



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter

Volume 10 - Friday 14th November 2025

Children in Need – Food Bank Donations

WOW, WOW, WOW - THANK YOU VERY MUCH! We have once again been overwhelmed to receive so many food donations from families. Your astonishing generosity is very much appreciated and the donations have all been delivered to Durham Food Bank, where they were gratefully received. They will make a huge difference to local families who need a little bit of support at this current time. In addition, the collection at the gate made over £70.



Neville Close Gate – Top of Field

As last year, we would like to remind you that we may need to close this gate when the weather becomes cold and the paths icy due to health and safety reasons. A decision will be made by 7:30am and an email sent out via Arbor to give you time to use one of the other gates. If you do not hear from us, then the gate will be open as normal. Thank you in advance for your understanding about this – we just want to ensure everyone is safe.

What is happening in Nursery?

This half term, we are going to be practising our self-help skills whilst trying to put our coats on and take them off again too. We will be talking about things that we do at home and things that are special to us. The children will enjoy listening to stories about celebrations and will practise making marks on paper. In our physical development we will be practising large whole arm, elbow and wrist movements. The children will continue to enjoy weekly PE sessions, focusing on climbing, rolling and other large movements. We will be talking about the upcoming celebration of Christmas and how it is special to us. The children will help to decorate Nursery in preparation for Christmas.

Light and Dark in Reception

We are in store for a very busy half term - we are beginning to send reading books home now, attending assemblies with the rest of the school and even working towards a special performance. We have no doubt that the children will continue to impress their friends, parents/carers and teachers with their confidence and attitude to learning! Out topic this half term is Light and Dark - we will be observing the changes in daylight and night time and talking about why this happens. We will read a story called Night Monkey Day Monkey which teaches us about nocturnal animals - we will be learning about the nocturnal animals which are native to our country. In Art, we will be investigating how to make different shades of colours by making them lighter and darker - wait until you see some of the Art we produce this half term. We will soon begin our preparations for Christmas too - we have lots of fun in store for when we have finished our learning. Although we have all these lovely things planned, we do love to see how the children take the learning in different ways - their questions often take our learning off on a tangent which we love!



Explorers in Year 1

This half term, year 1 children will be finding out about the life and achievements of Neil Armstrong. We will find out the significance of space travel and exploration and look at how this has changed on a timeline. We will find out about the Apollo 11 Mission to the Moon. In geography, we are finding out about polar places and learning about what it's like to explore the Arctic and Antarctic. We will find out about polar animals and carry out an investigation into insulation. We will also begin recapping the Nativity story in RE and look specifically at why gifts are given at Christmas.

What is happening in Y2?

Year 2 will be focusing on our local area in Geography this half term, identifying and comparing human and physical features. In Science, we will be exploring seasonal changes, as well as deepening our understanding of materials, their properties and the ways in which we can change these. Team building and yoga will be our focus in PE, with the Nativity and the theme of Light guiding our learning in RE. In music, we will continue to prepare for our Christmas production and in DT, our lessons will allow us to deconstruct and reproduce a range of axels and wheels as part of a new vehicle.



What is happening in Y3/4?

In Science, the children are exploring States of Matter, focusing on solids, liquids, and gases, and investigating how materials can change from one state to another. In PE, our focus is on Netball and Gymnastics, where the children are developing their teamwork skills, improving their communication, and supporting one another during group activities. In French, the children are learning to name the days of the week and months of the year, as well as finding out about different French Christmas decorations and traditions. In History, we are turning our attention to the Stone Age. The children will be ordering key historical events within this era, describing the main features of the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age, and evaluating the changes and developments between these fascinating periods. In Music, the children are busy preparing for their Christmas performance. Some of our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils will continue to attend swimming lessons, while others will take part in brass lessons. These sessions run on a cycle, and teachers will keep parents updated on when their child will be participating.

What is happening in Y5?

Year 5 have a busy term ahead! In Science, we will explore the theme of 'growing up, growing old'. We will discuss how humans change as we grow, as well as work scientifically to compare the gestation periods of different mammals. In DT, we will be getting creative in the kitchen, creating recipes for a nutritionally dense spaghetti bolognese. It would be great if you could share any recipes that the children make at home, we'd love to see these on seesaw! Finally, we will be stepping back in time to the Victorian era in History this term; exploring how Queen Victoria's family was influential throughout the British Empire. We will also explore some of the key inventions of the era and consider the impact that they have had upon our lives today. Year five have already begun rehearsals for our Christmas performance, and cannot wait to share this with you later in the term!



What is happening in Y6?

This half term, Year 6 will be diving into some exciting lessons. In Science, children will be experimenting with a range of components to draw and test simple electrical circuits, exploring how electricity flows and identifying conductors and insulators in different contexts. In RE, alongside following the Nativity story, the children will study the Gospels to compare and contrast the different accounts of Jesus' birth, searching for themes such as light, peace and hope within scripture and their own traditions. In PE, they will focus on gymnastics and yoga—perfecting balances, practising forward and backward rolls, and developing tension, control and core strength through safe use of apparatus and mindful movement. In Geography, the class will investigate global earthquake locations and use their understanding of tectonic plates to explain how earthquakes occur, as well as consider their long- and short-term impacts. In DT and Computing, children will explore seasonal foods and learn how to prepare balanced meals, while also using GarageBand on the iPads to experiment with sound production to enhance digital presentations. In Music, excitement is building as Christmas approaches, with Year 6 busy learning an array of festive songs for the much-loved annual panto performance.



