



Springmoor Grange School Newsletter Volume 28 – Friday 24th April 2026

Welcome to the Summer Term!

Everyone has settled back into routine well following the Easter break. We have also enjoyed the sun shining and we have been able to access the school field which has been a hit with the children! The Summer Term is always a busy term – I have added diary dates to the end of the newsletter. We look forward to seeing parents and carers at different events across the term.

What is happening in Nursery this half term?

During this half term, Nursery will be learning new songs and rhymes and practising saying them with actions. In Maths, we will be continuing to subitise amounts to 3 and talk about how the numbers are made up e.g. 3 is made up of 1, 1, 1 or 2 and 1 or 1 and 2. We will also be using the language of size when comparing groups. We will be talking about the properties of shapes and we will make shape pictures. We will be reading lots of books and retelling our favourite ones using puppets and masks. We will continue to practise the movements from Squiggle While You Wiggle, which will help us to develop strong gross and fine motor skills. In Art, we will be using a variety of different media such as chalks, watercolours and paints to create our pictures. We will be watching our caterpillars grow over time and will release them when they are butterflies. Continuing our Seasons discussions, we will be noticing the change in the weather and will look for signs of Spring when we go on our Spring walk around school.



Amazing Animals in Reception

This half term, we will be learning about how to care for animals in the world around us. Lots of us have pets at home, or know someone who has a pet but we will be looking at all of the different things we have to do to care for these animals. Then we will learn about the animals that live in our local environment - particularly insects and minibeasts. We'll be thinking whether these animals need the same care as our pets, or do they need different care from us? This week, we have had a



special delivery of some caterpillars in to our class - we are going to watch them grow and learn about their life cycle - I wonder will it be similar to the life cycle of a frog which we learned about last half term. In Maths, we will be learning how different numbers are composed using a ten frame. We will also be practising our writing skills more, trying to use writing in our play. We can write appointment slips in the vet's surgery, write a diary of the changes we notice in the caterpillars or even write directions for a new road system for the bikes in the outdoor area. As always, we have these lovely plans in place but will always follow the children's interests as they arise.

What is happening in Year 1 this half term?

In Year 1, we are beginning to look at the Seaside. We are going to think about what we like to do when we go to the beach and how this has changed since Victorian times. During our history unit, we will look at photos from the past and consider what has changed and what is the same or similar. In science, we are observing, identifying and drawing plants including trees and we are finding out about different plant parts. We will be going on leaf and plant hunts in the school grounds and identifying some deciduous and evergreen trees. In RE, we are learning about Buddhism, including when and where Buddhism started and some key principles of the religion. We will have the chance to look at some Buddhist artefacts, hear some Buddhist stories and learn about some key symbols in Buddhism. In English, we will be listening to a new story each week and completing writing tasks to show our understanding of the story. We are also working hard in phonics. In maths, we are learning to count groups of 2, 5 and 10 and will begin working on repeated addition.

What is happening in Year 2 this half term?

Year 2 are excited to be gardeners this half term, learning all about the life cycle of a plant in Science and how we can provide the correct conditions for them to grow. In RE, we are exploring the life of St Cuthbert, his time at Lindisfarne and how he remains a key Christian saint to the people of the North East. History sees us looking at change over time, thinking about how the lives of children and our local area have changed over the last 100 years. In PE, we are focusing our throwing and catching skills toward work on net and wall games, and in Art, we will be finding out more about the work of an architect and how we can use 3D shape knowledge to create our own plans and structures.

A Summer of Creativity and Curiosity in Y3/4



This term in Year 3/4, children will be developing their artistic skills by exploring sculptures and creating texture using clay and oil pastels, culminating in designing and making their own bird's nest from clay. In History, they will be learning about the Anglo-Saxons, including why they settled in Britain, what life was like during this period, and how Anglo-Saxon Britain was governed, using a range of sources to support their understanding. In RE, the focus will be on how and why different religions care for others, including exploring how Christians help others, how and why Sikhs practise Sewa, and the significance of Mitzvah Day. In Science, pupils will study the unit 'Power It Up', where they will learn to identify the components of a circuit, understand how to

work safely with electricity, and design and build their own circuit with a switch. In French, the children will learn to name a variety of fruits and vegetables and practise asking others what they would like. In PE, children will continue their swimming lessons in Mr Bache's class, whilst other classes take part in fitness activities and developing their skills in rounders.

What is happening in Year 5 this half term?

Another term, another busy schedule for Y5! We have an exciting term ahead, full of new learning opportunities. In Science, we will be exploring cycles of life. This will allow us to understand how plants and animals reproduce and compare the life cycles of different animal groups. Our Geography unit this term is 'mapwork', which will provide the opportunity to explore maps of the local area and apply knowledge from our previous History unit, the Prince Bishops. In art, children will explore landscape art and house portraits, learning how artists use colour, shape and perspective to represent the world around them. The term will end with a collaborative project, where children work together (with parents) to create a shared piece of artwork inspired by local buildings, celebrating their learning and creativity. Finally, we have our visit to Eden Camp to look forward to on Wednesday 6th May, where we will introduce our upcoming WW2 History topic. We can't wait!

