may also access a slightly extended day when they take part in outdoor education.

We appreciate that these changes may affect you. For this reason, we would like to invite you to give your feedback by sending your responses to me using the email address below by Friday 8th May. We will share the outcome of this consultation before the half term break.

## **And finally...**

Thank you again for the support you offer.

Like you, we are responding to changes daily. Please continue to check texts, emails, the school website and social media sites for messages and updates from school. We are going to do our absolute best to be there for you as much as we can at this time.

## **Danny Ross**

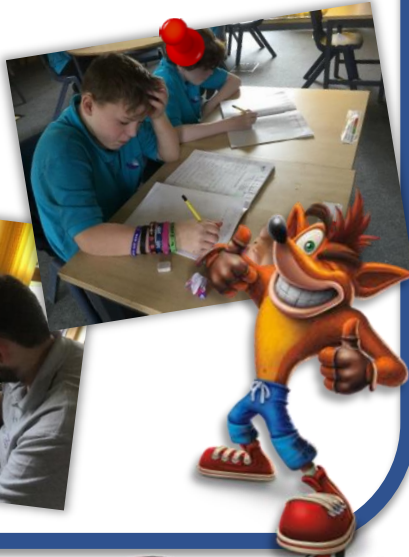
 01226 291133  @springwellLC  
 springwell@springwellacademies.co.uk

## KS3 Elements

### In a Cyber World of their own!

Before Easter, Key Stage 3 used the book "Ready Player One" by Ernest Cline as the driver for their topic, 'The Cyber World'. The pupils produced some amazing writing based on character profiles, they read and analysed extracts from the book and they had fun planning, designing, and creating their own iPad games using Sketch Nation. In addition, they learned a lot about the 80s and the 90s, the evolution of the gaming industry, the events of these decades and the history of games. Whilst developing skill and knowledge, they have most of all enjoyed being in their own Cyber World for a few weeks.

Well done KS3,  
some amazing work!



Springwell celebrated World Book Day 2020 in style this year by taking part in a Classroom Reading Corner Competition! Every class produced an amazing space in their classrooms where they can relax and enjoy reading every day. Well done to Primary 5 and Year 11, who were our overall winners! Both staff and pupils also enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters and taking part in various reading challenges throughout the day!



# School of Rock



It is often said that 'music is the medicine of the mind' and we have seen this first-hand with year 8 this term. The pupils have always had an interest in music and although having a vast and varied taste in music, seem to have a common interest in 70s and 80s rock music and love nothing more than a 'name the tune' quiz. Imagine our surprise (and dread) when we saw pupils and staff bringing guitars, amps, drums and keyboards into the classroom but the pupils have spent time practising their skills and working together to create music with an overall aim of a group performance of Wonderwall. What has become clear is that music brings people together, including staff who cannot resist picking up a guitar when they come into the room. We have seen staff and pupils supporting and helping each other and it is heart-warming to see this and sometimes difficult to catch on camera. The world pandemic that is COVID-19 seems to have got in the way of rehearsals, but we look forward to getting the band back together soon. In the meantime, Times Table Rockstar's will have to do!



Be smart on the internet



Zoom



During this lockdown period, please continue to stay safe online. At Springwell, we do lots of work with the pupils to ensure they understand how to be responsible digital citizens. Pupils are constantly reminded about the many dangers that can be found online. Safer Internet Day 2020 was celebrated globally on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February with the slogan 'Create, connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you.'

The day offered the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community. The pupils of Springwell are keen to share the message and recently received a 'thank you' from Childnet for sharing their powerful film that has now been viewed far and wide across the world. If you haven't seen the film, this can be watched by scanning the QR code above. For up to date information about how to stay safe online please see the school website.



## Opening Minds Week

### Accepting Differences - Respecting Diversity

After inspiring us last year, in March we were lucky enough to welcome back Life Act to perform for us. Life Act is a Theatre company with a difference because all the actors have a disability. They taught us that even though some people look or act differently due to their disability, inside they are just the same as us and want to be accepted and respected for who they are. The message was: "This is Me", accept it and make the most of it, there are no limits to what you can achieve!

We were all touched by their talent, their resilience, and their kindness. Thank you, Life Act, you are all amazing!



thrive

Thank you to all the parents and carers who took part in the first round of the Family Thrive course at Springwell!

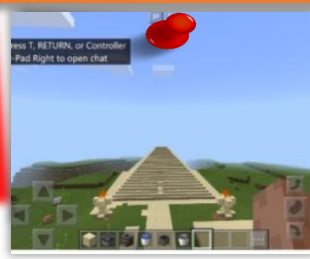
It was great to get to know you all more and learn together as we talked about child development, how



Springwell Alternative Academy has been involved in innovative work with South Yorkshire Police Violence Reduction Unit. Kerry Ann bid for money which was used to facilitate more home visits to vulnerable students' homes which helped build relationships with parents and carers. There has been an increase in referrals to outside agencies which reflects a greater willingness on the part of students and carers to engage. There has been an increase in intelligence which has helped reduce violence in the community. Kerry Ann managed a group discussion on CCE which was well received by students. Attendance in the AA has had a 5% spike and now is consistently above 70% which is fantastic! At the end of it students and staff enjoyed a well- deserved trip bowling.



# AWFUL EGYPTIANS



Key stage two have had a lot of fun learning about Ancient Egypt for their Element's topic this half term. In Class 5 we have done a lot of independent research on the iPad and have been amazed by some of the facts we have discovered! Did you know the Great Pyramid of Giza took over 23 years to build! We were inspired to have a go ourselves and built our very own pyramids using Minecraft and Lego bricks, luckily it didn't take us so long. We also took an online tour of a real-life pyramid and learnt what the ancient Egyptians used them for. We read all about the different pharaohs and gods and we could not believe that fresh food was left inside the pyramids each day for the gods to 'eat'! Do not even get us started on what we found out about hieroglyphs, Mummies, and the River Nile! We used all our newfound knowledge to plan our very own Egyptian adventure stories. So, if there is anything you need to know about Ancient Egypt, you know who to ask!

## #TOP TWEETS

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.

