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## January 2024 Newsletter

### *“Believing is Achieving”*

Wishing all our Springwood families a ‘Happy New Year’. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends.

I want to extend my thanks to the fabulous FoSS team for their tremendous festive efforts. Not only did they shop for and prepare the gifts your child purchased but they worked hard with Santa to ensure every child received a gift and selection box in the last week of term. Finally, they warmed the community with hot chocolate at the Springwood ‘Jingle Jangle’ event.

Sam Graham, one of long-standing members of the Lunchtime team sadly left us in December. She certainly will be missed across the whole of our community. Miss Creighton joined the Teaching Assistant Team in December and has settled in well.

I also welcome back Mrs Sexton who has returned from Maternity leave. She will be launching our very own ‘Springwood Hub’, which is based in the room next to the Year 2 toilets on the Infant Playground. She will be out on the gate Monday to Thursday and will be driving the schools ‘Back to Basics’ Program. Looking after your family's wellbeing is very important. Families all need some help from time to time due to life changes or events. As a parent or carer, you can take small steps to help your child's wellbeing as well as your own. You can do this by starting with the basics.



Please pop in and see her if you need help or need a warm cup of tea/coffee and a friendly face to talk to.

**The Hub** will also be the new home for all the Pre-Loved Uniform. Please do not hesitate to pop in as there is plenty and the team want to support you during these challenging times.

Our school whole school attendance figures are currently - Infants School 92.8% & Junior School 94.9%, our targets are 95% for both schools. Mrs Johnson will be contacting all families where individual child attendance is below 95% to offer support and where appropriate invite to support sessions. Current NHS guidance says it's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold. The NHS guidance on if your child should attend school is here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please ensure that you telephone to report **ANY** absence by 9.30am on the first day of the absence and update the school daily.

Please come and join in with child with their Phonics or Reading lesson from the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> January. I know it was a real success last time and gave you an insight into what your child is learning in class. Don't forget to look at the Curriculum pages on the website to find out more information.

It is important children learn about the world in which they live. I am excited to share that we plan to build upon the success of World Book Day 2023 by **immersing children and families in some wider curricular opportunities**. Further details will follow.

<b>Languages Morning / Afternoon</b>	Friday 23rd February 2024	Children from <b>EYFS through to Year 6</b> will be <b>immersed in languages and cultures from around the world</b> as part of <b>International Mother Language Day</b> – More details to follow
<b>Earth Day – Planet Vs Plastics</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024	Children from <b>EYFS through to Year 6</b> will learn about ways to celebrate and protect the environment they live in through <b>Art, geography, Science and PSHE</b>
<b>Easter Church Service</b>	Details to follow	

Mrs Barnes has been visiting our feeder nurseries and pre-schools to work with children who may join our school in September 2024. This will continue into the New Year and will help support the children with their transitions into school. Mrs Barnes has also conducted a phonics workshop to local pre-schools and nursery practitioners to show what children will be learning when they start school in September. If you have or know someone that has a child starting school in September 2024, remember the cut-off date to apply is **Monday 15th January 2024**. If you need any support applying for your child's place, please ask a member of the admin team.

**Parent consultations will be conducted face to face on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> February.** These consultations must be booked through Scopay so please ensure you have registered. You will receive a text message to advise when you can book your appointment.



**Three times a year, the school has Census Days.** The census collects information like pupil's background details, special educational needs, free school meals eligibility, as well as educational history. It also helps determine core school funding, which pupils attract pupil premium, support for disadvantaged pupils, universal infant free school meals funding and free early year's entitlement allocations.

**A large chunk of school funding for the year is based on how many children eat a bought school lunch on these census days in Key Stage 1. This funding goes directly to maintain resources and a good quality of education for your children. These really are important days for us.**

**Next Census Day – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

The children are allowed to wear non-school uniform on that day and can choose from these menu options:

**Red** – Fish Fingers and Chips

**Yellow** – Pizza and chips

And a tasty dessert

We are offering all children the same menu for children in Key Stage 1 & 2, who are either entitled to a free school meals or purchase a school dinner.

It would be amazing if you and your child/ren could support the school by having a school dinner on this day.

**If you think your child is eligible for Free School Meals, please check the link below and update the school:**

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>



**Do you have some spare time to support children across the federation?** There are many ways in which you can help. We are looking for **volunteers** who can spare some time to support our wonderful children e.g. with their reading, or maybe by accompanying them on school visits.

If you are able to offer some time (either regular or occasional hours), we would love for you to contact the admin team.

Just a polite reminder that the offices are not a Waiting Room. If you are early, please wait outside and collect your child from your agreed place.



**Please keep the school fully informed of any medical/dietary conditions/changes and also ensure your child's asthma inhaler/Insulin/EpiPen etc is in school and in date.** Furthermore, **please keep the school up-to-date if you change home address, telephone number or email.** If you have changed address you will need to provide proof to the office via email before your child's records can be updated. **You will need to ensure that there are three named contacts available at any time your child is present in school. One of these contacts should be for someone living outside of the home address e.g. grandparent. It is imperative that we are able to contact an adult to collect the child should they develop symptoms and to safeguard all children.**

Please continue to be kind to one another, smile and check in.

**Mrs J Livingstone**  
Executive Headteacher