



# Spring Common Academy February Half Term Newsletter

## A message from Rebecca, Head Teacher

A huge thank you to pupils, students, staff, Governors and families for the wonderfully warm welcome you have all given me in my first half term at Spring Common Academy. It is a privilege to lead the school and I am delighted to be here.

This half term has seen five new pupils settle into classes, and pupils continue to develop and grow through their learning and personal development.

The new Leadership Team have made a very strong start and have rolled out support in terms of Safeguarding and behaviour. Staff have taken an active and thoughtful approach to our Therapeutic Thinking training, which supports pupil well-being.

I have been in touch with the local Councillor and Road Safety staff to request any further improvements we can make to keep our pupils as safe as possible when travelling to school and back.

Personal highlights for me have been getting to know our wonderful pupils and checking in with them or making time to read a story with some of the younger children.

Next half term we have a coffee morning with a focus on Online Safety, which families are warmly welcome to attend. Tom, our Designated Safeguarding Lead, will send out details soon.

We are really looking forward to the feedback that we receive from the parent / carer survey. Please click the link <https://forms.office.com/e/EZLj39wvxi>

I hope that you all enjoy a lovely break and we will look forward to seeing you on the first day of the next half term.

Best wishes,

*Rebecca*

## A message from Leigh, Deputy Head Teacher

2024 has got off to a brilliant start for everyone at Spring Common Academy, with our young people continuing to work hard and show us the very best of what they can do. Our staff team all continue to go above and beyond in supporting our learners and finding new and exciting ways to develop their skills and independence. It continues to be an absolute privilege to work in such a caring and vibrant environment, and I am always bowled over by our pupils' efforts, and how proud they are to share their achievements with me when I see them around the school.

Our upcoming training day, sees us working with colleagues from across the Horizons Trust to develop our understanding of how our pupils learn, self-regulate, and to grow a culture which nurtures independence.

This week we have had our school council represent us at the annual Huntingdon Flip-a-thon to mark the beginning of Lent, and as winter slowly comes to an end and the weather improves, many classes are planning exciting opportunities to take their learning out into the world and act as amazing ambassadors for our school.

Take care - Leigh

## A message from the Assistant Head Teachers

### **A message from Mandy, Head of Early Years & KS1**

I am extremely happy to be leading the team again in Early Years and KS1.

As we move forward into our Spring term, we have exciting topics and new learning and experiences available to all.

We have all been working hard to promote the development and progression of our pupils across all areas, through our topic of "Superheroes".

We welcomed 4 new pupils this term who have all settled very well and this coincided with several new members of staff too.

I wish you all a lovely half term break - *Mandy*

### **A message from Sam, Head of Key Stage 2 & 3**

How time flies! It's been a minute and a lifetime since Christmas!

It's been great getting to know lots of new students, parents / carers and members of staff. You have all been extremely welcoming and kind to me in this new, exciting role.

Despite the unpredictable weather, coughs, colds and changes of faces in some classes, all learners have made good progress this half term. As with tradition, this term always provides to be the trickiest for sickness and absences. Both pupils and staff alike, have displayed fantastic resilience when facing these challenges and changes to routines. It's very much appreciated and doesn't go unnoticed.

As we move into the second half of the spring term, I look forward to seeing lots of outdoor learning, off-site educational experiences and the celebration of autism acceptance week. For national autism acceptance week 2024, the focus will be colour. I'm eager to see what fantastic creations, lessons and celebrations occur.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half term - *Sam*

### **A message from Tom, Designated Safeguarding Lead, Head of KS4 and Post16**

It has been a great start to the new year. Both key stage 4 and Post 16 students continue to engage well with a variety of learning topics and experiences.

Key stage 4 are preparing well for a Toy Sale next half term, to support the local church who open their doors to allow our students to access the cafe and social area on a weekly basis. Judging on their historical enterprise events, I am sure this will be a very successful day.

