

NEWSLETTER

SPRINGWOOD FEDERATION



"Together We Learn, Together We Grow"

September 2026

Message from Mrs Livingstone

A warm welcome to the new academic year. I hope that you all had a fantastic summer break and are looking forward to the new school year. We were really lucky with the weather, although the heat did not let up!

I would like to extend my welcome to all our new families who are starting in Early Years and to families who have joined us in other year groups too. Our new member of staff is Miss Humphreys who has joined the Teaching Team.

Diary Dates



14th September

Blanks Level Questioning Workshop 8.50am & again 14.45pm

25th September

Inset Day - School Closed to pupils

29th September

SATS Workshop for Y6 Parents 2.30pm

6th October

Maths workshop for parents 2.30pm

26th - 30th October

Half Term



EXAM RESULTS



We continue to be proud of our school results. Our EYFS and Year 6 results have made further gains from last year. Understandably, I could not be prouder of our children and staff's achievements this year.

EYFS (Reception)	67% reached a Good Level of Development (GLD)
Year 1 Phonics	70% passed the check.
Year 6 SATs	75% met ARE in Reading, with 23% meeting Greater Depth 70% met ARE in Writing, 7% meeting Greater Depth 73% met ARE in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling, 68% without special consideration, 22% meeting Greater Depth 72% met ARE in Maths, 68% without special consideration, 18% meeting Greater Depth 58% achieved a combined score in Reading, Writing and Maths, 57% without special consideration, 5% meeting Greater Depth

To build on the schools' success from 2025-26, our School Improvement Priorities (SIP) continue to be:

1. Continue to Enhance the Quality of Teaching and Learning
2. Continue to Enhance the Wider Curriculum
3. Shift Perceptions around Consequences and Behaviour
4. Ensure that Every Child and Family are Included in Our School Community



The Junior School is now due an Ofsted Inspection, it soon comes around!

There have been some key changes regarding how Ofsted Reports Inspections. Details are on the school website as well as a helpful YouTube Video. Please follow the link:

[Springwood Infant and Junior School Federation - Ofsted Reports](#)



Just a reminder that the schools are Smartphone Free. If you need to contact your child while they travel to and from school, a simple 'brick' phone is more than enough. 'Brick' phones do not have internet connectivity, and they are inexpensive. There are a few phones that look like smartphones but are not. Here are some examples of the more popular non-smart phones:

- Nokia 105
- USHINING Flip Phone
- Oakcastle SIM Free Mobile

What you can expect

Under SIP Priority four, my aim is to reduce mixed messages and to set out clearly what you can expect from us as a school and what we expect from you as families.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for your child's progress. Please ensure your child arrives on time each day and that you notify the school promptly of any absence. We will follow up on unexplained absences and offer support where barriers to attendance are identified. If there are persistent issues, we will work with you to agree an action plan and, where appropriate, involve external partners to ensure your child can attend.

The register is taken promptly at 8:45am (doors open at 8:30am) and school finishes at 3:15pm.

2025-26 saw the Infants achieve 94.3% and the Juniors 95.3%. Keep aiming high! Good attendance is important because statistics show:

- A direct link between under-achievement and absence below 95%
- Regular attenders make better progress, both socially and academically
- Regular attenders find school routines, schoolwork and friendships easier to cope with
- Regular attenders find learning more satisfying
- Regular attenders are more successful in transferring between primary school, secondary school, and higher education, employment or training

Behaviour

We expect all children to show respect, kindness and effort in line with our school values. Our behaviour approach is consistent across the school: clear routines, positive reinforcement and proportionate responses to issues. Restorative conversations are used when necessary and you will be informed when there are repeated concerns or serious incidents. I ask that you support our approach at home to ensure a consistent message for children.

I will be sending out further communication later this half term regarding the school's behaviour policy and how we communicate incidents to you.

Communication channels:

Contact the administration team (main point of contact) by email, phone or in person via one of the admin offices. Your query will be passed to the most appropriate member of staff. This is likely to be your child's class teacher for day-to-day matters, classroom questions and progress updates. Where helpful, the class teacher may arrange a short phone call or meeting to discuss the matter. Please send communications respectfully. We aim to respond within five working days.

Transparent escalation and expectations process:

To make concerns straightforward to raise and resolve, we have a simple escalation process for both staff and parents. This flow is designed to prevent ad-hoc escalations, protect staff workload and ensure timely responses:

- Concern raised with class teacher (acknowledge within five working days; resolve or escalate within 5 working days).
- If still unresolved, senior leadership will review and respond (acknowledge within five working days; aim to resolve within 10 working days).
- Governance engagement will occur if the matter is complex or requires independent oversight; parents and staff will be informed when this step is necessary.



