



# Spring Common Academy Half Term Newsletter

## [A message from Rebecca, Head Teacher](#)

It has been a fantastic Spring term in school with lots of events and activities across the school. Highlights for me have been getting to know pupils, parents and carers and staff better and seeing the school at work. What a fantastic school!





### **Red Nose Day**

Red Nose Day brought a huge amount of fun with it. Pupils enjoyed wearing non-uniform or something red and guessing the names of the soft toys and numbers of sweets in a jar. There was also soak the adult in the stocks and some very accurately thrown sponges! Thank you to everyone who supported this and raised £265.25 for the charity.

### **Rainbow Infinity Symbol Instillation**

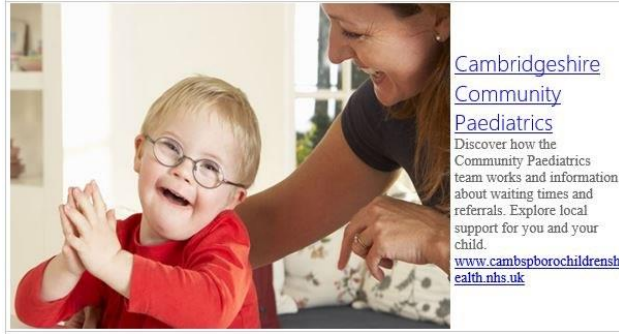


### **Autism Awareness Day**

This year we marked Autism Awareness Day by a whole school art project, making precious colourful pots which were placed together outside in the shape of the infinity symbol. The Autism infinity symbol is often displayed in rainbow colours to show that we are all different, symbolising and celebrating the broad and varied spectrum of experience.

### **New Road Safety Signs**

We are continuously reviewing our processes, practice and environment to keep pupils as safe as possible and as part of this work, we have some new road safety signs in the car park and facing the road. They were given to the school by Road Safety Advisor Rosemary Mullen following her visit in February. They send a positive message to road users reminding them to slow their speed and allow pupils to cross the road safely.



### **Cambridgeshire Community Paediatrics Information**

We are extremely fortunate to host half termly clinics by Dr Gillian Mitchell, Consultant Community Paediatrician.

Parents and carers can request their child is seen or reviewed by Gillian and school staff can also nominate pupils where appropriate.

You may find the links below helpful in giving you information about the service in general. If you would like your child seen by Gillian, please get in touch with the school office to request this.

<https://www.cambspborochilrenshealth.nhs.uk/>

<https://www.cambspborochilrenshealth.nhs.uk/services/cambridgeshire-community-paediatrics/>

[www.cambspborochilrenshealth.nhs.uk](http://www.cambspborochilrenshealth.nhs.uk)

### **School website**

We have been working with Amy Spittle from the Trust to make some improvements to the website in terms of a simple update and bringing information together. These changes will start to be made in the coming weeks.

### **New Parent Governor**

Following the recruitment process, we are delighted to announce that we have a new Parent Governor, Nicky Gooden. We will ensure she receives a warm welcome and she will undoubtedly prove an asset to the governing body.

### **Parent / Carer Evening**

This was once again a great success with many parents and carers coming into school in person and others engaging in meetings over Teams or phone calls. Thanks to everyone for supporting with this.

### **Parent / Carer Survey**

We had 76 responses to our parent/carers survey in February.

- 92% reported their child is safe.
- 91% noted they were happy at school .
- 76% rated communication from school as 'just right'.

- 74% of those who had raised a concern strongly agreed/agreed it had been fully dealt with.
- 95% of respondents said they accessed Earwig.
- 80% said they felt well-informed about their child's learning.

Suggestions for what Spring Common Academy could do better included;

- More parental involvement.
- Better communication.
- More speech and language.
- More staff.
- Workshops for parents and carers.

Examples parents / carers gave of staff going 'above and beyond' -

- "My child struggles with his eating and is supported by encouragement and awards to help him achieve his eating goals".
- "My child is very impulsive, and they go above and beyond to make sure he remains safe".
- "Lovely school, happy children, great teaching team".

A big thank you to all who responded, your feedback helps us in our continued development and improvement.

### **Easter Eggs Donation**

We have been very fortunate to receive a large donation of Easter eggs for pupils and students from Stephen and Michele at the Lord Protector. They kindly donated enough for all the students, including options for different dietary requirements and some tubes of bubbles for students for whom chocolate is not suitable. A huge thank you to Stephen and Michelle for being so thoughtful.

