



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 14 – Friday 20th December

Happy Christmas

Today, we close for the Christmas break. It has been a magnificent term and everyone has settled into our new school exceptionally well. The children have worked hard in lessons throughout the term and should be very proud of the progress that they have made. Keep it up next term Team SGS!

On behalf of the children, staff and Governors, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 6th January 2025.

Spectacular Performances

On Wednesday evening, Years 5 and 6 brought down the curtain on our season of Christmas shows as they impressed the audience with an all-singing, all-dancing and hilariously funny performance of the panto 'Aladdin'. Our new lighting and sound systems were used to great effect! Well done Years 5 and 6 – you were all superstars.

The previous day, Year 1 and 2 did an outstanding job of performing 'Boogie Woogie Nativity'. The children impressed the audience with their amazing singing and dancing – it was great to see the huge smiles on their faces! Well done Years 1 and 2 – you should all be very proud of yourselves.

The beginning of the week saw our youngest learners in Nursery perform their 'First Nativity'. They were all shining stars and to stand on the stage and perform like they did was truly exceptional. Well done Nursery superstars!

At the end of last week, Years 3 and 4 wowed us with a Carol Concert. The singing was outstanding - I saw lots of people wiping a tear or two away as it was such a beautiful show. Well done Years 3 and 4 – you have shown that traditional carols are still very popular and lovely to listen to.

Last but by no means least, we cannot forget the opening to our Christmas performances by our super Reception children week. The children started the performance calendar fantastically well and were so confident on the stage. It made everyone feel Christmassy and I know the audience were very proud of the children. Well done Reception!

Amazing Staff

None of the performances would have been possible without the efforts and commitment of our fabulous staff. Their dedication and hard work, both at Christmas and throughout the year, ensures that the children get these fabulous opportunities to perform to you all. There is also a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes at all of the Christmas events and not all of the staff's efforts are visible to you all, especially the Chartwell catering staff who served Christmas Lunch for 276 people yesterday. A huge thank you to all of the staff – your hard work and efforts are appreciated.



Thank you to Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers in school for our Christmas events. As mentioned in the performances, we love creating partnerships with you and showcasing the talents of our children. Feedback from parents and carers was extremely positive – a great big thank you from us all for your ongoing support.

Friends of Springmoor Superstars

It's hard to believe that our Friends of Springmoor, led by Miss Simpson, only started working together in the middle of October. Since then, they have raised a phenomenal £2765 with your help! A huge thank you to the Friends for their support and we look forward to further events in 2025.

Victoria Jubilee Junior Parkrun

A new event starts in January 2025 – please see the poster below for more information:

JOIN OUR FREE 2K EVENT FOR 4-14 YEAR OLDS EVERY SUNDAY



VICTORIA JUBILEE JUNIOR PARKRUN



RUN WALK JOG VOLUNTEER

STARTS 5TH JANUARY 2025 @ 9AM

BRAND NEW TO JUNIOR PARKRUN? FIRST TIMERS WELCOME @ 08:50

EVERYONE WELCOME

Walk, jog, run, hop, skip or jump - it's up to you!

FREE & EASY TO TAKE PART

No special kit needed - wear whatever you like

LEARN NEW SKILLS

Kids can volunteer in lots of roles

FEEL HAPPY AND PROUD

Try your best and celebrate your achievements

Register at parkrun.org.uk/register and bring your barcode

down to Victoria Jubilee Park, Spennymoor, DL16 6AL

what3words: ///tadpoles.splat.stunning

parkrun.com/victoriajubilee-juniors
victoriajubileejuniors@parkrun.com

with thanks to:



For safeguarding, under 11s **must** be accompanied to and from junior parkrun by an adult. They don't have to run the course with them (unless they want to!)

Meal Bookings – Spring Term

You can now log on to Arbor and book your child's meals for next half term. If you have any problems, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Ozturk or Mrs Hunter.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers



Reception	Kaiden S	Year 4	Lacy G
Year 1	Ty D	Year 5	Alaia H
Year 2	Ronan Q	Year 6	Jack J
Year 3	Matilda L		



Attendance and Punctuality

Overall attendance for the week is 92.9% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 97.9%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 94.9% for the whole school and 95.5% for children in Reception to Year 6.

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 671 late minutes – this is a significant amount of lost learning time.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 20 th December	3pm Close for Christmas Break
Christmas Holidays	
Monday 6th January 2025	Children back to school

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one topic of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!



1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).

2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.

3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.

4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.

5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.

6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.

7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.

8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.

9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.

10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.

11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.

12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.