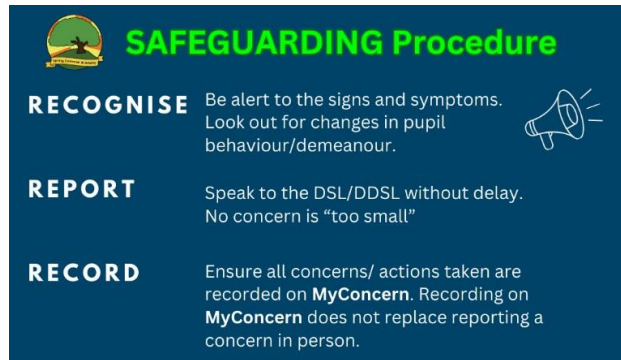
Within Post 16, a group of students have begun a work placement at a local farm in Warboys, where they have planted trees, supported the up keeping of live stock and will continue to explore modern approaches to farming, I continue to be grateful to local businesses such as Mick George and The Fabb Herd Farm for allowing our pupils access to the world of work on such a regular basis.

Next half-term will see a visit from our Belgium school link students, who will be placed across the school in different classes to explore how our staff support and work together with our amazing students.

Have a relaxing and enjoyable half term break - *Tom*

## Safeguarding





This term, our focus has been on implementing additional measures to enhance safeguarding awareness for and around our pupils.

To achieve this goal, we have installed new posters throughout the school, prominently displayed in all classrooms and learning spaces. These posters introduce our updated Safeguarding team to both staff and students. Additionally, we've placed posters within each classroom to ensure that students know "who I can speak to if I am upset or worried about something."

I recently participated in 'Online Safety' training tailored for schools, and found it both insightful and crucial, given its direct relevance to numerous children in schools across the country at present.

We have organised a parent's coffee morning on Thursday 21st March, 09:30-11am, to support with online safety at home. As this is often an important issue raised by parents in schools, I would encourage you to join us for this talk if you can. You may also wish to access the CEOP Education website below which provides support for parents / carers when dealing with online safety and your child. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Safeguarding is a collective responsibility within our school community, and a vital aspect of this responsibility is ensuring that we effectively communicate any safeguarding concerns with parents. This collaborative approach serves as a supportive mechanism, fostering an environment where everyone feels safe. It is imperative that there is ongoing communication and collaboration between the school and parents / carers to uphold this commitment to safety and support.

earwig



Earwig is our electronic assessment system which we use to track pupil progress. Parents and Carers also have access to see what their child has been learning and can also share comments or achievements at home. You can also email your child's class teacher to share home learnings - We would love to celebrate it in school!

## Uniform Swap-Shop



At SCA we are delighted to have collected a range of second-hand uniform in good to excellent condition for re-use through your generous donations.

As part of our Enterprise & Eco School initiatives, and developing PFA skills, 4VC have worked very hard as a team to sort through this uniform and to prepare to redistribute it to our community. 4VC are excited to maintain this ongoing project for the benefit of everyone!

We are offering this uniform free of charge, and ask in the first instance that you email me: [vcrowther@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:vcrowther@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk) if you are interested in any items.

Please don't forget to include the size and quantity required - If we can help we will!

We ask that you please continue to donate pre-loved school uniform with plenty of wear left, to sustain this ongoing initiative for future Spring Common Academy pupils.

Thank-you again for your support in maintaining high standards of uniform for our students.

Veena Crowther - Class Teacher 4VC

## Staff Training Day



School will be closed to all students on Friday 16th February.

On this day staff from Spring Common Academy and Riverside Meadows, our sister school, are working in groups completing training on the Science of Thinking / Moving and Handling / Makaton Level 1 or Safeguarding (learning more about reporting on our My Concern system). Both pupils and staff will really benefit from the training in their work across the school.

