



# SPRINGWELL SKY

Where learning matters for everyone

Issue 23 – December 2018



## THE HEADLINE

To all our parent and carers, welcome to our winter newsletter 2018.

As we speed towards our Christmas break, it is worth taking a moment to reflect on all the positive experiences that have happened across the organisation since the start of term. A highlight of September was the opening of our very own Springwell Farm! Pupils have loved the opportunity to help with feeding and mucking out the animals.



Celebrating Diversity has been a theme running through the term, with the Elements 'Festival of Light' theme launched by the Indian Dance Theatre Company 'Annapurna' involving pupils in the retelling of the Diwali story of 'Rama and Sita'. World Mental Health Day was an opportunity to focus on strategies to help anxiety and stress. Springwell at Kirk Balk took the day to another level with their 'Mental Health Road Show', bringing a range of calming activities to share with the primary pupils at Springwell and modelling kindness and caring.



Pupils supporting each other has been further developed through a new peer-mentoring programme, where pupils in key stages 3 and 4 have supported younger pupils with both work and self-regulating.

Indeed, across the organisation, staff are working hard at implementing strategies to help our children and young people with building their resilience, managing their feelings and learning to play and work co-operatively with each other.

Our annual Kindness Week in November focused on the importance of small acts of kindness and how kind thoughts as well as words and deeds are what make our organisation a happy place to learn.

In November, we were lucky to have a visit from the music star Charlotte Church, as part of her research for creating her own school. After experiencing learning across the main site and chatting to lots of pupils whilst she helped out with the taxi duty at the end of the day, Charlotte reflected that Springwell was an inspirational school. We are looking forward to the end of the half term, when our new music teacher, Miss Halkyard will bring everyone together with a Christmas celebration including the panto Aladdin, performed by year 8 and primary 1 and 4 performing the nativity.



So, as the busy term draws to an end, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and love, kindness and happy times in 2019.

### Key dates for the diary – Spring Term 2019

- Academies open for Spring Term: **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January**
- INSET Day – Academies closed to pupils: **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February**
- Academies close for half term: **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**
- Both academies re-open: **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February**
- Family Learning Day: **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April**
- Academies close for Easter: **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April**
- Academies open for Summer Term: **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

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The **Springwell Farm** is proving very popular with pupils and is maturing into a fantastic resource that allows us to get our hands dirty and learn all about animal welfare. Over the four months since opening, our animals have settled in quickly and formed close relationships with Mr Walker, our farm manager, and all of our pupils. There are so many projects currently taking place, with the farm constantly growing and improving. One of the many highlights was planting a row of young trees, with the help of MP Dan Jarvis, to commemorate service men and women who died in war protecting our country. Pupils were responsible for planting their own tree. They are now looking forward to a return visit to check how their tree is growing. All these projects couldn't have happened without the determination and enthusiasm from our amazing pupils at Springwell. So from Mr Walker and all the animals at the farm, Merry Christmas and thank you for all the hard work.



On Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> of November, Mr Coulton, Mr Freeman and Miss Halkyard accompanied the year 11 music students on a trip to the media and sign language studios in Wolverhampton University to record their sign language music video project. Two of the Senior lecturers at the university, Ms Hughes and Dr Stone, had collaborated in the project by video teaching our very own Kiera how to sign the song 'Zombie' by 'The Cranberries' and then inviting the group to work alongside the technicians, at the university, to create a professional film for their BTEC Music studies. It was a long but very successful day and we are looking forward to sharing the final edited film with the rest the Springwell students.



In November, Year 11 attended The Life Centre in Rotherham to take part in a new course as part of their Crucial Crew training. The talks began with police staff showing different scenarios of knife crime and the effects on those involved, whether it be victim or perpetrator. We visited a mock court room where we listened to two magistrates talk about crime and consequences. There was also a prison cell with the basic facilities that prisoners have which show living conditions for those who choose to break the law. We also learned about arson, internet and road safety. It was a very worthwhile trip with lots of useful information for young people. Highly recommended!



# 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

## 10 October is World Mental Health Day



October 10th 2018 was World Mental Health Day and the students at Kirk Balk wanted to raise the awareness around mental health. The students decided to hold a 'Tea and Talk' morning, in which they invited parents, carers, students and staff. They provided workshops with different strategies, baked buns and created a mental health quiz. The day was a complete success and the students wanted to create a 'Mental Health Roadshow', so we arranged two days at Springwell, which would include workshops for six different classes. The students at Kirk Balk were outstanding and provided excellent support for the younger students. The students at Kirk Balk are raising the awareness around mental health and are creating a culture where it is good to talk.



Horizon AA students have been concentrating on co-operation this term. They have been honing their skills in areas such as baking and games in order to be able to transfer these skills to their learning. The students have made huge progress in co-operation, and we are very proud of them.

