



# SPRINGWELL SKY

Where learning matters for everyone

Issue 27 – Easter 2021

## THE HEADLINE



Dear Parents and Carers,

***“There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered”*** Nelson Mandela

The start of this year has been a momentous challenge for us all and I would like to firstly take this opportunity to reflect upon some of the tremendous achievements and accomplishments of our amazing pupils during this period. I would also like to say thank you to our wonderful families and school community for the strong support that you continue to give to the academies.

To have such levels of engagement and attendance despite the intensity and challenges of the last few months is a testament to the resilience, creativity, resourcefulness and determination of our amazing staff and pupils. It has been wonderful to have our Springwell family together physically for the first time this year and it is a pleasure to be thinking of a return to some sense of normality over the coming weeks and months ahead of us.

I wanted to take this opportunity to look positively ahead in the build up to our Easter holidays and to see the coming weeks as a real opportunity to make the most of the time that we will have. Perhaps in the future there will be an occasion when we can look back upon these weeks and be proud of how ‘we all pulled together’, to ensure that our community and our students and families feel safe and cared for.



We know that each of our students will be feeling very differently about school; some more anxious and uncertain about things to come, some longing for socialisation with their friends and some just excited to get back into their classrooms.

I could not be prouder of the flexibility, determination and the pupils’ ability to adapt to change over the last few months and we have no doubt that once the pupils have settled back into the rhythms and routines of school life, they will continue to demonstrate resilience and positivity going forward.

### Qualifications

You will have no doubt seen the recent media coverage around the changes to this year’s summer assessment for examination year groups. All those scheduled to sit examinations and tests this year will receive an additional letter, specifically outlining the plans for the Summer Assessments.

### Lateral Flow Testing

We hope that you have found the home testing kits and instructions helpful and reassuring. Thank you for supporting your child when taking the test and assisting them to swab correctly. Can I remind all parents and carers that if the result is positive, you should keep your child at home, contact school as soon as possible and book a PCR test to confirm the result. Another testing pack will be sent out to our secondary pupils prior to the Easter break. If you have any additional questions, the pastoral team are happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support, have a lovely Easter break and I haven’t been able to say this for some time, however I look forward to seeing everyone, in person, very soon!

Danny Ross  
Head of School



# WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 was World Book Day, and our community at Springwell had a wonderful day packed with activities, competitions, reading and fancy dress. It was incredible to see the effort put into costumes by both students and staff; from Cruella De Vil and the dalmatians to Harry Potter and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We also hosted a 'Design a Literary Potato Character' competition, where students had to change a potato into a famous book character. It was incredibly hard to choose a winner because there were so many fantastic entries, but well done to Mollie Newman and Lexi Yoxall for winning with their creative entries of Coraline and Lion.

Our pupils also participated in a sponsored read from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you for helping to support your child and our school community by sponsoring their reading. Not only did the sponsored read encourage our young people to read, but it will also raise funds to buy some new and exciting books for our libraries.



## Good news... watching telly could help your reading skills!

Studies have shown that watching your favourite TV show with the subtitles on might double your chance of becoming a good reader! Scan the QR code to hear Stephen Fry explaining how turning on the subtitles can help develop our reading



## Book Club Interview – Mrs Cross

### **What is your favourite book and why?**

I have so many favourites that it's hard to narrow down. I have loved 'Atonement', 'The Road', 'A Thousand Splendid Suns', 'The Poisonwood Bible' and 'Wuthering Heights'.

My favourite teenage fiction reads recently have been 'My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece' by Annabel Pitcher and 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness.

### **What inspired you to read the book?**

I was interested to read 'A Monster Calls' because it is about a young boy whose mum is very ill. My own mum also has a terminal illness and it always helps me to read about stories where the characters might be feeling or facing some of the same things as me. I think good books can be really powerful in this way – they can help us to explore and organise our own feelings.

### **What is your favourite character and why?**

I love Moriarty from 'Sherlock Holmes'. He is the villainous criminal mastermind and antithesis of Sherlock himself; he's very interesting and Sherlock himself becomes a bit obsessed. We even named our cat after him.

### **What is your favourite genre?**

I love gothic fiction – the old stuff and the new stuff. I also love American fiction, particularly novels set in the south. I like to read poetry as well; Ted Hughes and Rupi Kaur are my favourites.

### **Who is your least favourite character and why?**

Bella Swan from 'Twilight'. I love a strong, brave and independent female character and she just doesn't step up to this, in my opinion.

### **Who would play you in the film of your life?**

I would love it if Julia Roberts could play me.

## Why we use a Sensory Diet!

Our senses provide us with a means of interacting with society as well as helping us to understand and respond to the environment around us.

