



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 3 - Friday 27th September 2024

Welcoming Visitors to SGS

It has been great to welcome visitors to school this week to showcase our fabulous new building and grounds. Today, myself and the Chair of Governors welcomed Councillor Ted Henderson to Springmoor Grange. He was very impressed with the learning environments inside and out and how well our children have settled. As always, the children were fabulous ambassadors. Go Team SGS!

Weather

Apologies for the inconvenience caused over the last two days – I know that the standing water hasn't been ideal and we are working with Esh Construction to look at how this can be solved. Please bear with us and fingers crossed for no more weather warnings.

Nursery Parent/Carer Consultations

In Nursery, there will be opportunities throughout the year for parents/carers to meet with Nursery staff to talk about your child and their learning. If your child has just joined Nursery for the very first time, staff will spend a few weeks getting to know them and finding out what their next steps are. You will then be invited to a Parent/Carer Consultation to talk about how your child has settled into nursery and we will look at the child development milestones together. This will take place during October.

When your child reaches their birthday, or 6 months between, you will be invited to another Parent/Carer Consultation to share your child's learning and development so far and discuss with staff what they will be working on developing next.

Primary Parent/Carer Consultations

Working and communicating with parents and carers is very important to us. Class teachers are looking forward to meeting you all at our first Consultation Evenings on the following dates:

Tulip – Mr Crowther	Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th October
Rose – Mrs Woods	Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th October
Oak – Mrs Paxton	Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th October
Maple – Miss James	Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th October
Elm – Miss Robson and Mrs Elliott	Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th October
Swallow– Miss Day	Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th October
Owl – Mrs Payne	Monday 14 th and Wednesday 16 th October
Kingfisher – Mr Webb	Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th October
Kestrel – Mrs Cox and Mrs Phillips	Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th October
Raven – Mr Cummings	Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th October
Eagle – Miss Todd	Monday 14 th and Tuesday 15 th October

Parent/Carer Consultation appointments can be booked via Arbor from next week. When the booking system is open, you will receive an email with instructions.

Open Event – Saturday 5th October



The poster features a purple background with white and pink decorative elements. At the top left, a child in a purple school uniform is building with colorful LEGO bricks at a table. In the top right corner is the Springmoor Grange School logo, which includes a tree and the motto 'NURTURE - ASPIRE - PROSPER'. The main title 'SPRINGMOOR GRANGE SCHOOL OPEN EVENT' is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this, the date and time 'Saturday 5th October - 10am - 2pm' are displayed. The text invites families to join for a tour and to see the school's facilities. It also mentions that activities will be available for children starting Nursery or Reception in September 2025. Contact information, including a phone number and email address, is provided. At the bottom, the school's name and address are listed. On the right side, there is a circular inset photo of children playing in a sandpit outdoors.


NURTURE - ASPIRE - PROSPER

SPRINGMOOR GRANGE SCHOOL OPEN EVENT

Saturday 5th October - 10am - 2pm

We would like to invite families, prospective and current, to join us as at our first open event. It will be a chance for you have a tour of Springmoor Grange and see the excellent facilities that we have on offer for the children.

Is your child due to start Nursery or Reception in September 2025? Come and explore our Early Years unit - we'll have lots of activities for you to take part in and would love to meet you.

We look forward to welcoming everyone.

For more information contact:
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springmoorgrange@durhamlearning.net

SPRINGMOOR GRANGE SCHOOL
Durham Road, Spennymoor,
Co. Durham, DL16 6SQ



Parking

Please be considerate when parking and ensure that you are not blocking driveways and garages when dropping off and collecting children.

We have also noticed that some parents/carers are parking in the designated delivery drop off area. **Please note that cars are not allowed to park here.** The gates are open to allow for deliveries to take place. If this continues, we will need to lock the gates. Thank you for your support with this.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers



Year 1	Delaney D	Year 4	Tahlia B
Year 2	Jennie B	Year 5	Teddy B
Year 3	Anna W	Year 6	Caleb W



Attendance and Punctuality

Overall attendance for the week is 97.1% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 3 with 99.71%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 97.1%.

The Primary starts at 8:30am, with the gates opening from 8:20am. Please ensure that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning. This week, we have had 366 late minutes.

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 5 th October	10am – 2pm – Springmoor Grange School Open Event
W/C 14 th October	Primary Parent Consultation Evenings
15 th – 22 nd October	Book Fair
Tuesday 22 nd October	School Photo Day
Friday 25 th October	Close for Half Term
October Half Term	
Monday 4 th November	Children back to school
Wednesday 6 th November	PM - M and M Production – Aladdin
Friday 8 th November	Reception – Year 6 Flu Vaccinations
WC 11 th November	Anti-Bullying Week – Make a Noise about Bullying
Wednesday 20 th November	Year 5 Transition Event – Whitworth Park Academy
Friday 29 th November	Closed – PD Day
Wednesday 11 th December	9:30am and 2pm – Reception Christmas Performance
Thursday 12 th December	9:30am and 5pm Y3/4 Christmas Performance
Monday 16 th December	9:30am and 2pm Nursery Christmas Performance
Tuesday 17 th December	9:30am and 4:30pm Y1/2 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 18 th December	9:30am and 5pm Year 5/6 Christmas Performance
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Lunch and Party Day
Friday 20 th December	3pm Close for Christmas Break
Christmas Holidays	
Monday 6 th January 2025	Children back to school

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Our week in Rose Class



Rose Class visited the school library this week and shared books with friends. We are exploring our new school with lots of confidence.



Rain doesn't stop play in Reception - there is no such thing as bad weather! We pop on our waterproofs and wellies and embrace the rain.

We have been learning some new sounds this week - and practising how to say them and write them.



We are even learning to blend the sounds together to read 3 letter words like pat, sit and nap.



Pirate PE in the big hall was so much fun - we played Capture the Captain and the Treasure game. We had to travel in different ways as the pirates pinched the treasure while the sailors had to save it and put it back on the ship!

