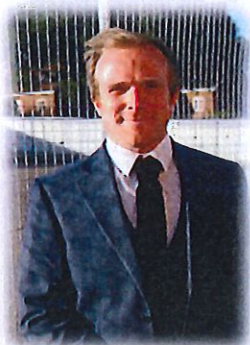




SPRING COMMON ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

19th July 2023

Contact us: office@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk or 01480 377403



From the Headteacher

We have reached the end of the year and we have achieved so much:

- More opportunities for parents/carers to be welcomed into school
- Two successful fetes and a toy sale led by our key stage 4 students
- Earwig evidence has been shared with parents
- We have opened a college class that has allowed more students to experience college life
- Countless creative learning opportunities in the community

As I reflect on the year, I wish to recognise class staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure they promote the best learning environment for our pupils to achieve in.

As we start to focus on next year's aims, we want to continue to use the best approaches in school, and are going to work with wider organisations to focus on projects with our PMLD pupils and exploring pupils' voices in EHCPs.

Next year our staff will be trained in Cambs Steps, Therapeutic Thinking, which will replace our TEAM TEACH approach to supporting behaviour. STEPS is therapeutically centred and focuses on understanding the child's needs. We will also be working closely with our partner school, Riverside Academy, in understanding how we learn and the impact of developing thinking skills in our staff and young people.

Finally, I would like to thank parents and carers of our young people. Without your commitment to learning and investment in supporting school, the successes of our young people would not happen. I continue to have an open approach to community questions and concerns, and aspire to ensure a quality provision is provided for all.

I hope you are all able to have restful Summer break. ☺

Alex



From the Executive Head

We close our school year in a positive way with many achievements and accomplishments for our children and young people.

There has been good preparation for the new school year and transitions have been smooth and appreciated by parents.

The Trust continues to strengthen and recently Trustees met to discuss and agree the forward strategy 2023 - 2026 which will be published soon.

We open a new school building at Wisbech in the countryside location and expand numbers of SEMH pupils attending Riverside Meadows to 60 on each school site.

Our next focus is on Alconbury Weald as we work towards the opening of our new special school, Prestley Wood Academy, which will be a 150 - placement area special school for September 2024. This school is being constructed by Morgan Sindall and we have regular site meetings and planning meetings to get the detail correct for this build. I appreciate some parents have waited a long time but it is actually all happening now!

I want to take this opportunity to thank staff in all our schools with Horizons Education Trust for their support this year. So much has been achieved and it has all been valued.

Kim Taylor OBE
CEO Horizons Education Trust



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From the Assistant Heads

EY & KS1

Thank you everyone for another successful year.

We welcomed two new Teachers, Ellie and Shirelle in September with Danielle joining us in January from KS2 with a new class of 10 children. All the new starters settled in well and have grown in confidence as the year has gone.

Sinead then left at Easter to have her baby boy and Anastasia lead the class for the last term. There have been great sessions for parents to come in and see what their children do, including milking a cow in EY, all the children have enjoyed their learning and trips out and about. So as we now prepare for more new children, the staff are working hard to get everything ready for more exciting, exploratory learning and developing our pupils.

I hope you all have a good Summer break and we will see you all in September.



Mandy

Years 2 to 5

Wow! Where did that year go?!

It's been a smooth and gentle transition into the new classes and the children all seem settled and happy. Hopefully having this class change now will make it less stressful when we all return in September.



Thank you for all your support this year and I wish you and your family a smashing Summer break and look forward to seeing you in the new school year.

Simon

Years 6 to 11

It is always an incredible privilege to see how our young people grow and develop over the school year – sometimes it is small steps, but each moment can be significant and special.



Our older students have been exceptionally good role models this year, and have demonstrated kindness, thoughtfulness and a maturity of outlook which has made them superb role models for their younger peers.

All this has been possible due to the hard work and creativity of the staff who work alongside our pupils day after day, and I know that there is a mixture of sadness and excitement about moving on to next year's challenges. However, these are challenges I know our pupils will rise to and once again show their very best selves.

Finally, I wish all our families a restful break and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for another remarkable year when we return in September.

Take care!

Leigh

Post 16

What a fantastic year it's been! Our provision has focussed on accessing the community as often as possible. This has been achieved through a number of projects such as the St Ives In Bloom and Farm link, alongside a continued strong link with accessing the local college on a weekly basis. Our new classroom, based at the college, has been utilised by a number of classes in P16 who have enjoyed the opportunity to use the canteen to socialise and to meet college students and staff.



