



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter

Volume 7 - Friday 25th October 2024

Amazing Half Term

What a fabulous start to this academic year in our new school - we are very proud of all of the children and how they have settled in to the routine of their new class and the new building. A huge well done to all of our new starters in Nursery and Reception – you have all been superstars. The children have worked hard and made great progress with their learning. Keep it up next half term! Huge thank you to the staff for their continued efforts to create the best possible experiences for the children. We hope you all have a fabulous half term break and look forward to seeing you on Monday 4th November.

Spooky Stories in Early Years

Our Spooky Stories sessions were very well attended across Nursery and Reception. Both children and adults had a lovely time making crafts, decorating biscuits and cakes as well as playing together. Everyone enjoyed the story session at the end. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

Years 1 – 6 Halloween

Thank you to our newly formed Friends of Springmoor and Springmoor Wellbeing Team for organising and running the spooktacular Halloween events yesterday. The hall looked absolutely fantastic and both events were a great success. Local company Medequip Assisted Technology, who are based in Newton Aycliffe, supported the event by providing us with specially made wooden artefacts. It was great to see the children having lots of fun, dancing and playing games together. The KS2 Escape Rooms were a huge hit with the older children. These events could not run without volunteers, including parents, carers and staff, that give up their time to support at the events and also those that supported by sending in decorations - it is greatly appreciated.

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who attended our Book Fair last week, it was lovely to see so many families enjoying the books on offer. Thanks to all of the orders taken, we are pleased to announce that we have raised over £500 for our school library, which we look forward to developing over the coming months. For anyone who placed an order, the majority of these have been fulfilled and will be sent home today. If there are any titles missing from your order, please don't worry, these will arrive after half term and will be sent out to you as soon as possible.

Healthy Snacks

As part of our welfare requirements, it is important that we offer children a healthy snack during the day. Fruit is available every day for children in Reception and Key Stage One. If children would like to bring a healthy snack to school with them, please ensure that this is a piece of fruit or a plain biscuit and please ensure that children bring only water in their water bottles. Thank you for your support with this.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers



Year 1	Rhian K	Year 4	Kaeson D
Year 2	Lucy H	Year 5	Thomas P
Year 3	Kyle E	Year 6	Frankie M



Attendance and Punctuality

Overall attendance for the week is 96.19% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 98.96%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 96.35%.

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 336 late minutes.

Dates for the Diary

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
Tuesday 12 th November	Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need – Spots, Stripes and Non-Uniform Food Donations for local Food Bank
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
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper Day
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 TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.

2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.

3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.

5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide, open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.

6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.

7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"

Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES

Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are **not** toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.

10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children these techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fire-safety>

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Kestrel Class

Kestrel Class

What a busy week we've had as we wrap up the term! We've been finishing off our wider curriculum subjects, all while buzzing with excitement for our very first Halloween event at Springmoor Grange. It's shaping up to be a fantastic celebration, so let's make the most of it!



History

In our end-of-topic discussions on the Victorians, we weighed up the evidence on whether they were good for us. We worked in groups to share opinions and ideas.



English

In this week's lessons, students independently crafted persuasive arguments, using a success criterion. The students really engaged with the GO APE activity, sharing their thoughts and reflections vividly. Everyone enjoyed the challenge, building their stamina for longer pieces of writing. It was brilliant!



RE

Our art and IT skills were put to the test this week as we were researching and drawing Jewish artefacts.



Science

In this week's lesson, we explored air resistance, analysing our results against the hypothesis. We then investigated pulleys, levers, and gears, demonstrating resilience as



Maths

In our lessons, we explored common factors, prime numbers, and squared numbers using manipulatives. The children loved repeating the rules and sharing their findings with each other!



Reading/Spelling

This week we honed our skills by putting words in alphabetical order, exploring definitions of homophones, and completing the fun 'Spell it Out' activity together!

