

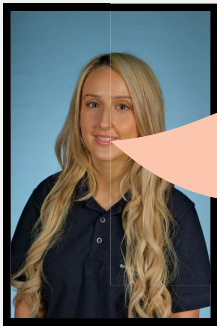
Springhill News

Autumn Half-Term Newsletter 2025



Headteacher's Comment

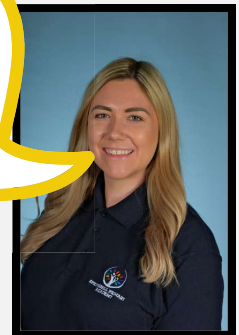
We have had a great start to the academic year at Springhill Academy. Let's hear from the teachers what each class has been up to.



Nursery have settled in well this half term and have made lovely friendships. We have been learning about who they are and what they look like. We have learnt about their families and where they live. We have enjoyed painting self-portraits and using different materials to create our own homes. We have also been working really hard on our fine motor skills, we have loved dough disco.



Reception have settled beautifully into their new routines and are thoroughly enjoying life in their new classroom. Their first mini mission, Incredible Me, has helped us get to know the children, their families, and the different types of homes we live in. The children created wonderful self-portraits inspired by the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo and shared their ideas about what they'd like to be when they grow up. A highlight of the term so far was their first stay-and-play session, where they proudly showed their parents around the classroom.



Cools as a cucumber!





In Year 1, children have been focusing on their letter formation and have made great progress. In Science, children have showed incredible enthusiasm for learning about Autumn, identifying the changes around them in nature, the weather and in the shortening of the days. They have also really enjoyed their first endeavours into History, learning interesting facts about the Royal Family and how the past has shaped the way we live.



Year 2 have had a great first half term settling into the new classroom environment. We have thoroughly enjoyed our Time Travellers topic and learning about Florence Nightingale as a significant individual. We also welcomed 10 healthy, newborn chicks and we thank our PTA for funding this experience. Children looked after the chicks very well throughout the time they spent with us and it really helped us bring our Science life-cycles topic to life!



In Year 3 we've been working really hard on our handwriting and presentation, we have made some great progress. The children also really enjoyed our science investigation into different layers of Earth. We particularly loved making our 'dirt pudding' to show each layer- they were very yummy!





YEAR 4 HAVE HAD A WONDERFUL START TO THE YEAR LEARNING ALL ABOUT ANCIENT ROME. WE DISCOVERED THE LASTING IMPACT THAT THE INVASION HAS HAD ON US NOW AND HOW NATIVE ROYALTY LIKE BOUDICCA OF THE ICENI STOOD UP TO THEM. WE WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE THIS TOPIC WITH A ZOOM CALL TO THE HISTORIAN DR STEVE KERSHAW WHO ANSWERED ALL OF OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE IN THE PAST.



THIS HALF TERM, YEAR 5 HAVE JOURNEYED INTO THE ANCIENT MAYA CIVILIZATION. THEY HAVE ENJOYED TASTING MAYA FOOD, COMMUNICATING WITH HIEROGLYPHICS AND PLAYING POK-TA-POK. THANKFULLY, NONE OF US GOT SACRIFICED AT THE END OF THE GAME!



IN YEAR 6 WE'VE BEEN WORKING REALLY HARD THROUGHOUT OUR MINI MISSION 'THE ROARING 20S'. WE HAVE BEEN READING 'THE GREAT GATSBY' THIS HALF TERM, WITH THE CHILDREN THOROUGHLY IMMERSED IN THE STORY, EVEN DRESSING UP AS THE CHARACTERS IN A HOT SEAT ACTIVITY. THE CHILDREN ALSO REALLY ENJOYED OUR SCIENCE INVESTIGATION INTO DIFFERENT LIGHT SOURCES AND HOW OUR EYES CAN SEE THEM. OUR CLASS PARTICULARLY LOVED LEARNING NEW CONCEPTS IN MATHS LIKE 'ORDER OF OPERATIONS'. THE CHILDREN HAVE SETTLED IN WELL AND ALREADY MADE LOTS OF PROGRESS.



ATTENDANCE

Our school average for this year so far is **95%**. This is a great start to the year considering the number of seasonal illnesses going around at the moment and is testament to the commitment of our parents to bring children in to school.

Well done to the 94 children who have maintained 100% attendance so far!



Any absence from school has an impact upon a child's learning. We strongly encourage 100% attendance. We currently have 37 children across the school doing the fantastic job of maintaining 100% attendance this year!

If you have any concerns around your child's attendance please arrange a meeting with the Family Support Team at school.

