



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 8 - Friday 24th October 2025

Happy Half Term

What a fabulous start to this academic year – the children have settled well into their new class and there has been some fabulous learning going on across school. A huge well done to all of our new starters in Nursery and Reception – you have all been superstars. Keep it up next half term Team SGS! 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 3rd November.



SGS Pumpkin Festival

WOW – what an amazing response to our pumpkin competition organised by the Friends of Springmoor Grange. Huge congratulations to everyone who took part and a special well done to our winning entries – the Children's Leadership Team found it very tricky! We had a huge 205 entries. They were all superb and the whole school enjoyed having a spooky walk through them this morning. Thank you for taking the time to participate.

Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a Parent Governor. This is an exciting opportunity for you to join the Governing Board and continue the ongoing work to continually improve the school.

The link below has further information from the National Governance Association about being a Parent Governor:
<https://www.nga.org.uk/knowledge-centre/the-parent-governor-role/>

If you are interested or would like to know more about the role, please contact Pam Sneath, our Chair of Governors, by emailing p.sneath600@durhamlearning.net. The last date for expressing interest is Friday 7th November.

Book Fair

Thank you to all families who came to visit the book fair this year, it was lovely to see so many of you! All orders have been processed and should be heading our way very soon. Any that arrive before half term will be sent home - if for any reason you do not receive your books or there are titles missing, please don't worry. These may have needed to be restocked and should be here straight after the holidays.

Adam Bushnell

Our three days with Adam Bushnell in school have been fantastic and we have thoroughly enjoyed working with him again. There were sessions involving dinosaurs, trains, battles and everything in between. We truly love visits like this which help inspire our children to love reading and writing all the more. Thank you Adam, we look forward to seeing you again next year!



Year 5 Parent Workshop – Tuesday 4th November – 8:45am

On the Tuesday after the half term break , it will be the turn of all of our Year 5 families to join for our Maths Workshop, a chance for us to share information about the Y5 Maths Curriculum and for you to try some of the activities with the children. The event will begin at 8:45am in the Main Hall, aiming to finish at 9:30am. If you are unable to make it, please don't worry, as all information will be sent home as well. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Reception Parent Workshop – Thursday 6th November – 2pm

On the Thursday after the half term break , it will be the turn of all of our Reception families to join us for our Phonics Workshop, a chance for us to share information about our phonics scheme and for you to try some of the activities that we use in school and you can use at home. The event will begin at 2pm in the Main Hall. If you are unable to make it, please don't worry, as all information will be sent home as well. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Year 1	Theo P, Oliver P and Zara R	Year 4	Kyle E
Year 2	Archie W, Frankie G and Lillie M	Year 5	Paisley P
Year 3	Ronan Q	Year 6	Nell M

Attendance and Punctuality

Overall attendance for the week is 93.8% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 6 with 95.1%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 94.8% for the whole school and 95.6% 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 97 late minutes and lost learning time.

Dates for the Diary

Friday 24th October	Close for Half Term
Monday 3rd November	Open for Autumn Term 2
Tuesday 4 th November	8:30am - Year 5 Parent Workshop
Wednesday 5 th November	PM - M and M Production – Robin Hood
Thursday 6 th November	2pm – Reception Phonics Workshop
WC 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week – Power for Good
Monday 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week – Wear Odd Socks
Friday 14 th November	Children in Needs – Spots Galore <i>Suggested Donation – Food Bank Items</i>
Saturday 22nd November	10am – 2pm – Springmoor Grange Christmas Fair
Monday 24 th November	Reception – Year 6 Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 27 th November	Friends of SGS Non-Uniform Day <i>Suggested Donation - Chocolate</i>
Friday 28th November	PD Day – School Closed
Monday 1 st and Tuesday 2 nd December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 visiting Santa at Spennymoor Town Hall
Wednesday 3 rd December	1:45pm – Nursery Christmas Stay and Play and Crafts
Thursday 4 th December	1:45pm – Reception Christmas Crafts
Friday 5 th December	10:20am and 1:45pm – Buttercups Christmas Stay and Play
Wednesday 10 th December	9:30am and 2pm – Reception Christmas Performance
Thursday 11 th December	9:30am and 2pm Year 3/4 Christmas Performance
Thursday 11 th December	Christmas Jumper Day <i>Suggested Donation – £1</i>
Monday 15 th December	9:30am and 2pm Nursery Christmas Performance
Tuesday 16 th December	9:30am and 2pm Y1/2 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 17 th December	9:30am and 2pm Year 5/6 Christmas Performance
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Party Day
Friday 19th December	Close for Christmas Break
Monday 5th January 2026	Open for the Spring Term

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 at 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 those 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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Falcon



In English, we started the week by finishing writing our information texts all about Pakistan – they were fantastic.



On Wednesday afternoon, we enjoyed spending time with our buddies decorating wooden pumpkins.

We then used the information from our writing to create a presentation on the iPads.



In Science we dissected pigs' hearts and identified all of its parts. All children joined in and thoroughly enjoyed it!



We took part in an amazing workshop with Adam Bushnell where we planned and wrote a story about a Victorian abandoned setting.

On Thursday, we performed our poem 'The Last Train' in our school poetry slam.

"The Final Lap"

Your six the last ride on this primary train,
We've learned, we've laughed, we've faced the pain,
From playground swings to crowded halls,
Now it's our turn to answer the calls.

SATs are coming, papers in sight,
We study hard, we practice each night,
Times tables, reading, spelling too,
We're putting pounds on you.
It's not just tests, it's memories too,
Friends beside us, loyal and true.

The corridors echo with stories we made,
From muddy footballs to luscious cake,
But we won't put it all, we won't just wait,
We'll show the world we're feeling great!
Pens at the ready, minds set to race,
Your six is ours - let's show them we're great!

So here's to the laughter, the learning, the tears,
To growing stronger through all these years,
Our last chapter, our final scene,
Primary school legends, fierce and keen.

We're Year 6, and we've got this right,
The future's waiting - let's shine bright tonight!

