



SPRING COMMON ACADEMY PARENTS NEWSLETTER

July 2017

TERM DATES – 2017

Staff Training Day **Monday 4 September**

Autumn Term opens **Tuesday 5 September**

Half Term Day **Mon 23 – 27 October**

School Photographer **Tuesday 31 October**

Autumn Term Closes **Tuesday 19 December**

Sports Day **Thursday 21 September**

Term Dates for 2017/18 academic year is attached to this newsletter.



Head Teacher's Message

We end another successful year at Spring Common. It was so fantastic to see our young people arrive in style to their Post 16 prom and see our children transition to their new classes so quickly. Our Spring Comets (After School Club) staff have provided an amazing activities programme throughout the year. I take this opportunity to thank all staff for going the extra mile on so many occasions to support our pupils by creating so many events and special enrichment activities to build our community.

Our new reception is almost completed and we expect this to be operational for September. You will be able to say hello to Kate, Eija and Jac on our return back. That will mean all pupils who arrive after 9.30 or leave before 3.15 will need to be signed in / out at the new reception.

The two mobiles coming on to the site will start in August to provide an extra classroom for lower school with soft play room and an additional classroom for upper school with a small sensory room. Cambridgeshire County Council is managing this project in discussion with the school. The contractors SDC will be onsite when we return to get the buildings completed as fast as possible.

As a consequence we will manage the interim with Linda's class moving temporarily into the Lower school physio room. Emily's class will stay in upper school and after half term will move to the new classroom in upper school.

Our Trustees are submitting a bid for the new 110 placement special school at Alconbury Weald by 2020 to enable the possibilities of the two special schools to work together in the future for the area. We know there will be competition from other Multi – Academy Trusts outside our area and hope our bid might be successful for the development of Spring Common and the local area. We hope parents and carers will support this project because the benefits would be significant for parents in the future as part of the wider vision for the Trust and provision of SEND.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support; your feedback is always appreciated - so keep doing that.

Enjoy the summer ahead – enjoy!

Kim Taylor

Early**Years**

Early Years have enjoyed another delightful term. We have been learning about People Who Help Us and Vehicles. The boys have thoroughly enjoyed this. We have looked at the tracks various wheels make in sand and paint and different kinds of goo.. We have dressed up as Police Officers, Fire Fighters and Doctors. We have also enjoyed various science experiments during our Attention sessions. This has included making

volcanoes using lemonade and dental tablets and making

rockets using bicycle pumps and water. The boys have been enthralled. The Forest School has really taken off and we had great fun building dens for Save the Children Den Day. The year has flown by and the children have flourished. We hope you enjoyed looking through the Blue Books and Learning Journeys. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching your child. Thank you for all of your support and enjoy the holiday.

**Class 1**

Class 1 have been looking at people who help us in and out of school. We shared a sensory story about a trip to the dentist. Phiwe enjoyed brushing her teeth while looking in the mirror. Dovydas liked finding the wobbly teeth in the crocodile.

As part of the Transport topic we had been practicing using the remote control cars and we have a number of races in the classroom. We also had a lovely walk to the shops and local playground to practice our road safety. We remembered to stop, look and listen when we got to the roads. As it was a really sunny day we brought ice-creams in the shop.





Recently we also had a very fun Den Day, where we built a giant den in the classroom. Shreya and Bradley helped to build and lay blankets on the floor. JJ enjoyed crawling through the tunnel entrance. It was so big we were all able to go inside for picnic snack.



Class 2

We have had a fantastic year in class 2. All of the children have had lots of fun and progressed both academically and socially



Class 3

This half term Class 3 have spent time reflecting on this year's learning journey. Our topic *Rivers and Coasts* was particularly popular, as was our PSHE topic on *Choices and Saying No*. In the latter the class have been learning about the importance of reflecting on the choices they make and have also been learning about the importance of saying 'no' to situations that feel unsafe to them.

