

Springwell Sky



“An outstanding school with an excellent ethos for learning”

(Ofsted: January 2012)

Edition 2

Spring 2013

Principal's Report



D Whitaker speaking to over 200 delegates at the Independent Thinking's 'Special Day Out' hosted at Springwell.

This half term I have felt like I have been living in Viking England! I have seen some fantastic learning in classes across the school as pupils have immersed themselves in the lives of Nordic invaders. I have seen children making Viking helmets and swords, writing excellent descriptions of Viking names and pupils building Viking villages. I have been lucky enough to experience a Viking adventures and hear tales of Viking conquests.

We have recieved lots of visitors to Springwell over the past few weeks as Headteachers came from all over the country to visit our outstanding school.

One visitor commented on what he saw as “*authentic care*” as all the staff support and help the children through their learning experiences. I have been proud to hear visitors speak of the school as a place of “*intimacy, warmth and trust*”.

At Springwell we recognise that manypupils need help with their reading. We have invested in lots of new and exciting books that will start to develop our new library. These books are available to all pupils across the school and PRUs and Mr Fallis, with help from Mrs Fretwell, has been spending the school's money on some fantastic resources. Hopefully, at Family Learning Day, you will be able to spend some time with your child looking at the new books and choosing some to read together.

The Year 11 pupils have been adventurous this half term! As part of their GCSE PE course they have been taking part in rock climbing with Mrs Smith. In the PRU we have had an excellent visit to a professional boxing tournament with Mr Gater and Miss McNulty.

In September 2012 Springwell applied to become a National Teaching School. This is a very prestigious position as Teaching Schools lead nationally on all aspects of school and teacher development. Only outstanding schools can apply and there are very few Special Schools and PRUs that have been designated as Teaching Schools. I am very pleased to inform you all that our application has been successful and that from September 2013 Springwell will become a Teaching School. We will work in partnership with Worsbrough Common Primary School to create the Barnsley Teaching School Alliance. We will be the first Teaching School in Barnsley and will work nationally to support other schools, develop training programmes and complete research and development. These are very exciting times for our school as we move closer to becoming an academy with a national reputation for excellence.

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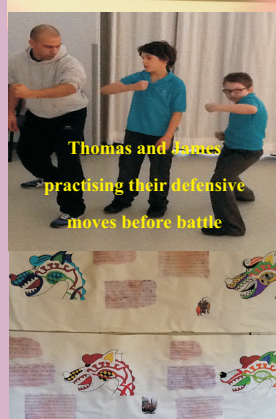
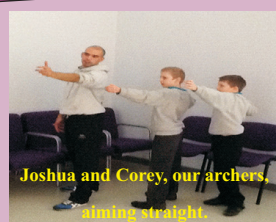
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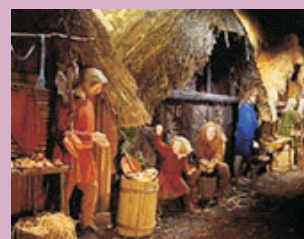


Magical Learning Moments - KS 3 and Primary Elements Curriculum



Last half term Primary 3 enjoyed five weeks of studying The Vikings. They made shields and helmets for their voyage to find their stolen Dragon Figurehead. Through different drama and role play activities they experienced sailing through rough seas and climbing steep and icy mountains. Finally they cut their way through a dangerous animal infested forest until they discovered an enchanted cave. There they were tested by The Enchantress who gave them five riddles to solve. Eventually, after successfully facing all these challenges they were reunited with their beloved dragon's head.

On the 6th February, Primary 2 visited the Jorvik Centre in York. It was exciting to see actual Viking artefacts and to ride the train through the Viking Village. We can really imagine what it was like to have lived there 1000 years ago.



100% Attendance Champions

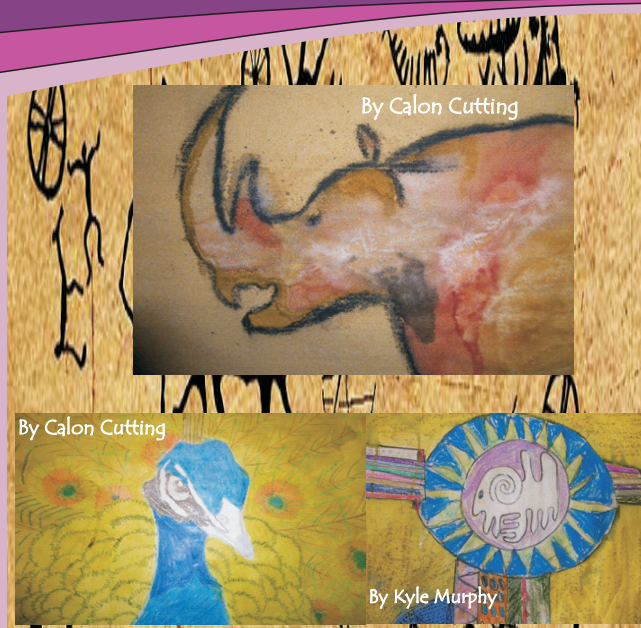
Every week in assembly we celebrate all of the students who have achieved 100% attendance.