We also received a last minute large Easter Egg donation from Kevin Edwards at Charpak Ltd. The team there were asked where they would like to donate the eggs to and fortunately for us, they chose Spring Common Academy! We were very grateful to receive these and these were distributed throughout the school. Thank you so much Kevin, we are very grateful!

I wish you all a restful Easter break - Rebecca







## A message from Leigh, Deputy Head Teacher

Despite it being the shortest term it has been wonderful to see how much learning classes have packed in to it! Even the very wet weather hasn't put many groups off from heading out into the community to take their learning beyond the school gates, and also remind the wider world that Spring Common Academy pupils are amazing!

Some classes have also hosted trainee teachers in March, who have been uniformly complimentary about the warm welcome they have received from staff and pupils, and how impressed they have been by the positive attitude of all our pupils.

Being able to share what we do with families continues to be very important to us, so thank you to everyone who has been able to attend our in-school events this term, especially our joyful Communication open afternoon; also thank you to those of you who have been following your child's progress on Earwig. We are genuinely grateful for any ideas about how we can make this experience better for families.

Many classes have marked World Down Syndrome Day by nurturing sunflowers in class, recognising that just like sunflowers, every child grows and blooms uniquely - a beautiful metaphor for the diversity and individuality that makes each child special. Find out more at

<https://downsyndromeuk.my.site.com/community/s/the-sunflower-challenge>

Finally, with spring looking like it has really arrived, I can't wait to see our pupils taking even more of their leaning outside this summer.

Take care! Leigh



### **Pupil Survey Spring 2024**

Our pupils were supported to give their views of school.

74% of our pupils strongly agreed that they like being at school.(90% agreed or strongly agreed)“School makes me feel smart.”

82% of our pupils strongly agreed that they have friends at school.(95% agreed or strongly agreed)“At school I like having friends.”

88% of our pupils strongly agreed that the adults at school look after me.(95% agreed or strongly agreed)“You are nice to people.”

83% of our pupils strongly agreed that they know how to ask for help at school.(97% agreed or strongly agreed)“You help me do my work.”

82% of our pupils strongly agreed that they feel safe at school.(92% agreed or strongly agreed)“School makes people feel safe and we follow rules.”

Suggestions for making school even better included having more things to do outside, having access to more technology, and more trips out of school... although one pupil said “you do not need to make it better.”







Some photos of our awesome School Council at the Huntingdon Flipathon at the beginning of Lent. Such incredible ambassadors for our school!

[A message from the Assistant Head Teachers](#)

**A message from Mandy, Assistant Head Early Years & KS1**

As we come to the end of another busy half term with Red Nose Day, Communication week with parents/carers invited in to celebrate with their children, we finished with Autism week.

Parents evening as always was well supported and gave an opportunity for you to speak with your teacher about your child and their progress. They are always available for a discussion via the phone or on Teams.

We are looking forward to what hopefully will be a dry and sunny Summer term with more experiences and learning for our pupils.

Thank you all for your continued support and I hope you all have a lovely Easter break - *Mandy*

### **A message from Sam, Assistant Head KS2 & KS3**

Another term has flown by! Just over 4 weeks has passed in the blink of an eye. It's remarkable the progress made in this short time period.

As I walk through key stages 2 and 3, I can see how settled, engaged and focused our learners are. This is testament to all the hard work and commitment our staff provide on a daily basis.

I must thank everyone for supporting an array of events and celebrations this term, Autism acceptance week, Belgian student exchange project, communication day, Red Nose Day, the list goes on. We appreciate the challenges these celebrations can present, however, note the rewards and enrichment they provide. Each event has proved to be highly meaningful and purposeful.

In my previous newsletter contribution, I stated I was looking forward to seeing lots of outdoor learning occur in the spring term, and this has been evidenced. Long may it continue into the warmth of summer.

Finally, I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable break - Sam

### **A message from Tom, Safeguarding Lead and Assistant Head KS4 & Post 16**

We held a coffee morning this term at Spring Common Academy, followed by a talk on online safety.

As we are all keenly aware, Online Safety is imperative for our children and ourselves, and we are working with our students in line with the national curriculum to support them in developing the safest approach to online content.

Key talking points included:

- The most popular Apps, their purpose and their Age Ratings
- Privacy Settings
- Parental Controls
- Encouraging communication and monitoring

The underbelly of the internet, however, is the risk students may expose themselves to when navigating online platforms. This could be witnessing inappropriate videos, chatting with strangers, consuming excessive amounts of content or being exposed to radical ideologies and communities online.