Some pupils at Springwell who have a diagnosis of Autism, traits of Autism, or have other learning difficulties, struggle to integrate or make sense of sensory inputs which often manifest as withdrawal, distress or challenging behaviour. These responses can often impact on progress, where sensory needs are not addressed effectively enough, leading to further barriers to learning.



## Our Aims...

- To support our young people with sensory needs with an appropriate support to enable them to develop the self-regulation skills for independence in life
- To provide an adapted environment and personalised teaching programme that addresses individuals' sensory needs and requirements in order to impact positively on their health, wellbeing and ability to access further learning
- To help regulate their sensory systems, the young people at Springwell engage in a variety of activities, using the specialised equipment to either alert or calm their sensory system.

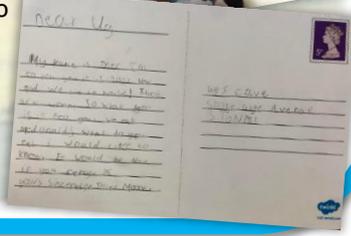


## CLIFFS AND CAVES IN PRIMARY 2

This term in Primary 2 we have loved learning all about cliffs and caves. We have gone back in time to the Stone Age. Our book in English is 'Ug, the boy genius of the stone age'. We made our predictions about Ug by looking at the illustrations in the book and discussing what we thought might happen next.

Ug wears stone trousers and lives in a cold gloomy cave. We immediately felt sorry for him and wanted to teach him what life was like in 2021! We each wrote him a postcard where we compared our items and explained that we live in warm houses and our trousers are made from soft materials. We also asked Ug questions such as... 'Was raw meat the only thing you ate?' and 'How did you feel about sleeping on a stone bed?'

As we read the book, we soon realised that Ug was a genius, all along he knew that footballs needed to be made of something soft and bouncy. After all who would want to kick a stone football?



## Music continues to play an important part of our culture at Springwell.

Our students have had plenty of opportunities to play different instruments including guitar, keyboards and one of our newest additions, the Boomwhacker! Which are a real hit with our Primary 1 and 2 classes.

Primary 1 and 2 have also started learning a British Sign Language version of the song 'You're Welcome' from Moana, which the children are really enjoying.

Many of the older students are enjoying their music work and have been learning about diverse topics such as music from video games, music from Horror and Sci-Fi films, rock music from 1990's to present and electronic music.

Across school, students have also been developing their skills using music technology and have produced some fantastic work using Garageband. The students use a range of different samples to create their own songs in the same way as a real world music producer. Who knows, we may have an ex-pupil collaborating with Ed Sheeran in future.

Our schedule of 1 to 1 lessons has also been a great success with many students getting additional teaching in guitar, piano, music production and drums.

We have a busy schedule of specialist workshops booked for next term including rap, DJ'ing, production, drums and guitar so here's looking forward to another fun packed, musical term.





In **Design and Technology** this term we have had a busy time working on the Elements Curriculum and BTEC awards!

Our themed wooden mobiles are working very well with either bright colours of the stars or deepest non reflective black and glow in the dark stickers, so when the mobiles move in the night the stars will twinkle.

Our older students are producing fantastic projects for BTEC and the tool box above is an amazing example of good safe tool use and accurate measuring.

We have also been producing some eco-friendly, wooden phone speakers which actually work! This project has given new challenges to our KS3 groups in improving accuracy with measuring and marking out tools and a focus on quality finished products, skills needed as they move towards KS4.

Darton groups have been working on small storage items and so have made these rather nice bandsaw boxes! Made from Giant Redwood Sequoia this project has challenged our students to take care with unusual materials and use patience while sanding and finishing a product.



### A BIG THANK YOU

We have been overwhelmed by the support and kindness that the community continues to offer.

We would like to say a big thank you to Asda Barnsley, who have provided us with Easter eggs to distribute to our brilliant students, rewarding them for their resilience and great attendance this term.



### Safer Internet Day

At Springwell, it is important to teach our pupils how to be responsible digital citizens and they are constantly reminded about the many dangers that can be found online. Safer Internet Day 2021 was celebrated globally on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February with the theme, 'Exploring reliability in the online world.'

The day offered the opportunity to highlight positive uses of technology, certainly during lockdown and to explore the role we all play in helping to create a better and safer online community.



A Duke of Edinburgh trip to New Miller Dam proved to be a perfect setting for the new starters at Deare to build relationships with staff and other peers. They were tasked with building a den in teams of three. The winner would be the team that built the most impressive den.

All pupils demonstrated excellent team working skills. They showed curiosity when exploring their surroundings and worked together to collect as many materials as they could.

