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Ref:	SCS/DRS/AWK	Enquiries to:	Mr D Ross
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Date:	22 October 2014	Email:	springwellcss@barnsley.org

Dear Parent and Carers

The pupils at Springwell have their own blog.

You might be wondering 'what is a blog?' A blog is essentially a website or an on-line space where students can access, display and share learning/information with an authentic audience. The purpose of the blog is to promote connective reading and writing, cooperative learning and responsible digital citizenship.

We can use our Blog to:

- Create an online community for our pupils and their parents;
- Share resources and notices;
- Share pupils' work and learning (providing a real authentic audience world-wide);
- Provide up to date information on what is happening in our school and PRU;
- Integrate multimedia of all descriptions (videos, photo stories, and podcasts);
- Receive feedback;
- Provide opportunities for pupils to read (posts), write (posts and comments).

As you can see the blog is an amazing tool that has huge potential to enhance children's learning (a blog is not a chat room). Parents and carers, teachers and in fact anybody else can comment. Why not tell them what you like about their work? You could ask questions or suggest ways that they might make their work better.

Blogs can be used to post links to activities and websites which relate to school. They help to get the students engaged and excited about their learning, and encourage them to think about school in new and interesting ways.

Is it safe?

Yes. Blogs are very safe if they are managed carefully. EVERYTHING that people write on the blog is moderated before it appears. This means that a member of staff reads and checks things to decide if they are appropriate. We teach the pupils that they can only use their first names on the blog and we do lots of work to ensure that they know how to use it responsibly and safely. No email addresses, phone numbers or other personal data is allowed on the blog.

If people do try to write unkind, thoughtless or inappropriate things, they will not appear. It is very easy to block people from using the blog. This means that they will never be able to access the blog again.

We are excited about how the blog helps us to raise standards and engage the pupils. Please have a look at the blogs and have a go at leaving a comment. If you have any questions, concerns or comments about the blog, please let us know.

Blogging Terms and Conditions

Pupils using blogs are expected to act safely by keeping personal information out of their comments. Personal information includes family name, phone number, or home address.

Pupils using blogs are expected to treat blog sites as classroom spaces. Inappropriate language or content will not be posted.

Pupils who do not follow these terms and conditions may lose their privilege to participate in blog discussions.

The address for our blog is:
<http://springwell.primaryblogger.co.uk/>



Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Yours Sincerely

Mr D Ross
Assistant Principal

I have read and understood the blogging terms and conditions. I agree to uphold them and give permission for my child to use the blog. I understand that they must use first names, must not divulge personal details and must use the blog responsibly.

I give permission for photographs and videos of my child to be put onto the blog by staff at Springwell. I understand that this will be carefully monitored.

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date: _____