Year 6 - Preparing for Success and Exciting Summer Learning Ahead

Year 6 are set for a busy and focused start to Summer 1 as they prepare for their upcoming SATs. With only a few weeks to go, everyone is working incredibly hard and showing great determination to do their very best. Alongside this important focus, pupils will continue to take part in a broad and engaging curriculum. In PE, they will be developing their skills in Rounders and Outdoor Adventurous Activities, while in RE they will be exploring the question, "What can we learn about religious diversity in our area?" In History, the children will be learning about Vikings and Saxons and their battle for Britain, and in Science they will be studying how living things are classified. Once SATs are complete, there will be time to look ahead to some exciting end-of-year activities, including beginning rehearsals for the leavers' show and designing their own clothing in art, such as a dress, t-shirt or even a football top. They will also enjoy spending some special time with their buddies.



Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

Reception	Robin C	Year 4	Matilda L
Year 1	Lexi B	Year 5	Harper S
Year 2	Emmie C	Year 6	Patsi H
Year 3	Sienna R		

Attendance and Punctuality

Overall attendance for the week is 94.6% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 4 with 96.2%. The winning class this week was Elm Class with 99.1% - well done!

The overall school attendance for the academic year is 93.6% for the whole school and 94.5% 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 339 late minutes and lost learning time.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Safeguarding Update

All 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, facts and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE**
Although Google and Apple must approve (upload on their official stores), inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained system-level malware, primed to look for passwords and steal key crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.
- PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES**
App-making is a business, and most creators have found that "freemium" software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some free apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.
- UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS**
Both official app stores contain copycat apps - often games - designed to look like popular titles, mimicking their branding, logos and icons. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vectors for malware than the products they're mimicking.
- ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN**
Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real condition, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with education and other offline hobbies.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are usually age-rated, but social media apps such as Instagram and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.
- SIDELOADED BANNED APPS**
"Sideloading" - the more complicated practice of installing apps onto a device from sources other than the official app stores - bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures. However, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks - not just apps that would be prohibited by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS**
Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. Screen Time (iOS) and Family Link (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.
- LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS**
App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their apps perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at reviews by digging out the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer. In some cases, if they've published a lot of one-star apps, that's a red flag.
- DO YOUR RESEARCH**
If children are permitted to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness. If it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.
- TALK TO YOUR CHILD**
Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet safety, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, use grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechCrunch, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

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Dates for the Diary

Saturday 25 th April	10am – 2pm Springmoor Spring Clean Out
Friday 1 st May	8:30am – Springmoor SENDSations Support Group
Monday 4 th May	School Closed – Bank Holiday Monday
Wednesday 6 th May	Year 5 – Visit to Eden Camp
Monday 11 th May – Thursday 14 th May	KS2 SATs
Monday 18 th May	2pm – Kingfisher Class – Parent/Carer Workshop
Tuesday 19 th May	2pm – Swallow Class – Parent/Carer Workshop
Wednesday 20 th May	2pm – Owl Class – Parent/Carer Workshop
Thursday 21 st May	2pm – Y5 Parent/Carer Workshop
Friday 22 nd May	3pm Close for Half Term
May Half Term	
Monday 1 st June	Children back to school
Monday 1 st June	Careers Day – Summer 2
Monday 1 st June – Friday 12 th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
Friday 5 th June	Nursery – Visit to Hall Hill Farm
Monday 8 th June – Friday 12 th June	KS1 Phonics Screening Check
Wednesday 10 th June	2pm – Y6 Parent/Carer Workshop
Monday 15 th June	Phototronics – Nursery Graduation Photos
Tuesday 16 th June	1:30pm – Nursery Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Tuesday 23rd June</i>
Wednesday 17 th June	Y6 – Whitworth Park Transition Day
Wednesday 17 th June	1:30pm – Reception Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Wednesday 24th June</i>
Thursday 18 th June	1:30pm – Y1/2 Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Friday 26th June</i>
Friday 19 th June	Wear Pink for Team Solan Day
Friday 19 th June	1:30pm – Y3/4 Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Friday 3rd July</i>
Monday 22 nd June	1:30pm – Y5/6 Sports Day <i>Reserve Date – Wednesday 8th July</i>
Monday 22 nd June	1:45pm – Reception Father's Day Event
Thursday 25 th June	Outdoor Education Day
Sunday 28 th June – Wednesday 1 st July	Y6 Residential to Newby Wiske Hall
Tuesday 30 th June	2pm – Y1 Parent/Carer Workshop
Wednesday 1 st July	2pm – Y2 Parent/Carer Workshop
Friday 3 rd July	10:15am and 2pm – Buttercup Stay and Play
Monday 6 th July	Reception – Visit to Seaham Marina
Thursday 9 th July	SpringFest
Friday 10 th July	Years 3 and 4 – Visit to Jarrow Hall
Wednesday 15 th July	1:45pm – Nursery Graduation
Thursday 16 th July	9am – Year 6 Celebration Assembly
Friday 17 th July	2pm – Year 6 Guard of Honour
Friday 17 th July	3pm Close for Summer
Summer Holiday	
Tuesday 1 st September	PD Day – School Closed
Wednesday 2 nd September	PD Day – School Closed
Thursday 3 rd September	Start of New School Year – Open to Children