The groups discussed amongst each other how they plan to make the Den. Two pupils in particular (Kierron and Jaden) showed great leadership skills by taking control of the situation by making important decisions in relation to the structure of their team's den. Both teams took great pride in the dens they had created. The group were able to share jokes with each other over whose Den was better. Well done all!

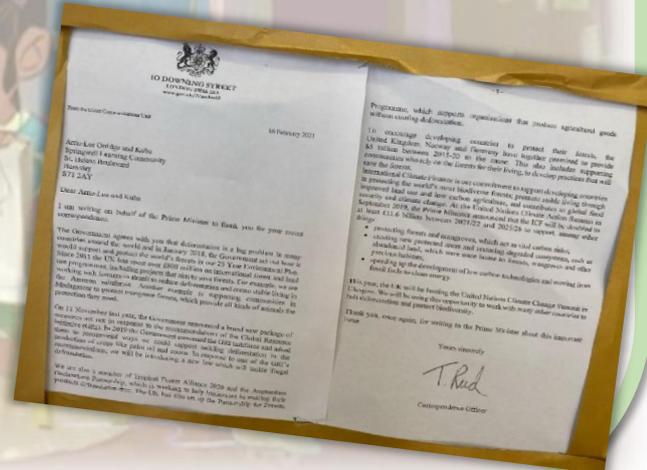


Primary 4's English topic last half term was based around writing a persuasive letter. After watching the Iceland advert "There's a Rang-Tan in my Bedroom", we decided that we needed to write a letter to the Prime Minister asking to ban the use of palm oil in products throughout the United Kingdom. Did you know that palm oil production is said to have been responsible for about 8% of the world's deforestation between 1990 and 2008? Animals like orangutans, Asian elephants, Sumatran rhinos and Sumatran tigers live in these rainforests. When the trees are cut or burnt down, they lose their homes. Many of them die. So we decided to do something about it!

First, we researched about deforestation and palm oil. We then wrote and posted our letters at the local post box.

Finally, we waited for a response from 10 Downing Street... and here it is! We were shocked to receive a response so quickly and it was great knowing our hard work was acknowledged by the Government. Well done Primary 4!

# THERE'S A RANG-TAN IN MY BEDROOM PROJECT



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 27/1

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place each year on the 27 January, which is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

This year's theme was 'Be the light in the darkness'. At Springwell, the day allowed us to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide.

As part of our Elements curriculum, the pupils at Springwell learn about the Holocaust and discuss the importance of remembering the millions of people who tragically lost their lives. The pupils have enjoyed reading 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas'. They imagined what it must have been like to be sent away to a concentration camp and produced some brilliant letters to send home.



## SOUTH YORKSHIRE VIOLENCE PREVENTION UNIT

As part of a successful bid to the SYVRU, we took delivery of eight Carrera bikes, bringing our total to sixteen new bikes. These will be used as part of our Outdoor Education offer to promote engagement and investment in learning and encourage the students to build positive relationships with each other.



**PRIMARY 3**

Primary 3 have been exploring the solar system in their Elements topic this half term. They have been getting creative by making paper Mache planets, and using stop motion animation to inform their decision as to how the solar system works. The pupils have also investigated the Heliocentric and Geocentric theories to see if the solar system is Earth centred or Sun centred (Let's just say this sparked some debate). Absolutely brilliant learning!



*Simply Delicious*



**HIGHFIELDS KS4**

We have had a very busy term here at Highfields. Our Year 10s have been working hard to complete their folders for the Home Cooking qualification and have been busy researching, preparing and finally cooking a two-course meal from scratch. We are really proud of the effort that our students put in; their food was delicious and their presentation exemplary.

**HORIZON KS3**

We have been really busy this term learning facts about the two World Wars, being part of an Arctic Expedition and mastering our Data skills. In addition we have baked every Tuesday, talked about changes in PSHE and kept fit by attending PE sessions at Springwell.

At the end of each day we reflect on our choices and discuss how we make our time together even better. We have a nice warm drink and go home for a well-deserved rest. We have worked really hard since January, both in school and at home. We are very much looking forward to the Easter break.

**FUNDRAISE**

This year pupils and staff had fun supporting Comic Relief and raised over £100! Pupils were invited to come dressed as their favourite superhero, bought red noses and took part in a brilliant superhero bake off. Well done everyone, it was a fun day and together we can definitely make a difference!

**SUPERPOWERS AT THE READY**

**RED NOSE DAY**

# #TOP TWEETS



happy  
Easter

**Key dates for the diary – Summer Term 2021**

- Academies open for Summer Term: **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April**
- Academies closed for May Bank Holiday: **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**
- Academies close for half term: **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**
- Academies re-open: **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June**
- Special Academy Sports Day: **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July**
- Academies close for the summer: **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July**