Diary Dates

The Diary dates are attached, and wider curriculum experiences are currently being planned. Any changes/updates will be communicated to you.

Our INSET Days are:

Friday 25th September 2026
Friday 27th November 2026
Monday 4th January 2027
Thursday 25th March 2027
Friday 25th June 2027



FOSS

Please can I say an enormous thank you to Kate Brown and her FoSS Team (Friends of Springwood Schools) who organised a wonderful Summer Fair. They worked relentlessly to make it a success and raised £1300. They are busy planning how to spend the money to support the schools.

SEND and personalised provision

Where children have Special Educational Needs and/or difficulties, we will build/review/enhance personalised provision plans that set out presentation, provision and progress. Review tables will be sent out termly as an additional reference to the two scheduled parent consultations. We will ensure information is clear, accessible and shared in a timely way, so families understand how needs are being met and progress is monitored.



We use Dolce for school meals. Parents can access this through <https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/login>. You would already have received an email to be able to access school grid. Remember to pre-order your child's meal on School Grid no later than 8.30am on the day otherwise a packed lunch from home will be necessary. Please note, for your convenience, you can pre-order meals for the whole term.

School day trips and residentials are payable through Arbor.

Just to remind you that we ask you to support the Food Standards recommended by the government. Crisps and chocolate are items that are politely requested to be discouraged from lunchboxes. Please note we are a nut free school and have children that have severe nut allergies. It is important that children have access to a variety of different types of foods so that they are not eating the same thing every day. Please promote other items such as carrot sticks, different types of cheeses, oat bars, etc. If you would like any further advice around ideas for packed lunches, please book an appointment with your child's class teacher.

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>



Please keep Arbor updated with up-to-date email addresses and contact telephone numbers. We also note that there are a number of parents who have moved home and have not provided proof of their new address. We cannot update Arbor without this. Please note, failure to provide this information will also impact when you are applying for junior and secondary school places as your child may not get your first choice of school. Furthermore, please remember to check you can access Arbor and if you are having any difficulties please contact the offices for support.

Workshops



You will receive bespoke invitations to events if you have reported specific concerns. Some of these events include:

- Weekly SEND Parent appointments with SENDCo
- Include team 'Surgeries' (pre-booked through admin team/SENDCo). The team also support six individual families and run parent coaching workshops on neurodiversity e.g. Autism, ADHD etc.
- School Nursing Team consultations (pre-booked through admin team/SENDCo) and Healthy Me Workshops
- Mental Health and -Wellbeing Workshops e.g. Managing Anxiety
- Student Social Worker
- PSHE/RSE workshops

Please attend any appointments, consultations or surgeries you have booked. Missing an appointment wastes the time of the professionals who have committed to supporting our children and families and prevents another child or family from receiving that help.

Repeated non-attendance will result in a temporary pause on booking further events for one school term. If you cannot attend, please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can reallocate the appointment or make reasonable alternative arrangements.

I truly value strong, collaborative relationships with families and believe clarity about expectations and procedures benefits everyone.

Water bottles



To help keep the germs away, I am requesting that you provide a named water bottle for your child which they can take home every day to be washed, or by the end of the week. It will be your child's responsibility to look after it, so please do not send them in with anything too expensive.





Department for Education

Three times a year, the school has Census Days:

Thursday 1st October 2026

Thursday 21st January 2027

Thursday 20th May 2027

School Census



The census collects information such as 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 pupil, universal infant free school meals funding and free early year's entitlement allocations

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

The children are allowed to wear non-school uniform. The Dolce Catering Team will be creating a special menu for this day which can be viewed on your school grid app.

PARENTS CONSULTATIONS

Parent consultations will be face to face on November 23rd and 25th from 3:40 to 5:40pm. These consultations must be booked through Arbor. We will let you know when the slots are open



Infant school children are provided with a free piece of fruit every day. Junior school children can bring in their own piece of fruit from home to eat at break time.



The school offices are open between 8:30-12:15pm and 12:45-3:30pm. Please note the office is closed between 12:15-12:45pm but if you leave a message on the answerphone the team will respond at their earliest opportunity.