## Shout Outs

# Thank You!

If you have a shout out for a staff member who has gone 'the extra mile' for you or your child or you have positive feedback, we would love to share this with the school community. Please send information in to [headteacher@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk)



On behalf of Spring Common Academy, I accepted £70 from Emily Bush, a former student, who has been selling her pencil drawings to raise money for our school. The school council will decide what the money will be spent on when they next meet.

I am sure you will join me by saying thank you to Emily!



A closer look at what the classes have been up to over the Spring term.....



In Early Years we have been looking at numbers through music and movement! We have been singing lots of our favourite songs and focusing on numbers 1 to 5. We have had lots of fun exploring the tuff trays and attempting to mark with in them and copying the numbers. Our topic for this term has been superheroes so we have also been using our super senses to find numbers in different sensory messy play experiences and water - enjoy your half term break - Shirelle



In the lower PMLD class the students enjoyed the sensory Math sessions; they engaged in number, shape and colour songs through exploration. They used their senses and had the opportunity to communicate their choices.

Happy half term - Pepy & Michele





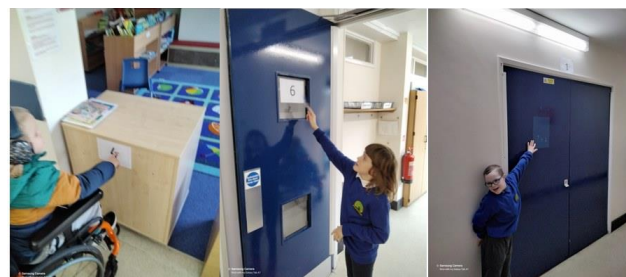
1EB have had a fantastic half term! We have really enjoyed our Superheroes theme and have worked hard in a variety of subject areas using this theme to contextualise our learning. In maths we have been working on number and capacity. We have used small items to fill and empty containers, construction materials to build towers, and numicon to help with our understanding of number. Some of our learners have also been working really hard on ordering numbers and writing numerals.

Have a lovely half term - Ellie



1DG have been working on our knowledge of numbers to 5. We have been using songs to count forwards and backwards within 5, and some of us have been looking at how many different ways we can make the number 5.

Happy half term - Danielle



This term in Maths, 2SG have been working on number awareness and interest. We had lots of fun going on number hunts around the classroom and the school. Pupils were excited to find numbers and then identify them verbally or with symbols! We have also been working on sequencing patterns, recognising 2D and 3D shapes in the environment and addition for some of our pupils!

Have a lovely half term break - Sinead



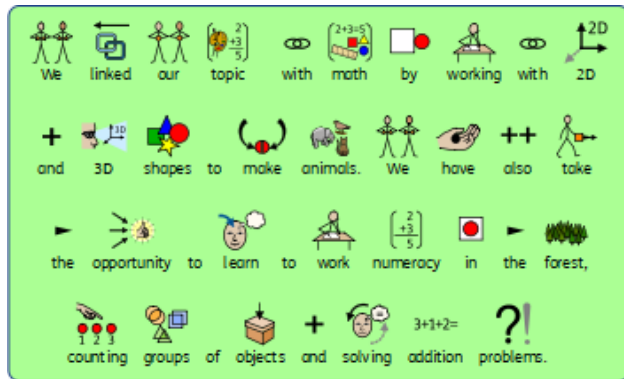
2SW have been exploring colours and patterns linked into our topic theme of Handa's surprise. Here you can see us using Lego to build pattern towers and then a little more messy by using real fruit to make a pattern print with paint.

Have a lovely half term - Sammie 😊



2CW have had a brilliant half term, particularly during our Numeracy lessons. The class have been working really hard to complete column addition and subtraction, using a number line to support.

Have a lovely half term break - Chris



Learning maths in different ways.....



2CR were practicing counting during a Digital Maths session. Everyone was engaged while playing games and learning at the same time.

