



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 16 – Friday 9th January 2026

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to the Spring Term – although the weather has certainly felt more winter like! The children have settled back into routine well following the Christmas break. They have made a great start to new topics - everyone is working very hard. Keep this up Team SGS – let's make 2026 a positive year!

Goodbye and Good Luck Miss Harvey

Today is a sad day as we say goodbye to Miss Harvey who has been a valuable member of our Wraparound Care team. Throughout this time, she has worked hard to ensure our children are kept safe and have fun. I am sure that you will join me in wishing her success and luck in her new role.

Diary Dates

At the end of this newsletter are the key dates for this term – we may have to add a few more along the way but tried to finalise as many as possible to share with you. Please remember that if you can't attend an event to not worry, the staff are always there to help and support the children.

Careers Day

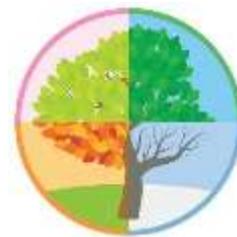
On Monday, we enjoyed an exciting and inspiring Spring 1 Careers Day, where all of the children explored a wide range of careers through engaging activities and discussions. The children learnt about different career pathways, the skills needed, and what day-to-day life looks like in each role.

- Nursery – Police
- Reception – Travel Agents
- Year 1 – Zookeepers
- Year 2 – Painters/Artists
- Year 3 – Electricians
- Year 4 – Dentists
- Year 5 – Historians
- Year 6 – Genealogists

The children showed great curiosity and enthusiasm as they explored these roles and shared their learning with one another. It was wonderful to see them thinking about their future aspirations and the many possibilities available to them. Please check your child's Seesaw page for photos and highlights from the day. We look forward to continuing to inspire and explore more careers throughout the year!

What is happening in Nursery this half term?

This half term we will be talking about past events and retelling them to our friends in our Seesaw News. We will be continuing to practise listening to our friends when they are talking. When we are thinking about the weather we will be talking about how the seasons change and what kinds of weather we might expect at this time of year. We will be relating this to keeping ourselves warm when going outside and will be practising the skills of putting on our own coat and taking it back off too. Around Valentine's day we will be celebrating all of the people we love and talking about what makes them special. In Physical development we will be practising making lines and drawing and giving meanings to what we draw. When looking at groups of objects in Maths we will be looking at the language of more and fewer and making our groups too. We will continue to count to 10 and beyond as well as beginning to look at the numerals to 5.



Let's Explore in Reception

This half term we are becoming explorers in Reception - looking at what skills we need to be an explorer. We will read books about travelling around the world and learn about all of the different encounters that explorers may come across on their travels. We will be looking at different modes of transport too - from old fashioned planes to modern day trains. In one of our stories, we will be lucky to learn all about Polar Animals - we will be learning all about these animals and will be using technology to watch some polar animals as they are cared for in Edinburgh Zoo. Alongside our topic, we will be continuing our Phonics learning moving on to Phase 3 sounds - these are much trickier but we are up for the challenge! In Maths, we will be learning how to make different amounts and begin to look at what a calculation looks like. In PE, Mrs Walker is going to be teaching us to dance - moving our bodies in time to the beat of music. These are all the things we have planned for the children but, as always, if there's something more interesting to them we will adapt our learning to suit them.



What is happening in Year 1 this half term?

We will be learning about human and physical features in Geography and seeing which ones we can identify in the school grounds. In Science, we will be classifying animals and finding out about vertebrates and invertebrates, including an interesting investigation into spiders. In Art, we are going to be printmaking. We will be using primary colours and using colour mixing to create secondary colours for use in our prints. We will be hearing some stories from the Bible all about the miracles of Jesus in our unit 'Why is Jesus Special to Christians?' We will also be working on team building skills and completing a dance unit in PE.

What is happening in Year 2 this half term?

This half term in Year 2 we are learning about the different food groups and where food comes from in our Science lessons. In History we are focusing on James Cook and finding out about his explorations, whilst in PE we will be exploring our creative side through dance. In RE lessons we will be thinking about belonging in Christianity and PSHE will be encouraging us to think positively and understand the benefits this can bring to our wellbeing.

What is happening in Years 3 and 4 this half term?

This Spring term in Years 3 and 4, we have an exciting curriculum planned. In Science, pupils will be learning about teeth and healthy eating, developing their investigative skills by carrying out simple experiments to explore the effects different liquids have on our teeth. They will also study the digestive system, learning about the important role each part plays and tracing the journey food takes from entering to leaving our bodies. In PE, children will be getting stuck into new units of dance and football, where they will develop coordination, teamwork and movement skills. Swallow Class will also continue to develop their swimming skills, focusing on technique, stamina and water confidence—we are really looking forward to seeing the children grow in confidence and independence in the pool. In Art, we will be exploring still life, studying the work of a range of artists and experimenting with different materials and techniques before putting our artistic skills to the test by creating our own still life artwork. Please keep an eye on our SeeSaw page to see our work in progress. In Geography, our focus is Switzerland as a contrasting European country. We will explore its physical and human geography, learning about climate, wildlife and landscapes, and making thoughtful comparisons between Swiss and UK landmarks and ways of life.