A man in a light blue button-down shirt and dark trousers stands at the front of a meeting room, gesturing with his hands as he presents. To his left, a large screen displays a presentation slide with the heading "s of today" and a green circular logo. Three people are seated at a long wooden table in the foreground, facing the presenter. The room has a whiteboard behind the presenter and a window on the right side.





So much has been achieved by all students and staff in such a short Spring Term!

Notably, there has been another successful Crossing Borders Project with the visit by our friends from St Josef Seminaire school in Belgium. We are very much looking forward to visiting Belgium shortly after the Easter holidays with a group of P16 students.

I want to thank both Post 16 and Key Stage 4 classes for two very successful enterprise events this term, the Spring Fair and The Toy Fayre which brought an opportunity for our whole school community to come together for worthwhile causes. A substantial amount of money was raised in both events, and this is a testament to the staff involved in organising and supporting pupils in these fundraisers, thank you to all staff involved.

Looking ahead to next term there is work experience to look forward to, as well as our Leavers assembly and Prom for Post16.

Have a lovely Easter Break - Tom













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



### Early Years

We have had a lovely half term looking at the different types of transport in the world around us and doing lots of exciting literacy activities about this. We also had lots of fun on World Book Day looking at our favourite books and sharing books from the library. This term my class have been really engaged in Attention Autism as you can see in this photo.

Happy Easter to you all! *Shirelle*



## 1EB

This half term we have been enjoying all things weather themed. We have found lots of different ways to link this to Literacy: we have enjoyed sensory experiences linked to weather sounds as part of environmental phonics; we have drawn pictures of weather symbols and labelled them; we have read books about the weather; and shared poems about the weather.

We have all worked hard to develop our mark-making skills using pens, brushes, sticks, and all sorts of sensory media. We have also been working on our fine motor skills, such as using different clothes fastenings.

We have been working on phonics at different levels; either by building awareness of environmental sounds or by reading graphemes and linking them to phonemes.

We have worked on reading comprehension and reading for pleasure too. And of course, we really enjoyed World Book Day when the Gruffalo and a team of Wally's came to visit our classroom.

Happy Easter to you all - *Ellie*



This half term in lower school our story topic has been 'ten little pirates'. The story is based on a rhyming text and the sensory resources have been multi sensory including touch, smell and sound.



Enough variety so that each child could connect to elements of the story. Around the story the children have completed some creative tasks in art and used the pirate theme in sensory trays and on the resonance board. We also used this Pirate theme for World Book day and each child and staff member dressed up as a pirate. At the beginning of next term we are going to finish this topic off with a ride on a boat down the river towards Godmanchester.

Have a lovely Easter - *Pepy & Michele*

## A message from Amanda, Swimming Teacher

Everyone has worked really hard this term in swimming. Lots of certificates have been given out throughout the term for achieving a step and also for many students have achieved their distance badges and certificates.

I would like to give a special mention to some students who have worked on their own personal goals, including fears and anxiety around the swimming pool building and water, and have managed to come over and join in the swimming sessions now on a regular basis.

I would like to thank the staff who have been working with me in supporting and encouraging those students, it's been great to see them come over and enjoy the pool!

A special shout out to Joseph & Dogan (EYS), Manaf & Darcie (1DG), Teddy & Wayne (2CR), Mason & Bryon (2CW) Isabel & Lonnie-Lou (3SBx) and Alex (4KH)

Have a good Easter break - Amanda









## A message from Orsi, Moving & Handling Advisor

THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to staff, parents and carers who are involved with student's physio programs including using standing and walking frames.

Lots of pupils have shown improvements since January and this is due to all the effort being put in working on students physio programs. The students are brilliant for putting in so much effort and should be very proud of themselves.

Have a lovely half term to you all - *Orsi*

## Toy Sale



We are delighted to announce the total raised by the Toy Sale is £605.60!!!! This includes the raffle sale of 2 large Easter hampers donated and kindly run by Liz Donovan, which itself raised over £200. Also, homemade sweet treats made and donated by Dawn Fitzgerald. A huge thank you to Liz who went above and beyond to sell raffle tickets! Thank you also to Carrie Gould who helped sign parents in and out at the door all day! Thank you

The raffle was drawn by Emma in the office winners are: one of the taxi drivers and Brooklyn D - Well done to both of those!

We have decided that the amount will be split in the following way so that the Methodist Church and our school will benefit:

- £200 Huntingdon Methodist Church who support Spring Common visits every week.
- £200 to be split equally between the two autism classes 3MM and 2CR and both the upper and lower school PMLD bases.
- £150 to 4VC to redesign and plant KS2 raised beds in the KS2 playground - project details to be confirmed.
- £55 to the lifeskills suite to buy a set of plates and baking equipment.