We also spent some time in our PSHE lessons preparing for transition to new classes. The children shared their thoughts on their feelings on the new year ahead and were all very honest about the healthy challenges that lie ahead. I know that they are all excited to get started in their new classes

Class 4

Class 4 ended our Mini beast's topic with a visit to Stanwick

Lakes on the 22nd of June. Fortunately it had cooled down after the heat

wave and we had a good day. We spotted some beautiful blue dragon flies and bees, which were flying around us as we explored outside. The class enjoyed playing on all the different playground equipment as well as the sand and water features. They learnt to take turns in a range of situations including on the big slide and the water feature. The children also enjoyed meeting and talking to children from other schools. Here are some pictures of some of the children exploring the environment. We really enjoyed our last trip together as a whole class and look forward to some different trips next year in our new classes.

Class 5

Class 5 had a wonderful visit to Johnsons' Farm in Old Hurst. We were very lucky to arrive on a wonderful summer morning, and had time to see some of the animals before taking it easy in the cafe. We found the different animals interesting, especially the enormously lazy crocodiles, who were enjoying soaking up the sun. We also enjoyed ordering our own food and drink from the cafe. Our behaviour was exemplary,

making us superb ambassadors for the school – well done

everyone. *Pictured is Edward with a feathery discovery.*

Class 6

Class 6 enjoyed a trip to Old Hurst Farm. We worked together to identify and comment on the farm animals, wildlife and natural surroundings. The weather held out for the class to explore the play area and equipment, especially the new grass sledges. We enjoyed a lunch in the cafe where the pupils were exceptionally well behaved.



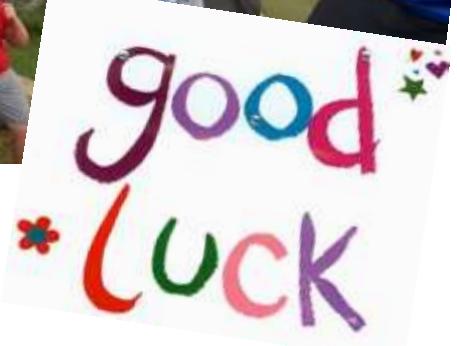


We also took part in Den Day to raise money for Save the Children. The pupils had great fun creating and decorating their own dens.



They helped to run the cake stall as well.

Class 6 staff would like to wish all of their pupils, especially those who are moving to upper school the very best of luck. We have had an amazing year together and we are very proud of everyone's achievements.

