



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 9 - Friday 7th November 2025

Welcome Back

It was great to see the children back in school on Monday. The children have all settled back into routine and they have engaged in lots of exciting learning with the introduction of new topics. As the half term progresses, we'll all be preparing for Christmas. It is always an exciting and magical time of year and with the introduction of SGS Christmas Fair on 22nd November, I am sure that we will all have lots of fun.

Pantomime Visit

Children from Reception to Year 6 enjoyed a visit on Wednesday from M&M Theatre Productions who performed an amazing show, Robin Hood. It was a fantastic experience with lots of audience participation for the children and staff! Everyone had a great afternoon – a fabulous mid-week treat!

Autumn 2 Careers Day

On Monday, we held our second Careers Day of the year, and what an inspiring day it was! All of the children took part in a wonderful range of activities linked to different careers. They learnt about career pathways, key skills, and the day-to-day tasks involved in each role:

- Reception – Fire Brigade
- Year 1 – Musician
- Year 2 – Baker
- Year 3 – Chef
- Year 4 – Local Councillor
- Year 5 – Physiotherapist
- Year 6 – Seismologist

It was lovely to welcome some visitors into school today to share their careers and personal journeys – a big thank you to everyone who gave up their time to inspire our children!

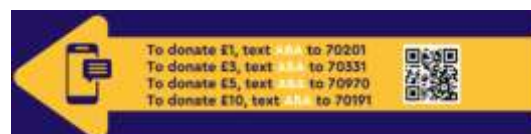
We finished the day with a whole school assembly, where each class proudly shared what they had learnt about their chosen profession. We're already looking forward to our next Careers Day on Monday 5th January as we continue exploring the exciting world of work!



Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day – Monday 10th November

On Monday 10th November, we will be raising awareness of the #powerforgood campaign for Anti-bullying Week 2025. We are asking children to come to school on Monday with odd socks on (please wear normal school uniform - just odd socks!) to start the week off. This is to signify that we are all unique and should be celebrating our individuality. We are not asking for any donations for this however, if you would like to contribute, please donate using the QR code or text details for the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

Over the course of the week, we will be allowing children to appreciate how much they not only have the power to tackle bullying if they see or experience it, but also see how much they have their own power for good. Remember, kindness is free and can be spread like confetti!



Children in Need – Friday 14th November

The theme this year is LOTS OF SPOTS. We invite the children to come to school wearing as many spots as they like - from just a spotty t-shirt to spots from head to toe (literally!) No uniform is needed for this day. In the past, we have asked for a small donation suitable for a food bank, and you never cease to amaze us. The contributions are always so well appreciated by our local foodbanks. This year we will be splitting our donations between the foodbanks at Trinity Methodist and St Paul's churches. On Friday, please send your child in with an item/items for the foodbank - for more information on what this could be, please visit [County Durham Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#).



Keep your eyes peeled for a special visitor that might come to welcome you to school on Friday morning too!

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Lenny H	Year 4	Bobby B
Year 1	Matthew H	Year 5	Megan L
Year 2	Ryan W and Aila S	Year 6	Nancy T and Erin Y
Year 3	Amelia H		

Attendance and Punctuality

Overall attendance for the week is 93.5% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 97.7%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 94.6% for the whole school and 95.3% 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 68 late minutes and lost learning time.

Dates for the Diary

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>
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 POKÉMON TCG POCKET

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

AGE RESTRICTION
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ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modeling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

Meet Our Expert

Don Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



What has been happening in

Oak Class



Careers Day this half term saw Year 1 learning all about the career of a musician. We practised the different skills musicians needed, sang songs, made instruments and some of us even wrote our own songs.



It was Bonfire Night this week and Oak Class watched a video of fireworks and learned some new words to describe them: vivid, dazzling, thundering and shimmering. We made firework pictures and did some writing too.