4VC and Spring Common Academy are very grateful for your kind support at our fundraising events.. Thank you so very much.

We wish you a Happy Easter everyone - *Veena*

## World Book Day

On Thursday 7th March Spring Common Academy too part in World Book Day, Lots of pupils and staff dressed up and there was a competition to design a book mark. Several children created book marks but there were 4 overall winners. The children and staff all looked fantastic!









## Lower PMLD

This half term in lower school PMLD our story topic has been 'Ten Little Pirates'. The story is based on a rhyming text and the sensory resources have been multi sensory including touch, smell and sound. Enough variety so that each child could connect to elements of the story. Around the story the children have completed some creative tasks in art and used the pirate theme in sensory trays and on the resonance board. We also used this Pirate theme for World Book day and each child and staff member dressed up as a pirate.

At the beginning of next term we are going to finish this topic off when we a ride on a boat down the river towards Godmanchester!

We wish you all a lovely Easter break - *Pepy & Michele*



## 1DG

This term we have been enjoying the stories of Elmer; with particular focus on 'Elmer and the Weather'. We have enjoyed sharing the sensory story alongside the symbols and Makaton signs. Some of us labeled and wrote sentences to describe images from the story. We loved having adults from home in to share this story with us too!

In phonics we have been practicing blending and segmenting, and enjoying rhythm and rhymes.

Happy Easter from class 1DG!



## 2SG

We have had a busy and productive half term. In Literacy we have been focusing on our mark making and handwriting skills, which may look different from pupil to pupil. We have worked on developing confidence with pen control, tracing and copying patterns/words, mark making with our fingers and writing letters and words using the correct letter formation!

We wish you all a lovely Easter break! *Sinead*

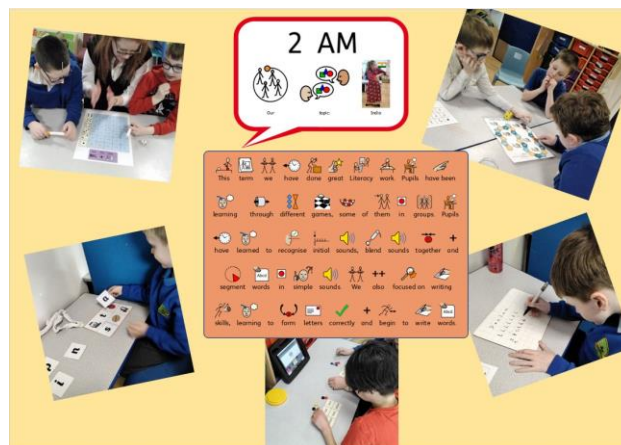


## 2SW

We have made some great progress with our communication through the use of different and varied lessons. We use Singing Hands videos to practice our signs supported by adults hand over hand if necessary. We have also been using our PECs books to make our wants and needs known to our adults developing our communicating for intent.

Our picture is from the communication day activity too...making Easter cheesecakes exchanging PECs for ingredients and using our communication boards.

Enjoy the Easter break - *Sammie*



## 2AM

This term we have done great literacy work. Pupils have been learning through different games, some of them in groups.

Pupils have learnt to recognise initial sounds, blend sounds together and segment words in simple sounds.



We also focused on writing skills to form letters correctly and begin to write words.

We hope you have a great Easter break - *Agus*



## 2TS

Literacy sensory story:- visiting the doctors. The students listened to the story and enjoyed exploring the Doctors medical equipment. They could identify what the equipment was used for. Lotty and Mylie found the tightening of the sleeve extremely funny on the blood pressure monitor.

Happy Easter to you all - *Ali*



## 2CW

We have completed some excellent tasks around the works of Rudyard Kipling. We have been using a thesaurus to find adjectives to describe characters from the Jungle Book, and we have compared different 'Just So' Stories.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break - *Chris*





## 2CS

This term we have explored our sensory stories using our senses. We have also looked at different sounds in our environment and have all enjoyed getting involved.