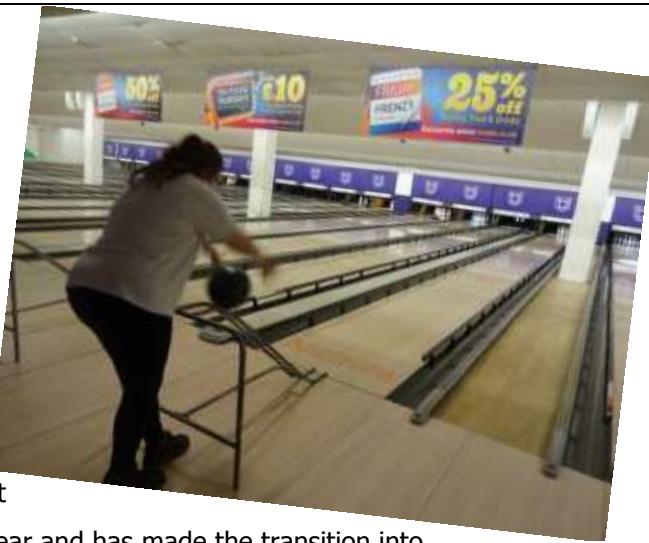


Class 7a &7b

What a great final few weeks we have had in



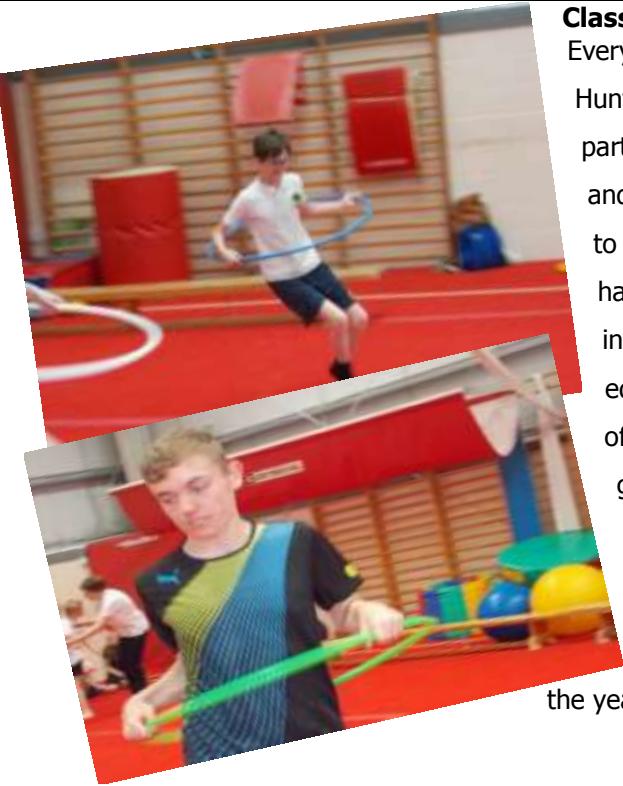
year 7, the highlight being our end of year trip bowling in Cambridge. Everyone has made great progress this year and has made the transition into upper school seamlessly. Both class 7's have worked hard and made many great friendships over the past 12 months.



We wish you all the best for the upcoming year and enjoy your summer break.

Best wishes

Sam and Amanda.



Class 8a

Every Friday of this half term 8A have been visiting Huntingdon Olympic Gym. They have been participating in team games, flexibility, coordination and balance games as well as having the opportunity to use the Olympic standard gym equipment. We have seen some excellent displays of skill and increased levels of confidence when using the equipment which can be daunting for some of us! All of the activities were under the watchful eye and guidance of Paul and his team at the Gym.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our 8A adventure this year and wish all of the students and their families a happy summer and our best wishes for the years to come.



Class 8b

Wow! We've had an amazing term and year. We have just finished creating a class Den to help raise awareness of the children in Tanzania in Africa and their living conditions. Pupils enjoyed working together to develop their teamwork skills and demonstrate some good leadership skills. Pupils learned about cultural differences and discussed how they might feel if they didn't have a shelter and a safe place to live. It is important that all children are provided with a safe place to shelter and the things that they need to help them grow and develop healthy and happy.



Class 9a

This term has seen some fantastic weather to help the plants grow in the allotments, and 9A have helped water, weed, mow, and tend the garden there.





Class 9b

Class 9 have loved our Humanities topic looking at countries around Europe and tasting the food and drink from these countries. This half term we looked at Poland, Italy and Spain. Joanna our new TA is Polish and she was able to tell them about her life in Poland before moving to England and she brought in food and drink that she thought they might like to try. This personal touch made it even more memorable to the students and one or two said they

would now like to visit Poland; they have even asked their parents to buy some of the drinks- Cactus juice was very popular.

In maths we have looked at money and time and during a couple of our lessons we walked to the local shop and the students had to find themselves a snack with a budget of 50p. Quite hard! For our last day together we are having Fish and Chips that the students will go and order themselves from the local fish and chip shop, and then we will eat them together in class.

Class 10a

The class have enjoyed their last term as class 10 and have moved in to the new timetables as we base ourselves in a new classroom and routine. We have continued in PE with Athletics where the class have really improved on their shot putt, javelin and discus technique. We have also been practicing our teamwork, learning about relay racing and communicating effectively.



The class have really worked hard this year and have excelled and engaged in the curriculum, moving in to next year the class will continue to work around topics of growing up and independence in the household.



Class 10b
Class 10SB have had a very busy term. We all enjoyed International Day where we learnt some dances, played instruments and explored facts and foods from different countries of the Commonwealth



We have also been working very hard on our accreditation work which we have now successfully completed for the year.

We really enjoyed Den Day on the 28th June. Our task was to use a range of items to construct a den to demonstrate to the students the importance of shelter. The class worked brilliantly as a team using prior knowledge that they had learnt at Grafham Water earlier in the year
The students are all looking forward to their summer break and moving into Year 11.