What is happening in Year 5 this half term?

This Spring term, Year 5 will enjoy a rich and exciting curriculum across all subjects. In Science, pupils will explore the topic Out of This World, while in RE they will learn how Jewish people worship in the synagogue; PE lessons will focus on developing skills in rugby and dance. Our Geography work takes us to Brazil, where we will compare its human and physical features with those of the North-East, and in French we will practise language skills through the theme of going to the market. In Art, pupils will develop their understanding of landscape and cityscape artwork by exploring contemporary artists such as Vanessa Gardiner, The Shoreditch Sketcher and Kittie Jones, learning about mixed media and using this knowledge to inspire their own creative work.



What is happening in Year 6 this half term?

This half term, Year 6 have an exciting and varied curriculum planned. In Science, pupils will explore Evolution and Inheritance, developing their understanding of how living things change over time. In History, they will compare and contrast Ancient Benin with other civilizations, while Art lessons will focus on Activism, encouraging pupils to use creativity to express powerful messages. In Computing, children will create a Keynote presentation linked to their topic as a spark for learning, and in Music they will work on composition skills. PE lessons will include volleyball and dance, building teamwork, coordination and confidence. In RE, pupils will consider how and why people care about the environment, while PSHE will focus on Thinking Positive and wellbeing. In MFL, children will learn language linked to playing sport, rounding off a busy and engaging half term.

The National Year of Reading 2026

Reading is a vital life skill and something that should be celebrated. The National Year of Reading 2026 is a UK-wide campaign designed to inspire more people to make reading a regular part of their lives - adults as well as children. We are busy planning lots of exciting activities that will take place in school so stay tuned for more information about these. For more information on how you can get involved at home, visit www.goallin.org.uk.

Supporting Independence: Dressing for PE and Coats

As part of helping the children become more independent, we are encouraging them to dress and undress themselves for PE and to zip up their own coats where possible.

It would be really helpful if you could practise these skills at home with your child, including:

- Putting on and taking off PE clothes.
- Turning clothes the right way around.
- Doing up zips on coats (starting the zip and pulling it up).

These small but important skills help the children feel confident, save learning time in school, and support their independence as they grow. Thank you for your continued support.

Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Theo W, Verity H and Birdie W	Year 4	Frankie M
Year 1	Isaac C	Year 5	Mylo M
Year 2	Eden H	Year 6	Rosie H
Year 3	Warren P and Sienna R		

Attendance and Punctuality

Overall attendance for the week is 96.0% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 5 with 98.3%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 93.8% for the whole school and 94.6% 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 196 late minutes and lost learning time.



Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 14 th January	8:45am – Y2 Maths Parent/Carer Workshop
Thursday 15 th January	8:45am – Y1 Maths Parent/Carer Workshop
Monday 19 th – Friday 26 th January	Y5/6 Paris Residential
Wednesday 28 th January	8:45am – Y4 English Parent/Carer Workshop
Thursday 29 th January	8:45am – Y3 English Parent/Carer Workshop
Thursday 29 th January	5pm – Y6 SATs Information Evening
Tuesday 3 rd February	1:45pm – Reception Phonics Stay and Play
Thursday 12 th February	8:45am – Y6 English Parent/Carer Workshop
Friday 13 th February	8:45am – Y5 English Parent/Carer Workshop
Friday 13 th February	Friends of Springmoor Grange – Spread The Love – Wear Red <i>Suggested Donation – £1- Friends Fund</i>
Wednesday 18 th February	NSPCC Speak Out and Stay Safe Workshops – Y2, Y5 and Y6
Friday 20 th February	3pm Close for Half Term
February Half Term	
Monday 2 nd March	Children back to school Careers Day – Spring 2
Tuesday 3 rd March	10:15am and 2pm – Buttercups Stay and Play
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
Thursday 5 th March	Nursery Library Visit
W/C 9 th March	Whole School – Parent/Carer Consultations
Wednesday 11 th March	SGS Science Day
Monday 16 th March	2pm – Reception Mother's Day Event
Tuesday 24 th March	Reception Vision Screening
Wednesday 25 th March	2pm – Y1, Y2 and Y6 Easter Service – St Andrew's Church
Thursday 26 th March	2pm – Y3, Y4 and Y5 Easter Service – St Andrew's Church
Monday 30 th March	1:45pm – Reception Egg Decorating
Tuesday 31 st March	2pm – Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade
Thursday 2 nd April	World Autism Awareness Day – Non-Uniform – Light it up BLUE! <i>Suggested Donation – £1 – School Fund</i> 3pm Close for Easter
Easter Holiday	
Monday 20 th April	Children back to school Careers Day – Summer 1

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

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CIPD can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website



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