The lucky winners of the 100% attendance prize in February were Reece Smith and Joshua Abraham. We hope that they enjoyed their day out kindly donated by Metrodome!

Magical Learning Moments - KS 4

Year 10 Primitive Art



By Calon Cutting

By Kyle Murphy

Year 10 explored the qualities of African, Aboriginal, Egyptian and Neolithic Art.

They produced pictures based on the style, colour and patterns they experienced in primitive art forms.

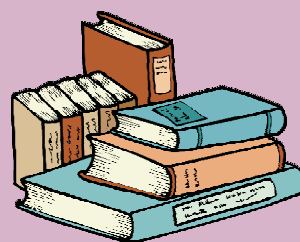
GCSE PE



Here is Max Lawson, Josh Durnan scaling the rock wall and Aaron Peasegood Belaying during a recent GCSE PE Rock Climbing

World Book Day

Thursday 7th March was World Book Day. We spent part of the day reading new stories and talking about why we like reading and why being a good reader helps us learn in school. The really exciting part of World Book Day for us at Springwell was that March 7th was the first time our students used our new library. Mr Fallis has been working very hard and has spent thousands of pounds on some great books. There are books to suit everyone, all interests, ages and abilities. Please encourage your child to use the library, better still read and talk about their book with them. If your child brings a book home can we ask that parents help us by making sure the book is returned otherwise our brilliant new library won't have any books in it! Through World Book Day all students can buy a book using the free £1 voucher given to each student, so it doesn't cost a thing! So go ahead; dive into a good book today!



School Council



The school council members this term are:

Liam Swallow-Gaunt; Joshua Mayes; Scott Wood; Lewis Bromley; Lachlan Allwood; Nathan Whitehead, Marshall Beevers, Jordan Coulter and Kieran Hayes.

This term the council have been really active in discussing what makes a good start to the day, the SEAL curriculum and fundraising events for Comic relief. This term's Council have also been proactive in discussing the possibility of getting lockers. Watch this space!...

PRU Report

Social Capital Group Big Fight Night



Some of our pupils attend a new project in Mexborough called DVPDC – Dearne Valley Personal Development Centre. It is run by an ex- Professional Boxer and Commonwealth Champ Jonjo Irwin and helps support our pupils with an alternative curriculum.

As a reward for their excellent attendance and behaviour Jonjo donated free tickets to our PRU pupils.

So on Fri 15th February we nipped over to Donny and got ready to watch Live Boxing at the Doncaster Dome.

We watched 10 fights from different weight categories, shouted loudly for all the Boxer's we know from watching them train at Jonjo's Gym and even saw our 1st Title Fight!

The pupils said it was an amazing atmosphere and we are extremely excited as we have been invited back in April for more title fights involving some of our local fighters.

Opening minds day

During our Open Minds Day on Monday 4th February Steve Hemingway from Blink Art came to Horizon PRU and the pupils from the PRU were joined by three pupils from Shafton PRU. They produced a piece of art work that reflected their feelings and what they would like to do when leaving school. Blink Art uses recycled equipment to paint with, showing the pupils there is no need for expensive brushes. The pupils had a brilliant day and took the paintings home to show parents. The pupils were so engaged they asked if they could have another session!

Steve Hemingway the man behind Blink Art sent an email to Derek Riley the teacher to say how much he had enjoyed the day and he was extremely impressed with their maturity and behaviour.



STOP PRESS

You recently received a letter about a First Savers Account from South Yorkshire Credit Union. If you would like your child to be part of this savings scheme, we are starting our collection point after the Easter holiday. Please return your reply slips to school as soon as possible.



Key Dates for Summer Term 2013

School/PRU re-opens: 8th April

School closed - May Bank Holiday: 6th May

School/PRU closes for Half Term: 24th May

School/PRU re-opens: 3rd June

Celebration Day: 28th June

Family Learning Review Day: 15th July

School Closes for Summer: 19th July