Class 11



Class 11 have finished their journey together, the end of an era. Pupils within the class have been together for most of their time in Upper School and now they move on to the next chapter in their learning experience. 3 pupils are moving on to college, whilst the rest of the class are moving to new classes in Post 16. We have been working hard on finishing our accreditations and have been learning about cricket in PE lessons.

We ended the journey on a high, with a picnic at Hinchingbrooke Park allowing us all to reflect upon a wonderful time together followed by leavers assembly where we were able to celebrate the achievements that pupils have made whilst being at Spring Common Academy.

Post 16 EC

P16 has had a fantastic finish to the year with a trip to Woburn Safari Park. The pupils and staff all really enjoyed looking at the animals and walking around the site. The pupils knew lots about the animals and much to our surprise; some monkeys ran up onto the minibus! Overall it was a great day out and a nice way to end the term.



The P16EC shop group was also very busy the last ½ term doing even more fundraising! Alongside our fundraising for Rett UK, we also hosted a cake sale for the British Heart foundation. The sale and raffle proved very successful and we raised £261.41 in a single morning! The students also had the opportunity to pay the money to The British Heart Foundation and represented the school very well.



We had such a positive year overall and are very sad to say goodbye to the leavers in our class.

We wish them the very best in their new challenges and hope everyone has a safe and happy summer break.

P16JL Celebration and Rewards Day Trip to Grafham Water



Grafham Water Outdoor Centre. A lot of the costs were met by the 'tip money' they had earned by working so well as a team on Restaurant Days.

As a final day out together for the functional skills group, and as a reward for their excellent achievements throughout the year, the students chose to celebrate their "final fling" at



The students chose to 2 activities – **Archery**, a skill based activity for developing coordination, concentration and persistence and **The Grafham Challenge** which involved using initiative and communication skills with team building and problem solving challenges, whilst being blindfolded and having tremendous fun!

The day reflected the friendships and camaraderie of the class, and how supportive the group has been to one another, over the past year. Well done to the class-you were a pleasure to take out.



Advisor in the hall for this special assembly to celebrate our 2017 Leavers. This was followed by refreshments in the sunny garden, prepared by the students as part of their catering vocational training.

We said a fond farewell to our leavers from Year 14-Joe Reindorf, Samuel Ferguson, Millie Brading, Thomas Baxter, Luke Hayes, Ricky Kemp, Jill Wilcox and Year 11's Lee Marshall, Brandon Moseley and Luke Orvis.

We will miss all these wonderful young people but we wish all our Leavers a great future as they make the transition to Huntingdon, Cambridge, Peterborough and West Anglia Regional Colleges.

Leavers Assembly – Celebrating Success

Wow! What a lot has been achieved by our learners over the past years! It was lovely to be able to share and reflect on all the successes, achievements, accreditation and highlights with the Post 16 and year 11 Students, Staff, Parents, Volunteers, Partnership representatives, Trustees and our Additional Needs



Level 3 School Games Adapted Multi Sports

On 29th June, 11 pupils from upper school attended the Adapted Multi Sports competition at St Ivo, to make up a large part of the Hunts SSP team, with team mates from

Abbey and Hinchingbrooke schools.

After a wonderful and successful morning of Table Cricket, Boccia, New Age Kurling

and Poly Bat, the New Age Kurling Team made up from only Spring Common pupils managed to successfully beat the rest of the competition to come 1st. The combined scores saw us come second overall from all the teams in the county.

National School Sports Week - 26th – 30th June



National School sports week was another great success. The week involved lots of new opportunities for pupils to participate in new sporting activities that they may not normally do in curriculum PE. We had 2 sponsored events running this week to try and raise money for lower school sensory playground equipment and some indoor fitness equipment. Currently we have raised £308.87 with a special mention to Alfie Spenceley who managed to raise £105 himself by taking part in the bounceathon. If anyone still has sponsorship money that has not been sent in, it is not too late to send it in.



Spring Common Academy

Post 16 Prom 2017

"Awesome", "Better than any other party I've ever been to", "Fantastic", "Fabulous to see everyone dressed up so smart and pretty" – these were just some of the superlatives expressed by our students as they reflected on their 2017 Prom event of last Friday!