I would like to thank all staff for supporting our students and making sure that they have been able to have many learning opportunities throughout the year.

Another stand-out moment has been the success of the 'Crossing Borders Project' with our friends in Belgium. The school has gained a great deal from hosting the students, and vice-versa with our trip over there being a valuable experience for all.

At the end of each academic year, there can be a time for reflection, and it's important to mention that the resilience shown by all students and staff within the school has been amazing.

Enjoy your well-earned Summer holidays everyone!

Tom



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EYS



This term has been amazing and has definitely flown by, as has the year. We have been super busy in Early Years learning all about the animals and seaside. The first half term we had lots of fun looking at different animals and exploring their habitats. We even went to Sacrewell Farm to see some real farm animals! For our last half term we have been looking at the seaside. We have done lots of sensory exploration to look and see what a beach feels like as well as exploring what we can find there. Festival week was also lots of fun, we investigated the polonaise islands and enjoyed some hula dancing, a limbo competition and a pinata!

It has been great fun being your teacher this year and I cannot wait to see how you all do next year!

1EB



In 1EB we have had a fantastic summer term, everyone enjoyed our topics of animals and the seaside. We have enjoyed sensory stories about the rainforest and a special stone in the sea, and had lots of fun engaging in sensory play together. Our favourite was the edible beaches we explored on our last day in class together. All of the lovely learners in 1EB have had an amazing year and I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching every single one of them, they have each come such a long way since September and we can't wait to see where their journey takes them next!



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Lower School Base Room

The Lower School Base had the 'around the world' theme for the Summer Term. They attended a rainforest message story and a Greek sensory story about Odysseus. They also explored elements of the Summer through senses. They had a lovely sensory walk at Dobbies Garden Centre, engaging with their environment.



1SG

Our final term in 1SG has been wonderful! We loved learning about our story The Rainbow Fish and doing lots of creative work around this. It has been lovely to see the children grow academically and be engaged in our story. We loved basing our attention autism lessons around the story, this was definitely a favourite. 1SG loved our trip to the park. Some of our favourites were the slide, swings and the roundabout. We accomplished many new milestones and I am proud of the children for achieving great things.

1DG

We have had a super Summer Term and enjoyed being able to take our learning outside in the sunshine! We have based our learning this term on the Seaside- enjoying activities including role play, stories, messy play and dance.

The children were amazing on our end of year outing to Sacrewell Farm. They enjoyed describing the animals that we could find and of course, climbing and playing in the play areas!





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2DH



The class has worked really hard during this final stage of the year. We have extended our learning about fractions in Maths, working out how simple fractions relate to each other and what fractions mean in real world contexts. In Literacy we have deepened our understanding of descriptive writing, learning to further embellish phrases and sentences with adjectives. In Science we focused on the scientific reasons behind 'day' and 'night'. We studied a model of the Sun and Earth to aid our understanding. To celebrate all our learning and to practise using our money skills in a restaurant, we visited MacDonald's for a special celebratory lunch. All pupils were encouraged to order their own meals using their best communication skills. Well done 2DH!

2CW

2CW have had a very busy half term. We have learnt about how we can help our planet, we have been estimating in Maths, and then we learned a lot about Mexico for our Festival Week! The pupils particularly enjoyed making their own piñatas.

We have had a very full on year as a whole. The pupils have worked brilliantly, and I'm sure everyone will continue to progress in the future!



2RG

This half term, 2RG have explored the theme Global Citizens through the stories Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish and also Earth Day Every Day. For Arts Festival Week we explored the country of Greece; making Greek temple skittles out of cardboard tubes, decorated the Greek flag, tried some Greek treats, staged our own Greek Olympics and dressed up in ancient Greek clothing including wearing the Greek crowns that we made.





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2SB



This year has flown by, it seems like yesterday 2SB began in the blistering 40 degree heatwave. All the students have accomplished a lot this year and have made tremendous progress across the curriculum and beyond.

It has been brilliant teaching you this year 2SB, the team and I are extremely proud of you all.

We will be keeping a close eye on you as you move into upper school.



3DW

Well done all of 3DW on an impressive end to a great year at school. The class have been a consistent credit to themselves and set a fabulous example of how we are stronger together, undertaking lots of activities this term where team work and collaboration were key to their success. It was especially impressive how they worked together to tidy and organise many areas of our school in their final week together!