Home learning

Our children will be bringing their first 'home learning' sheet and home learning book home with them on Friday 11th September. Home learning will continue to be focused on supporting children in consolidating and embedding previously taught skills, so they develop the confidence and stamina to apply these independently across a range of subjects. One side of the sheet will illustrate the learning to practise and complete. This includes a creative family project with a submission date. There is also a suggested timetable illustrating how to support your child in completing their learning. On the reverse, there is a curriculum overview for this half term to keep you abreast of the broader learning experiences. Our curriculum is also accessible on the website - [Springwood Infant and Junior School Federation - Curriculum](#)



Blanks Level Questioning

To support parents at home, we will also provide a Blanks Level Questioning sheet linked to your child's upcoming topics this half term. This sheet will provide structure to parents to help children talk about their learning, use key vocabulary and contextualise the information. There will be workshops on Monday 14th September at 8:50am and then repeated at 2:45pm on how best to use this resource.



Celebration Assembly



Celebration assemblies will recommence every Friday from 11th September, between 2:45-3:15pm and will be every other week for Infants and Juniors. The focus for the assemblies will be on the School's Value - Trying Your Best and Being Proud. If your child has been nominated, you will receive an Arbor invite to celebrate their achievements. EYFS will join these assemblies when they have settled in.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

I want the children to look smart in their school uniform. For safety reasons and due to our outdoor curriculum, please can I respectfully remind you that children should only wear stud earrings; children will be asked to remove hoop/drop earrings. School Uniform is available to purchase in store or online through Skoolkit. <https://www.skoolkit.co.uk/>

Further information is available on our website and an updated uniform price list is attached.

Our preloved uniform stocks have been replenished. Please do not hesitate to contact the school offices should you require any items.



MEDICAL

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.

PE Kits

The school will no longer be providing PE kits for children. Instead, families will now be responsible for ensuring that their child has the appropriate PE kit on their designated PE days. PE kits can be purchased from Skoolkit website or any other store; PE kits must meet the following requirements:



- White or green t-shirt
- Green or Black shorts that are a suitable length (NO hot pants including Nike pro short)– Your child will be provided with shorts if they come into school with shorts that are too short.
 - Plain black or green joggers/ leggings
 - Plain black or green hoodie or sweatshirt

Please make sure all items are named and labelled, so we can return them to you should they be misplaced.

The children will wear this PE kit throughout the day and home again preventing them from needing to change in front of others. This will also enable children to wear PE kits which are washed more frequently than we are able to do in school.

Younger children (EYFS and Year 1) will change in classes so will need trainers or plimsolls in school (EYFS to bring in PE shoes in the Summer term).



Active8 Minds®

Sport & childcare specialists

Active8 continue to provide breakfast and afterschool club. Please contact them directly to make any bookings via www.active8minds.co.uk. If you are dropping your child at breakfast club at 7:45am, please be aware that the office is not open. If you have medicine to provide to the school, please give it to Active8 who will ensure it is passed to a member of the admin team.



CAULIFLOWER CARDS

PART OF CAULIFLOWER GROUP LTD.

I am excited to confirm that the children will be producing some fantastic artwork that can be ordered as Christmas cards and other gifts through Cauliflower cards. This will be coming home on 26th September and orders will need to be placed online and the artwork returned to school by Friday 3rd October.



School Tours

I am delighted to announce our EYFS and Y3 school tours for the next academic year (2027-28). If you have friends or family looking to start in EYFS or Year 3 in September 2027, 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 weekly on:

Tuesdays 9:30–10:30am

Thursdays 3:30–4:30pm

Applications for admission to Year R can be made online from 1st November 2026 and the deadline is 15th January 2026.

Applications for admission to Year 3 can be made online from 1st September 2026 and the deadline is 15th January 2026.

Applications for admission to Year 7 can be made online from 7th September 2026 and the deadline is 31st October 2026.

Be sure to get your applications in on time to avoid disappointment.



Connect4Communities' is a programme which operates in Hampshire. It aims to support families in need particularly with rising living costs, for example energy, food and water bills.

Please take a look at the website:

<http://connect4communities.org>.

Curriculum



Our curriculum is carefully designed to build knowledge and skills year-on-year, ensuring children develop deep understanding and strong foundations for future learning. You will receive half termly home learning and curriculum overviews to let you know what your child is learning. For more information, please take a look at the website:
Springwood Infant and Junior School Federation – Curriculum



Please help make the journey to school safer and healthier by joining the families who are already walking, wheeling, scooting, cycling, travelling by bus or using the Park and Stride!

Together with our Travel Planning Officer, we have put together a leaflet to share with you and it is attached to this email

PE DAYS



EYFS – Tuesdays

YEAR 1 – Monday & Fridays

YEAR 2 – Wednesday & Thursdays

YEAR 3 – Mondays & Tuesdays

YEAR 4 – Monday & Tuesdays

YEAR 5 – Wednesday & Thursday

YEAR 6 – Wednesday & Friday