The sun shone brightly for the arrival of our glamorous young ladies and stylish young men as they took to the red carpet for the 'Masquerade' theme! The paparazzi of friends, family and staff recorded the event with pride.



The students worked in teams, to plan for this event. They collected the balloons, drinks, champagne glasses, shopped and prepared food, decorated the hall, compiled a play list, & generally 'glammed up' the school beforehand to transform it for this Gala night!

It was great to celebrate with old and new Post 16 students and staff and to give our

Leavers a night to remember. It was a magical (and at times emotional) evening enjoyed by all!



Many thanks to all the staff who gave up their time to support this wonderful event!





AWARD WINNERS

Please see the attached for the list of Spring Common Awards winners



SPRING COMMON SCHOOL COUNCIL

This year's school council have had a special interest in how we look after our school and equipment. They arranged to spend an afternoon washing and cleaning the school's minibuses – inside and out! We were surprised by how hard it is to get a bus really clean, and

only managed the time to work on three of them. The school council would like to express their thanks to Jason and Anthony for providing the cleaning equipment!

Leigh Aitken & Lorna Mansbridge

ALADDIN PERFORMANCE



A number of our students from across the school put on a magical performance of Aladdin on the 5th of July. They worked hard for months and have been dedicated to rehearsing and creating a lovely show. They put in lots of effort and really enjoyed the experience. The main cast and choir put in a lot of work rehearsing, acting, singing and dancing. Some extremely talented pupils helped to make set designs and costumes and props.



A group from the cast went to see Aladdin in the Prince Edward theatre in London and had an amazing time. Some of the favourite moments included the magic carpet that was flying on

drones and 'a whole new world', the cave of wonders, and the genie. Some thoughts from the pupils include 'Genie-ius! I liked it', 'Amazingly magical!', 'A miracle the whole show', 'It was like magic; it was action, adventure, comedy and musical'.



AUTISM PROVISION NEWS

Lego Therapy Trip



LEGOLAND

Once a week a group of students meet during the lunch break to attend Lego Therapy Club. As part of their end of year celebrations a trip to Legoland was arranged.

After a very long drive the group arrived at the park just after 11.30am. There was so much to explore it was hard to know where to start! From Imagination Land, to Duplo Valley and then onto Miniland, before finding a great spot for a picnic lunch outside the Ninjago Live stage, whilst they watched a performance of 'The Portal of Peril.'

After lunch the group headed off towards Ninjago World to ride on Destiny's Bounty and Ninjago - Ninjago is a virtual reality ride which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

From there, further exploration took them to Land of the Vikings and a ride on the Spinning Spider Ride!



After an action packed day with lots to see and do, the students came away feeling tired but very happy with their day's adventure.

Summer Holidays

The summer holidays can be a difficult time for families with autistic children. Whether going away for some of the summer or staying at home, the change in routine can be a challenge. The NAS and Network Autism have helpful guides for dealing with the long summer holiday including an online directory of play schemes, ASC friendly holidays and events such as film screening dates. They have articles on preparing for travelling and transitions with some personal stories of parents coping with school holidays. This can be found at

<http://network.autism.org.uk/knowledge/insight-opinion/summer-holidays-resources-support-families> or <http://www.autism.org.uk/about/family-life/holidays-trips.aspx>



Spring Common says goodbye to...

Teacher – Victoria North

We are sorry to see Victoria leave for pastures new but we would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication during her time with us; and take this opportunity to wish her the best in all her future pursuits.

Teaching Assistant – Kayleigh Shearman

We would like to wish Kayleigh all the best as she leaves Spring Common to start her Teacher Training course. We would like to thank her for all hard work throughout her time with us and wish her all the best for the future

Teaching Assistant – Hannah Martin

We would like to thank Hannah for all her hard work and send her our best wishes for the future



Spring Common says hello to...

