



**SPRINGFIELD**  
**JUNIOR SCHOOL**

01473 741300

admin@springfieldjuniors.net

**Newsletter**  
**December 2024**



## Term Dates

### Spring Term 2025

Tuesday 7th January—Back  
to school

Monday 17th February—  
Friday 22nd February—Half  
term

Parents' Evening s—  
Monday 17th March and  
Tuesday 18th March  
Saxon Cup Final—

Wednesday 26th March  
Friday 4th April—End of  
Spring Term

Tuesday 22nd April—  
Children back to school

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the last newsletter of the year and what a year it has been! It seems unbelievable that it was a year ago that I was preparing to start as the headteacher at Springfield Junior School and the year has really flown by.



There have been some changes along the way, welcoming new staff and children as well as saying goodbye to others . This term we are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Howes and Miss Pead who are moving onto pastures new, and we are welcoming Mrs Lynn Norris as the new teacher in Year 3 and Mrs Flack, our new TA. We will also be welcoming Mrs Tina Harvey who will be joining us as Office Manager. Also, I am sure you will join us in congratulating Miss Beth Taylor, who has been appointed as Deputy Head at Springfield. Her enthusiasm, energy and inclusive approach are a real asset to the school. Mr Baker will be staying until Easter to ensure a smooth transition, working two days a week. Mrs Gaffer will also be leaving us temporarily at Easter to welcome a new baby girl.

It only leaves me to wish you all a wonderful holiday, and for those who celebrate Christmas at this time of year, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thank you for all your support.

Mrs J. Viner  
Headteacher  
Springfield Junior School



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Silver Award  
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## Half Term Highlights

### Year 3

#### Stone Age Experience

On a very cold November Friday, each class took it in turns to walk up to Whitehouse Primary School where we went back in time to the Stone Age. It was an amazing experience. We got to share our knowledge from our lessons in class, find out new facts and handle artefacts. Back at school, we had a try at creating our own cave art by drawing on the backs of tables. In our writing lessons, we have used our knowledge from this time period to write our own historical stories.

#### Design Technology

The children have been learning about the importance of a balanced diet within our DT unit 'Food and Nutrition'. We explored how we can add seasoning to popcorn to enhance the flavour and we added healthy toppings to yogurt. Finally, we prepared our own oven chips and experimented by adding different seasonings before cooking them. We all enjoyed tasting our creations.

#### Christmas Production

Rehearsals for the Christmas production are going well and the children are looking forward to showcasing their singing and acting talents with you all in the final week. Thank you to Mrs Cooper, music lead extraordinaire who has worked hard to put this together and of course your support at home with the costumes.





## Half Term Highlights

### Year 4

This half term, year 4 have embraced a range of experiences in different topics. Pupils went on a litter picking trip at their local River Gipping. This linked to their Geography topic 'Rivers' where they explored the different stages of a river. The trip also inspired the next writing focus which was News reports, where the pupils created a report based on the trip of local school children helping to clean up the river. They all did a fantastic job and got very competitive to see who could collect the most rubbish!



Our DT topic this term was mechanisms. Pupils explored the function of hinges and went on a hinge hunt around the school to see how many they could find! They then had a go at making their own hinges using different materials. After that, pupils designed and made their own gift boxes, incorporating one of their hinge designs to open and close their box.

Year 4 also had a special visitor in from Gipping Yarns, that performed a puppet show called 'Tom and the Trolls'. It taught pupils about the negative impact that bullying can have on people and that we should always speak up if we are worried or upset about something.





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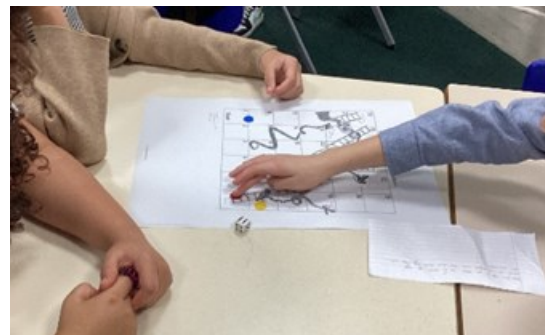
## Half Term Highlights

### Year 5

As part of our topic on Ancient Greece, Year 5 took part in a 'Greek Day' where we enjoyed tasting Greek food; designing and making shields, headdresses and Greek vases and participating in 'Olympic' activities.



In Art, we explored block printing techniques linked to plant life in biomes that we had studied in Geography. Great fun was had playing 'Snakes and Ladders' games in PSHE which were created by the children on the theme of 'Bullying' and ways to encourage positive choices. All three classes have achieved many certificates over the course of their twelve weeks of swimming. Hopefully, they will continue this success out of school.





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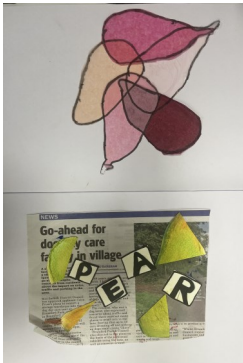


## Half Term Highlights

### Year 6

What a half term we have had! We have continued to work hard in our core subjects of Maths and English ensuring that the children are progressing well in terms of both achievement and confidence. In maths, we have focused on fractions and ratio, and in English we have written wonderful poems inspired by memories and a newspaper report about earthquakes linking into our Geography topic (mountains, earthquakes and volcanoes).

