

NEWSLETTER

SPRINGWOOD FEDERATION



"Together We Learn, Together We Grow"

January 2026

Message from Mrs Livingstone



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

Mrs Kemp, one of our teachers sadly left us in December. Miss Cunningham has taken over Ants class and is settling into her role.

I want to extend my thanks to the fabulous FoSS team for their tremendous festive efforts. There were gifts, games, hot chocolate, hot dogs and plenty of Christmas songs at this year's 'Jingle Jangle'. The Christmas Shopping Event and Advent Chocolates were well received by all.

We had a visit from the Local Authority last term; here are some statements from our reports:

EYFS provision is a strength of the school

Phonics teaching is well embedded

Teaching is generally consistent and underpinned by clear routines and expectations

Provision for pupils with additional needs is strong

Leadership is effective and well-established across the schools

I could not be prouder! Thank you all for your comments too during our parent consultations, they mean so much to us all.

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

Diary Dates



15th January

Census Day & Non School Uniform

22nd February

Mental Health and Wellbeing Team:
Anxiety Workshop
For parents and carers

30th January

Open Box Theatre - Year R & 3

3rd February

Butser Hill School Trip - Year 4

6th February

Pyjama Day for a monetary donation

12th February

Year 3 & Year 4 Sleepover

13th February

INSET DAY

16th - 20th February

HALF TERM



RISK OF GETTING TYPE 1 DIABETES SCREENING

The University of Birmingham are conducting an ELSA study which screens children aged 3 – 13 years to find out their risk of getting Type 1 Diabetes. We are offering this screening at school on **Monday 2nd February**. There will be more information emailed to you in the next couple of days and if you decide you would like your child to take part in the screening there will be an on-line form where you can give your consent.



UNIVERSITY OF
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Smartphone Free Childhood

Following several communications from July 2025.

this is a polite reminder that Springwood is a Smartphone Free Zone from January 2026.



Private Fostering

I just wanted to share some understanding with you regarding 'Private Fostering'. Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (or under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent, guardian, or a close relative for more than 28 days. This could be a family friend, neighbour, or another adult. It is important for the safety and welfare of the child that the local authority is informed about such arrangements. If your child is being privately fostered, or you are planning such an arrangement, please let the school know so we can support you and ensure the child's wellbeing. Private fostering helps us work together to keep all children safe and cared for in the community.

ADMISSION OPEN

Mrs Barnes has continued her work from last year and has been visiting our feeder nurseries and pre-schools to work with children who may join our school in September 2025. Her work from last year had a positive impact on the children's transition into school. **If you have, or know someone that has, a child starting school in September 2025, remember the cut-off date to apply is Thursday 15th January 2026.** If you need any support applying for your child's place, please ask a member of the admin team.

Attendance



Our whole school attendance figures are currently - Infants School 93.2% and Junior School 93.9%, our targets are 95% for both schools. Mrs Race and Miss Jones will be working hard with myself to support families who fall under the 90% threshold. If your child's attendance is under 90%, they are classed as 'persistently absent'.

PARENTS CONSULTATIONS



Parent consultations will be conducted face to face on the 23rd and 25th February and 2nd and 4th March 24th March, 26th March, 31st March and 2nd April from 3.35 -5.45pm. These consultations must be booked through Arbor so please ensure you are familiar with the app. You will receive a message to advise when you can book your appointment. There will be no further appointments offered past the cut off deadline, so please action within the timeframe.



Census Day Thursday 15th January 2026

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.



Choose from these menu options:
Fish Fingers and Chips
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 meal 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>



STAYING SAFE



At Springwood, we are committed to ensuring a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment for all our children. As part of this, we kindly remind families about our expectations regarding personal presentation, specifically relating to nails and jewellery. For health and safety reasons, children should not wear fake nails or acrylic nails to school. These can pose risks during physical activities and may cause accidental scratches or injuries to themselves and others. We ask that children wear minimal and appropriate jewellery. Small stud earrings are permitted, but hoops, dangling earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and rings should not be worn during the school day. This helps to prevent accidents and ensures children can participate fully in all activities safely. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe and positive environment where every child can thrive and feel proud.



I have been speaking with one of our families who have had a lot of support from the local charity 'Sophie's Legacy' when their younger sibling has been in hospital. They would love to give something back and have asked if the children could come in their pyjamas for a small donation. The date has been added to the Diary Dates. You can find more about the charity here:



www.sophieslegacy.org.uk



CREATING CHANGE



Springwood's Oak Tree



Hampshire County Council regularly conduct tree inspections and use a resistograph which is a specialised, non-destructive tool that assesses wood quality, especially decay in trees and timber structures. I am devastated to share with you that unfortunately the large Oak tree between the Infant and Junior School will be taken down during February half term. I will update you in due course with what we will put in the tree's place.

Enrichment

This half term, we are excited to offer a range of enriching off-site visits and in-school events to enhance our pupils' learning experiences. On 3rd February, Year 4 will visit Butser Ancient Farm to explore the fascinating world of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, deepening their understanding of this important historical period. Year 6 will have a unique opportunity on 26th January to engage with Zoolab, where they will learn about Charles Darwin and Evolution, with the chance to safely handle some exotic animals if they wish. Additionally, the Open Box Theatre Company will visit the school to deliver interactive workshops for Year R focused on dinosaurs and for Year 3 on the Romans, bringing these topics vividly to life. Looking ahead, Year 3 and Year 4 pupils will have the opportunity to take part in a sleepover on Thursday 12th February—more details will be shared soon via a letter. Parents and carers can book places for these exciting events through Arbor and letters will be coming out soon. We look forward to a half term full of discovery and hands-on learning!



WORKSHOPS

We are pleased to offer the following workshops at the school, delivered by external specialist agencies:

Mental Health and Wellbeing Team (MHWT):

Anxiety Workshop

For parents and carers

Date: Thursday 22nd January 2026

Time: 9:00 am

Include:

Autism Spectrum Condition Parent Coaching Session

For parents and carers

Date: Tuesday 24th February 2026

Time: 2:00 pm

Webpage: <https://www.springwoodfederation.co.uk>



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpringwoodFederation>