New Teacher - Joanne Wainwright

Joanne is joining us from Thongsley Fields Primary & Nursery School. We would like to welcome her to the team and hope she will enjoy her time with us

New Teaching Assistants

Abigail Ross	Sophie Purell	Kirsty Wilson
Tierce Lister	Kay Robinson	Nicola Dennis
Millie Groves	Rebecca Dumont	

We are pleased to welcome our new TA's who will joining us from September. We hope they all enjoy their time working with us as part of the Spring Common team



Schools Mental Health Awareness Workshops

Please see attached for report



F-O-S-C-A



FRIENDS of SPRING COMMON ACADEMY



We are now on Facebook - all parent/carers are welcome to join.
You will find us by entering 'FOSCA' in your FB search bar.
Send a request to join and admin will approve your request.

PARENT/CARER

Coffee Morning



Every Monday
9.30 - 11.00
Upper School Shop
Run by parents, for parents
and carers
Please sign in and out at Reception
in Lower School





Spring Common Awards 2017

Lower School

For Kindness and Consideration	Shane Binu
Progress in Literacy	Antos Czapla
Achievement in Numeracy	Alfie Henry
Sport	Hayden Gibson
Swimming	Shreya Sharman
Music	Laila Yeomans
Communication	Jason Elliott

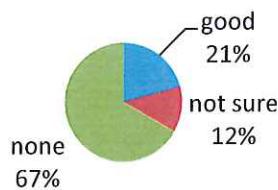
Upper School

For Kindness and Thoughtfulness	Ricky Kemp
Communication and Interaction	Rebecca Rundle
Literacy	Jamie Radford
Achievement in Numeracy	Leny Kelsey
Sport	Robson Mangwiza
Work Experience	Thomas Baxter
Music and Drama	Callum Gibson
Progress in Lifeskills	Lee Marshall
Swimming Progress	Thomas Rigby-Pickering
Experience of Work	Samuel Ferguson
Contribution to Life in School	Jill Wilcox

At the beginning of the Spring Term Centre 33 visited the school to deliver a workshop to our year 10 and 11 students. The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness of good mental health in young people and inform them of how and where they could receive support if they had concerns around their own mental health.

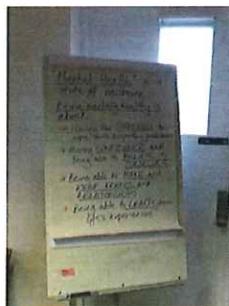
As part of the preparation for the visit we worked with the students and questioned them on mental health awareness. We asked them what good mental health might mean. The chart below shows the students understanding at this point.

Good mental health awareness before workshop and life skills lessons.



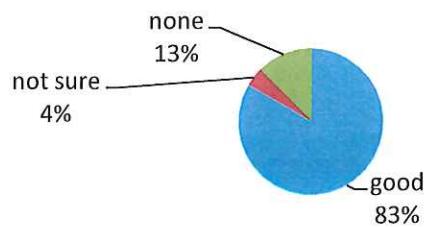
Ciara says 'The workshop helps me understand more about good mental

The workshop consisted of group discussions to develop the students understanding of what good mental health was. The students also completed practical activities to identify the differences between feeling happy and sad. The students developed a good understanding that it is ok to feel sad. In addition they were given information on how they could get support if they felt more than sad.



We continued working with the students to raise awareness of good mental health in their weekly life skills lessons throughout the rest of the year. The table below shows how the students feel now about understanding good mental health.

Good mental health awareness after workshop and life skills lessons.



Robson says 'its good to know how to get help if you need it'.



Spring Common Academy

Term Dates

2017 – 2018

Autumn Term 2017

Staff Training Day	Monday 04 September
Autumn Term opens	Tuesday 05 September
Half Term	23 – 27 October
Autumn Term closes	Tuesday 19 December

Spring Term 2018

Staff Training Day	Wednesday 03 January
Spring Term opens	Thursday 04 January
Staff Training Day	Friday 09 February
Half Term	12 – 16 February
Spring Term closes	Thursday 29 March

Summer Term 2018

Summer Term opens	Monday 16 April
May Day	Monday 07 May
Half Term	28 May – 01 June
Staff Training Day	Monday 04 June
Staff Training Day	Friday 06 July
Summer Term closes	Tuesday 24 July