Dates for your diary



Mon 27th - Fri 31st Oct - HALF TERM

Fri 7th Nov - Wear White non-uniform day

Tues 11th Nov - Remembrance Day

Fri 14th Nov - Children in Need

Fri 21st Nov - Christmas Dress-up non-uniform day

Tues 2nd Dec - Christmas Market

Fri 5th Dec - Year 4, 5 & 6 Mental Health Workshops

2nd & 3rd Dec - EYFS Nativity

Sat 6th Dec - Open Day (11:00 am)

9th, 11th & 12th Dec - KS1 Nativity

Wed 10th Dec - Pantomime

15th & 16th Dec - KS2 Nativity

Wed 17th Dec - Christmas Craft Afternoon

Friday 19th Dec - Last day before Christmas Break

FANG-tastic Thanks to Our PTA!

We had a spook-tacular time at this year's Halloween Disco – and it's all thanks to our boo-rilliant parent and teacher volunteers! You really creeped it real and helped us pull off a howl-raising event that the children absolutely loved. Especially with those monster moves from the adults, it was a frightfully fun evening! We're so pumpkin-spired by your dedication and teamwork. Thank you for making this event a thriller!



This term, we'd like to shine a spotlight on the incredible work of Mrs Dolman! Mrs Dolman has dedicated 30 years to Springhill and has always being a kind and generous person. Unfortunately for us, today is Mrs Dolman's last day with us at Springhill as she embarks on her much deserved retirement.

I have been on a secret mission this week to gather feedback from the children. These are the words they have used to describe you!

safe thoughtful
generous patient smiley
polite fair caring calm
kind helpful happy
tidy friendly warm
neat respectful

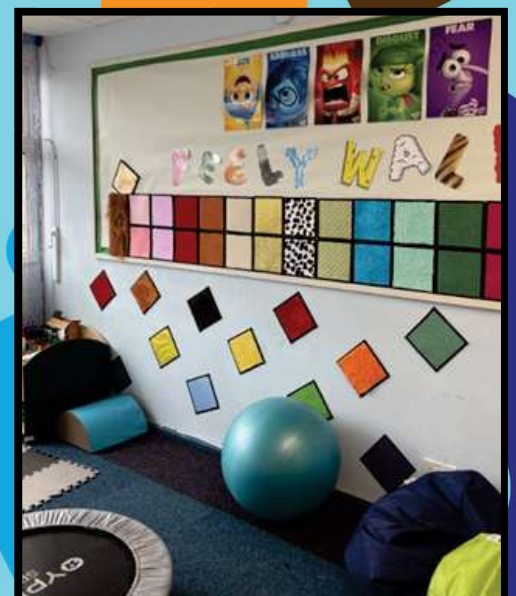
SEND at Springhill

🌈 Peace Pod Update – Supporting Emotional Regulation Together 🌈

We're excited to share an update about our Peace Pod – a dedicated sensory and regulation space designed to help children manage their emotions, self-regulate, and feel safe and calm during the school day.

The Peace Pod is part of our wider approach to supporting emotional wellbeing, and it's proving to be a valuable resource for many of our pupils. It includes:

- Sensory tools like weighted blankets, fidget items, calming lights, and soft seating.
- Quiet zones for reflection, breathing exercises, or simply taking a break.
- Visual supports linked to the Zones of Regulation framework.





SPRINGHILL ACADEMY



EARLY YEARS UPDATE OCTOBER 2025

What's New?

FROM SEPTEMBER 2025, THE GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED NEW STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE (EYFS) ON NUTRITION, WHICH WE ARE NOW IMPLEMENTING HERE AT SPRINGHILL PRIMARY ACADEMY.

The new guidance asks all Early Years settings to make sure children are offered healthy, balanced and nutritious food – whether it is provided by us or brought in from home. This covers everything from snacks and drinks to lunchboxes. We'll be working closely with you to encourage healthy choices and to create a positive, happy food environment for all our children.



What This Means For You

We'll be introducing a simple nutrition policy that outlines:

- What kinds of snacks and lunchbox items are encouraged
- Foods we ask you to avoid (e.g. high-sugar treats and soft drinks)
- Guidance around birthdays and celebrations (we ask that sweets and cakes are not sent in)
- How we support children with allergies or dietary needs
- Choking risks (whole grapes, popcorn, whole cherry tomatoes)
- Our promise on creating calm, enjoyable and sociable mealtimes



Working Together

We know that every family is different and that children often have their own likes and dislikes when it comes to food and drinks. We're here to support you with this. If you have any questions about food choices, allergies, or cultural preferences, please don't hesitate to chat with a member of the team.

Together, with your support, we can make sure every child has the happiest and healthiest start in life.

Warm wishes,

Mrs H Bishop (EYFS Lead) & The Springhill Academy EYFS Team