Springmoor Christmas Fair

We are very excited to share with you the details of our first ever Christmas at Springmoor fair. Please see posts on SeeSaw and our social media pages for more information. We will be opening up the school hall to local craftspeople and businesses for you to begin (or continue) your Christmas shopping while supporting the school and local businesses. Friends of Springmoor Grange will also be there on the day to raise funds for the school - there will be marshmallow dipping, a teddy tombola and teas, coffees and Christmas treats. Spennymoor Youth Town Band will be adding to the Christmas spirit with their performances of some festive tunes. We really hope you can make it along on the day - please share this information far and wide, helping to make our first Christmas Fair one to remember!



Friends of Springmoor Grange – Non-Uniform Day – Thursday 27th November

On Thursday 27th November, the children can attend school wearing their own clothes. For this non-uniform day, our Friends of Springmoor Grange ask that each child donates an item of chocolate to be added to Christmas hampers which will then be raffled at each phase Christmas event. Chocolate donations can be brought into school on the 27th and given to class teachers. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Boden R and Rayna M	Year 4	Anna W
Year 1	Kaiser W	Year 5	Skylar J
Year 2	Indiana F	Year 6	Martha G
Year 3	Ezra M		

Attendance and Punctuality

Overall attendance for the week is 93.8% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 97.8%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 94.5% for the whole school and 95.4% 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 79 late minutes and lost learning time.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Dates for the Diary

Monday 17 th and Tuesday 18 th November	Swallow Class – Parent Consultations
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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI-GENERATED VIDEOS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

DEEPPAKE ABUSE CONTENT

Shockingly, artificial intelligence is now being exploited to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These synthetic images and videos are a form of digital abuse, often generated by manipulating real children's photos, including ones shared innocently online. Worryingly, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified a sharp rise in this disturbing trend. Whether real or AI-generated, this content causes lasting trauma – and its creation or possession remains a criminal offence under UK law.

BLURRED REALITY

Regular exposure to fake content can erode a child's trust in real-world evidence. If everything can be faked, they may begin to question genuine videos – including actual abuse or injustice. This is known as the 'liar's dividend', where real harm is dismissed as fake news. It can discourage victims from coming forward or speaking up.

USED FOR BULLYING

Deepfake technology is already being used by peers to create embarrassing or explicit clips of classmates. These videos can be edited to appear as though a child said or did something they never did. Once shared, they are almost impossible to delete completely. AI-generated bullying adds a new layer of harm that is deeply personal and difficult to prove.

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

AI-generated videos can be used to provoke strong emotions, including fear, anger or guilt. False footage of crying children, injured animals or burning buildings may be created purely for clicks, donations or political influence. Children may feel upset or powerless, unaware that what they are watching has been digitally invented to manipulate their reaction.

DISINFORMATION

AI-generated videos can spread fake news, making it harder for children to separate fact from fiction. Fake clips may include deepfake interviews, hoax disasters or fabricated health claims. AI is already being used to produce misleading or persuasive material that appears authentic. If they don't develop media literacy, children may accept false content as truth.

IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS

With just a few photos or voice clips, AI tools can imitate someone's appearance or speech. This makes it easier for scammers or bullies to create fake videos of children, teachers or celebrities. These impersonations can be used for fraud, harassment or humiliation – and can spread quickly through social media or group chats, due to the viral potential of video, in particular, on social media.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH HOW IT WORKS

Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how. Demonstrating side-by-side examples of real vs AI-generated clips helps to build awareness. Discuss how faces, voices and even movements can be copied by machines. Understanding the technology reduces fear and builds confidence in navigating digital content safely.

TALK ABOUT TRUST

Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something upsetting or unbelievable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you step in quickly if harmful content has been shared; trust is vital and needs to be nurtured.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? These habits encourage digital thinking, especially when videos seem too shocking or convenient. Reinforce that not everything shared by friends or influencers is true, even if it looks convincing at first, and that the initial approach should always be one of speculation.

STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS

Advise children not to share voice notes, selfies or personal videos on public platforms. AI tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. Use privacy controls to limit who can see their content and turn off facial recognition where possible. Fewer public images means fewer opportunities for misuse.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

This week in...

13th November 2025

Swallow class

Year 4 have been working hard in maths this week, focusing on improving their speed and accuracy on Times Table Rockstars. Year 3 have also shown great determination as they practise addition and subtraction, learning how to exchange confidently.



In English, children have been exploring a 'rags to riches' tale – Cinderella. This week they have been learning to use fronted adverbials to add variety and detail to their writing, innovating the opening of our model text, answering comprehension questions, and ensuring their sentences are structured clearly and make sense.



In Science, the children have been learning about solids, liquids and gases. This week, they explored how a solid can change into a liquid by observing the melting process of ice. The children made thoughtful predictions and discussed how temperature can cause changes in state.

In History, our focus has been on the Stone Age. The children have discussed key events from the Stone Age, Ice Age, and Bronze Age, exploring how early humans lived, the tools they created, and the ways they survived in challenging environments.



In Music, we have been busy practising for our Christmas performance and can't wait to share it with everyone soon!



In PE, we have been playing netball and showcasing excellent teamwork skills both on and off the court.

We'd like to remind families that weekly Times Table Rockstars competitions are running for children to complete at home – a great way to build confidence and speed with times tables!