Our Design and Technology topic Mechanisms, saw us wreaking havoc with gears, glue guns and hacksaws. We had great fun learning how gears and pulleys work and how they are used in day to day designs. Armed with this newfound knowledge, we unleashed our creativity



to design and build Ferris wheels—a challenge that turned out to be trickier than it initially seemed. Despite the hurdles, most of us managed to achieve success in one way or another, and, most importantly, we had a fantastic time problem-solving together along the way.



In Art, we've been studying Cubism, with a particular focus on the works of Pablo Picasso and Patrick Caulfield. Cubism, an innovative movement that emerged in the early 20th century, represents objects and people as geometric shapes, often viewing them from multiple angles at once to create a dynamic, abstract effect. We experimented with various tones and tints and explored techniques for layering images, allowing multiple perspectives to appear

simultaneously.

In RE, we continued our work on Christianity, looking at how the belief in the resurrection influences Christians views of life and death and this week have started our study on Islam. As part of this we have gained some amazing knowledge about this ancient religion including learning about the five pillars and tawhid. We also looked at what it must be like for Muslims to take the most important journey of their lives (Hajj) and achieve their dream of travelling to Mecca to visit the Ka'aba.



As the last week arrives, I think we will all be ready to snuggle up on the sofa and watch our favourite films when the school doors finally close for the holidays.



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## Focus on...Attendance

### The Importance of Attendance: Building Bright Futures Together

At Springfield Juniors, we know that every day counts! Attending school regularly has a huge impact on your child's learning, friendships, and overall well-being. Each day at school provides opportunities for your child to grow academically, develop social skills, and create lasting memories with their friends.

This term, we've seen fantastic progress in attendance across our school community, and we want to say a huge thank you to all our families for your ongoing support. Your efforts ensure that children make the most of every opportunity to learn and thrive.

We understand that challenges can sometimes arise, and we're here to help. If you'd like support or guidance with your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact our school office. Together, we can ensure every child reaches their full potential.

Let's keep up the great work! Every day in school is a step toward a brighter future.

Thank you for being part of our journey this term!

### School Matters!



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## Focus on...Reading for Pleasure



Non – Fiction November Competition

**'Why Don't You?'**



As a school, we are members of the National Federation of Children's Book Group and are fortunate to join in with competitions that are run throughout the year.

The theme for this year's Non-Fiction November was, **'Why Don't You?'** which aims to stimulate discussion about hobbies and leisure activities and to encourage children to try something new. For this year's competition, the children were invited to create a short 'advert' for their hobby. This could be in the form of a video, a poster, a letter or a leaflet, but the focus had to be on **'Why Don't You?'** – in other words, encouraging others to have a go. We were very impressed with all the entries we received within the school. These can be viewed by following this link to the school website and clicking on gallery.

<https://www.springfieldjuniors.org.uk/page/?title=Reading+for+Pleasure&pid=344>

The Junior Librarians helped to vote for our school winners. Well done to Thea and Brianna who each were awarded a £10 Amazon voucher. All entries have been sent off for the national competition. We will let you know if any are successful in winning a bundle of brand new non-fiction books.

Children, families, community leaders, librarians and teachers across the county have shared their favourite children's books to be added to the Suffolk 100 Reads booklist - how many have you read?

You can view the list by following this link: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/suffolk/suffolk-100-reads/>



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## Focus on...Sport

### Squash – Saxon Cup Competition

As a culmination of curriculum and extra-curricular squash sessions, twenty- three of our Year 5 and 6 pupils were selected to represent Springfield

A huge congratulations to our teams, who took part in the Squash Saxon Cup at Ipswich Sports Centre in competition with three other schools.

They were great ambassadors for the school and the standard of squash was fantastic – so many rallies!

Team 1 in Year 5 won the Year 5 competition over all and received medals, certificates and a team trophy.

Rebecca won most points scorer out of all the Year 5 girls and Honor won most improved player out of all the Year 6 girls across the schools.

All team members received a T-Shirt and certificate of participation, as well as an invitation to receive 6 free squash lessons at Ipswich Sports Centre, followed by a reduced price if they wish to continue after the 6 weeks.

Keep playing as you are all developing such amazing skills and tactical awareness!

Well done to you all!!



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## Focus on...Music

The children in year 3 and in Music clubs have been very busy this month, with lots of rehearsals for Christmas performances. The Springfield Choir and Recorder Ensemble performed in a concert at St. Mary Le Tower on Friday 6th December. The Trees at the Tower Primary School Charity Concert was absolutely wonderful, with over 30 trees displayed in the church and children from three schools performing for their families. Our children performed beautifully, singing and playing with confidence and demonstrating how passionate they are about music. They should be very proud of themselves.

The choir performed again at the Corn Exchange in Ipswich on Thursday 12th December for the Children's Endeavour Trust Christmas concert, along with all 8 schools within the trust. They were super excited to be singing in front of an audience again and performed brilliantly on the night.

Their final performance of the year will be on the last day of term, when they will be singing in our Christmas music assembly, along with the recorder ensemble and percussion group, some solo performances and whole school singing. What a joyful way to end the year.



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Merry Christmas!



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