We wish you all a great half term break - Claudia



2CS made polar bear pictures using circular toilet roll tubes, shapes from the hairdryer blowing the paint, measuring out ingredients to make play dough and making patterns in corn flour with our hands - lots of messy learning.

Have a lovely half term - Amy



This term 2TS have been measuring items using non-standard units of measurement. Our favourite thing to measure objects with was cubes. It's been a very productive term for 2TS, everyone has settled into their routines and made great progress.



3MM has really enjoyed working on a new target of beginning to relate subtraction with taking away and counting how many are left. The pupils have engaged well in turn-taking on Maths Whizz, Maths TEACCH sessions and have completed subtraction worksheets with some adult support. We have loved learning



new things on our new topic 'Carnival' exploring 'Nini at Carnival' sensory story. We have also made good progress with our phonics and have started working on recognising alliteration and rhyme.

Have a nice half term - Mihaela



3MuL - For the first part of this wet Spring Term we have been learning about Roald Dahl. We have also been taking opportunities to work on our functional maths skills. This has included the use of money and making bird boxes as part of the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. When making the bird boxes the students had to measure and cut the correct lengths of wood before drill and screwing the cut pieces together. Once completed some boxes were painted in order to fit in with the environment. 6 bird boxes were made in total, and these will be put up around the school so that hopefully everybody can enjoy them.

Enjoy your half term break - Munfred



3DH have been learning to pay for items with money and to give change. This is in preparation for our class running the school shop on Wednesdays after half term.

Have a great week off - Dave



In the upper PMLD class the students enjoyed the sensory Math sessions. They engaged in number, shape and colour songs through exploration. They used their senses and had the opportunity to communicate their choices.

We hope you have a lovely half term break - Pepy & Michele



3SBx visit the school shop every Thursday morning. The students have been developing their money skills. Some of the students have developed a greater understanding of an exchange whilst others are continuing to develop their skills in working out if they require change.

Have a lovely break - Sarah



3DW have been learning about patterns and how it is something that is in a repeating order. We then had a turn at making our own repeating patterns, using coloured cubes.



In Maths 4KH have been learning about ordering our routines. We have been looking at what order we do things in the morning when we get to school.



This half term 4VC have been busy continuing with their accreditation work. Here in the photo is Maths in action! Measuring in LifeSkills for baking and timing has also been useful!





This half term we have been working towards an ASDAN Lifeskills Challenge activities focusing on 2D shapes. We have been identifying, matching, sorting and making shapes as well as feeding them to the Shape Monster! We have also been sorting shapes and objects into big and small as well as recognising and matching photos of our peers.



P16TD pupils were sorting and counting out items in preparation for an Easter Enterprise project next half term to raise money for the Post 16 Common room re-vamp.



P16LC have been learning about the different units of measure used for time in Maths. We have learnt how long a range of different activities might take, to understand how long a second, minute, hour and

day is. Here Niall is answering a question about whether the statement that there are 30 minutes in an hour, is true or false.

## Term Dates 2023-24

**TERM DATES 2024-25**  


\*Autumn Term 2024 (3 September to 20 December)

Staff training day: Tuesday 3 September Staff  
training day: Wednesday 4 September  
Autumn term opens: Thursday 5 September  
Half term: 28 October - 1 November  
Staff training day: Monday 4 November  
Autumn term closes: Friday 20 December

Spring Term 2025 (6 January to 4 April)

Spring term opens: Monday 6 January  
Half term: 17 - 21 February  
Staff training day: Monday 24 February Spring  
term closes: Friday 4 April

Summer Term 2025 (22 April to 23 July)

Summer term opens: Tuesday 22 April  
Early May Bank Holiday: 5th May  
May Half term: 26 May - 30 May  
Staff training day: Friday 11 July  
Summer term closes: Wednesday 23 July

Ood4e

Riverside Meadows  
Academy



\*Prestley Wood Academy will be opening a new building and shall have a planned, staggered start to Autumn term 2024.