In addition, our students have also taken the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the workplace at various work placements. Students are all doing really well on these placements and are a credit to themselves and the school.

You can follow our progress via our twitter page [Springwell@HorizonAA](https://twitter.com/Springwell@HorizonAA)



# Kindness Café 2018

Every day we encourage our pupils to be kind to one another, but what does Kindness mean?

For all of us at Springwell it means sharing, it means doing something to make someone happy, it means saying nice things to the people who help, it means writing a note to someone saying "thank you", it means baking buns or cakes, it means sitting down with other classes and enjoying a cup of tea, coffee or a glass of juice whilst talking to friends and adults.

This is exactly what we did at the end of our Kindness week 2018.

All classes baked and shared their baking with all members of the school community at our Kindness café. It was a great event enjoyed by all.

Primary 5 embraced kindness week by using a 'kindness box' in class. They wrote a Kindness slip when they saw a kind act from one pupil to another. At the end of the week, each was read out and as a class they considered how this would have made the person being kind and receiving the kindness feel.



Do Random Acts of Kindness



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!



## ELEMENTS in KS3 | Festivals and Celebrations

Pupils have started looking at the different ways different religions celebrate. Pupils have been able to experience how different religions use crafts and artwork to celebrate, try different types of food and see how others wear their traditional dress and the reasons behind it. We started the topic with a visit from The Anapurna Dance Company. The pupils all got involved acting out the story of Rama and Sita, practicing traditional dances and listening to traditional music. The pupils will end the term creating their own version of the Mexican festival "Día de Muertos", The Day of the Dead, with face painting, food creation and celebratory arts and crafts.



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.



**student**  
COUNCIL



*Voice of Change- Working together for a better future!*

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 materials in school, they have voted for our new charity focus this year. They all wanted to support local charities and decided on supporting Barnsley hospital Charity and BARC, the Barnsley Animal Rescue Charity.

They also worked very hard to organise the Kindness Café to celebrate the end of our Kindness Week this year.

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

Thank you!

## THANK YOU

First of all, thank you to anyone who made a cake for the coffee morning. We raised a fantastic £142 on the 28<sup>th</sup> 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**



**THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 £87.

As ever, we are proud to have contributed to this year's poppy appeal. As a learning community we raised £112. Thank you to all that 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 supported Children in Need by participating in a **'Pudsey Pyjama Party'** fundraising event. We raised a massive £136! So well done and thank you to all who got involved, we can definitely make a difference.



# Magic moments from around our Learning Community

## Raising Awareness

Back in October, Year 11 had an inspiring morning with Andy who shared a fantastic story of overcoming adversity, using growth mindset and working cooperatively with others.

Year 11 really appreciated Andy's time and have thoroughly enjoyed raising awareness for various charities and being responsible, active citizens. Great work Year 11!



## Out of this World!

This half term primary has been learning all about space. We have retold alien stories and written our own alien adventure stories. Science lessons have included exploring the planets in our solar system as well as learning about forces such as gravity and air resistance. Please scan the QR code to see some of the fantastic things that have been going on.



## Learning about real life superheroes in Primary 3!

Primary 3 have been doing lots of work around superheroes this term and have produced some fantastic comic strips and poems about fictitious heroes. However, in September they met a real life hero; Colin a fire officer. He talked to the pupils about his job and showed off all his protective clothing and kit that firefighters have to keep themselves and the public safe. Mr Clayton modelled the fireproof gear – he said it was very heavy!



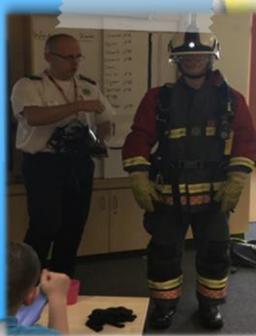
## Myths and Legends in KS3

To kick-start the new school year, Key Stage 3 began Elements lessons exploring Myths and Legends from around the world. Pupils were able to hear tales around the campfire about Springwell's Beast, take a dip into Pandora's Box and discover the tales of the brave warrior Beowulf. The pupils in Year 8 showed their creativity using Minecraft to recreate their own versions of The Mead Hall from Beowulf. The term ended with some fantastic creative writing from the pupils around their own mythical creatures.



## Well done!

A big shout out to Kiera in KS4 who is doing a fantastic job as Peer Mentor in Primary 5. Staff are extremely pleased with how she has formed relationships with the children, and she is a valued member of the team. She is now looking to study Childcare at Barnsley College because of her interest in working as a volunteer in school.



## Dick Whittington

The whole of Primary went to the pantomime on 12<sup>th</sup> December to see Dick Whittington at the Academy Theatre in Birdwell. The show was fantastic and the pupils had a great time!



Merry CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY New Year