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3MM

This half term we have been learning about the story of King Midas. We have been completing Attention Autism sessions linked to the story. We have also been working hard on our structured teach activities. We have enjoyed our soft play and sensory room sessions. More recently, we really enjoyed playing in the snow and getting ready for Christmas.



3TS



3TS had an amazing last half term together learning about the weather that we usually have in this country, and extreme weathers around the world. We learnt about volcanoes and earthquakes and how they impact the weather. In this photograph, you can see the amazing Paper Plate kites that we made – awesome fun flying them on a sunny, breezy day. 3TS have been the BEST!

3MuL



3MuL had a wonder ending to our year together. This term we have continued to enjoy learning about Roald Dahl especially looking at some revolting recipes. We ended our final week together with a visit to Sacrewell Farm where we enjoyed seeing the animals, tractor ride, playing and generally spending time together. We will all miss being with each other, but know we can still spend time together at break times and at lunchtime.



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3SW



3SW have had an amazing year together, it has been fantastic teaching all the children this year seeing the huge progressions they have made, but I know they will continue to grow and progress in their new classes too. We have loved exploring Roald Dahl this term through many different stories but I think the favourite was definitely Charlie and the Chocolate Factory when we visited Hotel Chocolat. We have worked on team work through the use of garden team building games; travelling hoops, group jumping and building the biggest highest tower. Enjoy the summer break, have FUN!

Upper Base Room

In the summer term the pupils in the upper school base had the opportunity to take part in the summer fair. They enjoyed the visit to the garden centre and Hinchingbrooke Park. They were also involved in class trips where they had the chance to socialise with their peers. Busy time in class too; they were well engaged in cooking sessions exploring the smells, tasting the ingredients and doing switch work in the life skills suite.





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4VC



This term 4VC have been extremely busy organising the Summer Fayre which took place on the 30th June and was a great success. We also had a whole key stage trip to Woburn Safari Park to celebrate our achievements this year. The end of our year was marked with attending the P16 Prom. I would like to thank all parents for their support this year and wish all my students the very best for their time in Post 16.

4ME

This term 4VC have been extremely busy organising the Summer Fayre which took place on the 30th June and was a great success. We also had a whole key stage trip to Woburn Safari Park to celebrate our achievements this year. The end of our year was marked with attending the P16 Prom. I would like to thank all parents for their support this year and wish all my students the very best for their time in Post 16.



P16CR

P16CR's end of year trip to Burleigh House! We had a fantastic time together and we tried to make the most of it as this was our last opportunity to get together as a class especially because some of my students will leave Spring Common Academy this Summer.

We had a great academic year together and we managed to reach two of our main targets: to be as independent as possible and to access community links. So, we took every single opportunity to go out to different places: town, college, cinema, pumpkin picking, pet shops, opticians etc. and practice life

skills and independence. Well done everyone and good luck with your new adventures!





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P16SB

P16SB has had a great year. We have enjoyed going to college, visiting community centres and several trips including pumpkin picking, Wimpole Farm, The Botanical Gardens and Burghley House. We have all worked very hard with our accreditations in preparation for moving on and becoming more independent. We are now looking forward to the Leavers Assembly and most importantly our Prom.

P16TD



Our class have enjoyed the variety of summer term events, most notably the work experience where our students were placed in a number of businesses. These included Mick George, Huntingdon Library, Diamond Hampers, Raptor foundation, The Grey House Cafe and Paxton Pits. The class also enjoyed our leaver's assembly where we said farewell and good luck to our students leaving. We finished the year off with a fantastic Prom celebrating our last day as a class together.



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Spring Common Stars & Rotary Club Stars



In conjunction with the Rotary Club, we make a special effort to celebrate our pupils who have consistently demonstrated **good citizenship by helping or supporting others, the school, the wider community, or the environment**. The Rotary Club work to see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in themselves. This term's winners were:

Summer 2023

- ☆ **Rebecca R** for brightening everybody's day with her smile!
- ☆ **Fliss D** for having a helpful attitude.
- ☆ **Blessy S** for a growth in maturity over the past few months. She has improved her listening skills and followed through with instructions given to her and also started to use her voice.
- ☆ **Shay B** please for being consistently polite, enthusiastic and showing good manners ; trying his best at everything he is asked to do and as a result being an excellent role model; smiling, brightening the day for all and for having a great sense of humour too! Well done Shay.
- ☆ **Paige M** for showing a caring nature towards other children in the school and having a helpful attitude in school. Paige is always offering to help teachers and peers when in lessons and showing care and concern if a peer is struggling in a lesson. Paige ensures that no one is left out at playtimes and offers to include children who are by themselves.
- ☆ **Xanthe P** for general enthusiasm, effort and good attitudes in school. Xanthe can find school very tiring and overwhelming at times after suffering from multiple seizures continuously throughout the night but Xanthe comes to school with a smile on her face and steps up to the challenge in lessons and has so much love for school.
- ☆ **Jessie S** for being kind, helping others, always being polite, trying her hardest, and her willingness to take on new 'scary' challenges.
- ☆ **Oliver B**, for his general enthusiasm, effort and good attitudes in school.
- ☆ **Teddy R** for being amazing, showing calm and safe behaviour in the classroom, making great transitions, completing his work tasks and communicating his needs.
- ☆ **Wayne L** for fantastic progression, particularly in his communication and interaction. He has been turn taking in exchanges and beginning to verbalise 'more' alongside his signing.

Well done to our stars! We look forwards to seeing who will be our stars next year!



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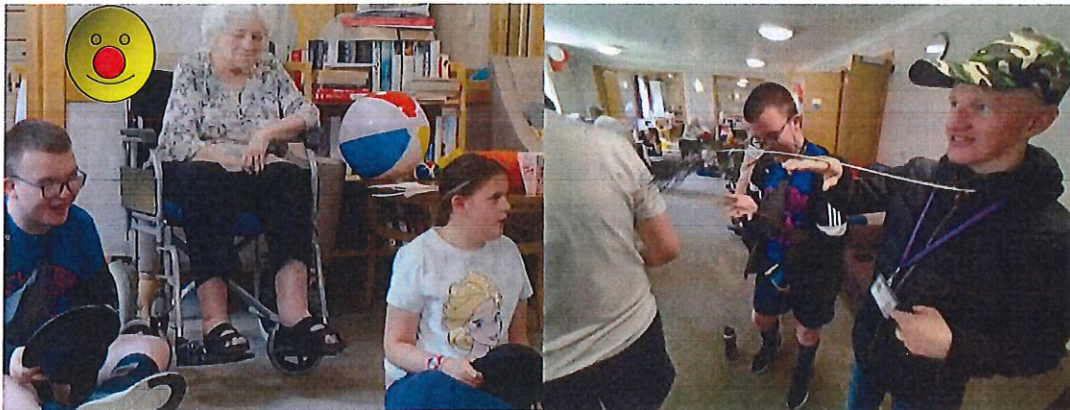
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School Council



I would like to thank the 12 pupils who have represented their peers on the school council this year. They have been consistently enthusiastic and inventive, and committed to ensuring everyone's experience of Spring Common is the best it can be. Their maturity and thoughtfulness have made them excellent ambassadors for the school, and it has been a pleasure and a privilege working with them.

Our last activity was to visit Hunters Down care home for a morning of circus-themed fun and games, and we left behind plenty of smiles!



Leigh Aitken

WOW!

This term we have had lots of opportunities for our older pupils to find out more about the *World Of Work*, with visits from members of the RAF and Cambridgeshire Constabulary! Our pupils were excited to welcome visitors into our school, and interested to learn about what skills different jobs require.



If you, or someone you know, would be interested in coming into Spring Common to talk to our pupils about their job, we would love to hear from you! Please get in touch with Deb or Tom and we will see what can be arranged!

dwurf@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk

tdoughtery@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk

TERM DATES 2023-24



***Autumn Term 2023 (1 September to 20 December)**

Staff training day: Friday 1 September

Staff training day: Monday 4 September

Autumn term opens: Tuesday 5 September

Half term: 23 – 27 October

Staff training day: Monday 30 October

Autumn term closes: Wednesday 20 December

Spring Term 2024 (4 January to 28 March)

Spring term opens: Thursday 4 January

Staff training day: Friday 16 February

Half term: 19 - 23 February

Spring term closes: Thursday 28 March

Good Friday Bank Holiday Friday 29 March

Summer Term 2024 (15 April to 22 July)

Summer term opens: Monday 15 April

May Bank Holiday Monday 6 May

May Half term: 27 May – 31 May

Staff training day: Friday 5 July

Summer term closes: Monday 22 July



*Riverside Meadows Academy - Wisbech Green, will be opening a new building and shall have a planned staggered start to Autumn term 2023.