



Springwood Federation, Springwood Avenue, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 8ED
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October 2023 Newsletter

“Believing is Achieving”

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a good half term break. I cannot believe November is nearly here and are on the countdown to Christmas! **Remember to wrap up warm for Bonfire Night. The staff will be reminding the children in school how to keep safe, please do the same at home.** Please see the attached diary dates for events coming up this half term. Any amendments or updates are in red.

Mrs Ballinger left the school in September and Miss Carter leaves us at the end of the week. Thank you and on behalf of the school I wish them all the best in their new ventures. **A warm welcome** to Miss Parkes and Mrs Dillon who have joined the Teaching Assistant team and Miss Tee who has joined the Lunchtime Team this half term.

My team and I are committed to providing our children with a range of opportunities that enhance their understanding and personal development. Please see the attached **Curriculum Offer** which illustrates the range opportunities the school will provide each child over the course of their Primary Education.

However, **the cost of coaches has increased hugely** – in some instances doubling from last year. Whilst I completely value the range of experiences the school offers, I do not want to cause financial stress to you. Consequently, my team and I have been working hard to consider how we can use our **amazing grounds** with expert visitors coming to us. This enables us to meet our offer at a reasonable cost to you.

Every year group will receive an **enriching opportunity** and confirmed bookings have been added to the Diary Dates. If your child’s year group has nothing booked yet, their opportunity is still being planned. Year group letters providing more details and costs will follow.

12th December 2023 - Year 5 – The Explorer Dome - Light
18th January 2024- Year 3 - Open Box Theatre - Romans
18th January 2024 – EYFS - Open Box Theatre – Dinosaurs
25th April 2024 – EYFS - Poppell Barns Mobile Farm - Farms
25th June 2024 - Year 4 - Open Box Theatre - Ancient Greeks
25th June 2024 - Year 1 - Open Box Theatre - Hot and Cold Places



I welcomed an **Ofsted Visit** from the Infant School on 3rd and 4th October as well as visits on 9th and 10th October from the Local Authority for both schools. Once the Ofsted Report is finalised, I will share it with you.

Thank you to those of you who joined our Parent Consultations. There was a lovely feel across the schools and I know the staff really enjoyed sharing the children’s books and celebrating their progress since September.

I am delighted to see so many children participating in the after-school football Club and choir, and I cannot wait to hear all about the bush craft skills that will be learnt in our brand-new club, which will take place in our very own woodland.

The **EARA (Equalities and Rights Advocates)** group has held its first meeting and some of the members will be accompanying Mrs Bryant to Langrish Primary School on Wednesday 1st November in the morning to meet other representatives from the across the county. The EARA group will be also be involved with a project promoting road safety outside the school.



On the 29th of September, some of **Springwood's Environmental Ambassadors** attended an eco-conference at Winchester College. Follow the link below to find out more...

<https://www.springwoodfederation.co.uk/school-ambassadors/>

I will be writing to you separately regarding attendance and how **we are striving to meet 95% across the Federation**. Being in school every day and on time will help your child to succeed and meet their full potential.

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.

Further to my email before half term, you may also receive a phone call this half term to make sure that we hold a third contact (name and number) who is not a family member in case of an emergency.

Please ensure that Junior dinner money is paid in advance for the week through our Sco-Pay system. **The cost of school dinners from 31st October will be £3.00.**

All children in Reception, Year 1 or 2 currently receive a free meal this is called Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) and you do not need to apply for meals. **If, however, you are a low-income family, and meet the qualifying benefits detailed below, you can help your child's school by submitting a free school meals application to be assessed. Eligibility brings extra funding into the school which means more resources for your child and the school.** Please ask for a member of the Admin team for some support if you think you are eligible.

There continues to be a selection of second hand clothes based in the infant and junior school offices. Please do not hesitate to come have a look and take anything you need.

Should you wish to join (**Years 4 and 5 parents only**); the **Remembrance Service will be held in the Junior hall from 2:15-3:00pm on 10th November 2023.** Poppies will be on sale from 1st November.

This year I would like to extend my gratitude to any servicemen and women within our families by inviting them to wear their uniforms with pride and join us as VIPs. Please advise the admin team if you would like a VIP chair reserved by Thursday 9th November 2023.

Prices are as follows:

- Poppies (a donation)
- Metal tie pins are £1
- Slap bands are £1



- Rubber wrist bands are 50p
- Reflective poppies are 50p
- Ribbons 20p

Please ensure that the children have the correct money in a named envelope or purse.

One of the Year 3 children has asked me to include his request for Springwood Schools to support the **shoebox appeal** run by Teams 4u (Registered charity number 1114131). Every year, he enjoys working with his Nan as part of the team in the Milton Reformed Church in Portsmouth to organise the transportation of donated shoe boxes of goodies to Eastern Europe in time for Christmas.

If you are able to donate a full shoe box, a partially filled shoe box, some of the items below or even an empty shoe box that can be filled by others please do so. They can be brought to school for collection on 10/11/2023.

Items sought: Small toys (new or used), hats, scarves, toothbrushes, toothpaste, wash items.

Items to avoid: Food (only exception is sweets), medicines, military themed items, aerosols or anything highly flammable, sharp items, novels.

If you would like to help further, a donation of £3 with each shoebox to help get the box to Eastern Europe this Christmas is incredibly helpful. All shoeboxes will be checked before sending to ensure they are suitable and any unsafe or unsuitable items will be removed prior to sending.

My team have received a number of **complaints** about **unsafe driving and parking** outside the school. In the interest of everyone's safety, please may I request that **cars are parked in designated parking bays or in the community centre car park.**

Our remaining **INSET Days** are:

2nd January 2024

15th April 2024

28th June 2024



There are continued School Tours for EYFS and Y3 for the next academic year (2023-24). If you have friends or family looking to start in EYFS or Year 3 in September 2024, please let them know that I am keen to show them around our wonderful schools.

Prospective parents must book an appointment through the admin office. The dates for tours are on:

Tuesdays 9:30–10:30am

Thursdays 3:30–4:30pm

Applications for admission to Year R can be made online from 1st November 2023 and the deadline is 15th January 2024.

Applications for admission to Year 3 can be made online from 1st November 2023 and the deadline is 15th January 2024.

Applications for admission to Year 7 opened on Monday 11th September and the Year 6 parents will receive an email with a letter attached shortly. Closing date is 31st October 2023.

Best wishes to you all

Mrs J Livingstone

Executive Headteacher