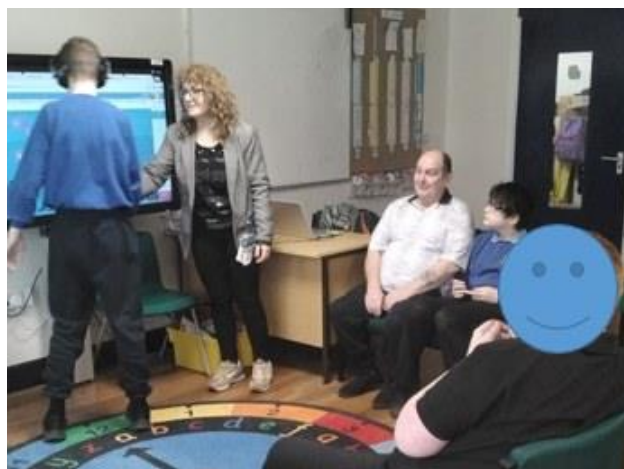
Happy Easter break - Amy



## 2CR

We were having great fun with sticky hoops while learning about weather and seasons: BYE-BYE WINTER, HELLO SPRING!

We all wish you a lovely Easter holiday - *Claudia*



## 3MM

This term we have been working on rhyming words and developing alliteration skills; being able to recognise words that start with the same initial sound in our Literacy sessions. We have started

developing an understanding of these concepts through our Literacy structured TEACCH daily sessions, our turn-taking phonics group activities on the smart board as well as completing worksheets with 1:1 adult with the purpose of mastering these skills.

Happy Easter holiday! - *Mihaela*



### **3DW**

In Literacy this term, we have been focusing on building sentences using coloured semantics. We have listened to stories read to us and watched stories linked to our topics. Pupils have worked hard to build sentences about a part of the story or character. We have also cross curriculum linked lessons to follow sequence steps of recipes and instructions of how to make different snacks. Pupils are familiar with sequential language and can use it to help them understand and follow instructions.

Class 3DW staff would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support and wish you all a safe, happy and healthy Easter - *Deb & Team*



### **3MuL**

This term our topic has been Roald Dahl. As a class we have been engaging with a variety of texts from this famous author. This has allowed pupils to do a performance based on the books which have

included Revolting Rhymes and Revolting Recipes. Pupils have also created their own stop motion animation where they had to write a storyboard based on the character Matilda. This then lead to the creation of backgrounds and Playdoh characters. To finish off our wonderful work on Roald Dahl, we finished with a Roald Dahl themed escape room for Communication day, where parents, carers and pupils enjoyed taking part in 4 Roald Dahl tasks in order for them to escape the room and to go home at the end.

We wish you all a lovely Easter break - *Munfred*



**3DH**

This half term we have continued to study the work of Roald Dahl. We studied the 'Magic Finger' story analysing the main character of 'the Girl' and her magic powers. We then considered the setting of the story carefully before creating our own characters and settings to write our own versions of the story!

Happy Easter - *Dave*





### **3SBx**

This half term we have been enjoying the drama activities in literacy. The students have been following instructions to enable them to follow dance and exercise routines. The students all engaged in the activities and really enjoy the dancing.

I hope you have a lovely Easter break - *Sarah*



### **4VC**

We have had a busy half term including an ongoing project at the Norris Museum to help design a 'Friendship Board' for visitors and flower beds. Other activities included story writing and completing shape, space and measure assessments for our Entry Level work. We finished the term with a toy sale and an end of term roast dinner meal for our class. We cooked this ourselves again using the basic kitchen skills we have practiced during the year so far.

Happy Easter from 4VC! - *Veena*



### Upper PMLD

In Upper school PMLD we continued our British Isles topic moving on from London to Loch Ness. Our sensory story was about Nessie the Loch Ness Monster. The students also cooked Scottish macaroons and Welsh cakes. They listened to Irish and Scottish traditional music and participated into music and movement sessions. It was great to see parents coming to join us in dancing too. Additionally, in sensory art they created a variety of crafts related to the topic such as flags, national flowers, Nessie and The Angel of the North using different tools and techniques.

Finally, they had a lovely multisensory experience going to Peterborough by train which everyone enjoyed. Looking forward to the summer term Wild Weather Adventure.

Happy Easter, everyone! *Pepy & Michele*



### 4KH

This term we have been working on retelling familiar stories, we have been reading the story of The Gingerbread Man. The pupils are now able to order key scenes and remember phrases to retell the story to the class. Amazing work 4KH!

Happy Easter to you all - *Kristie*



### **P16LC**

We have been learning about writing for different purposes. Recently all students have worked on writing lists. We have written shopping lists, holiday packing lists and lists of gardening items used in the polytunnel. Here are Niall and Brendon are writing a list of items in the polytunnel. Some of the students have also been forming sentences about items on their lists, remembering to use the correct punctuation including commas.

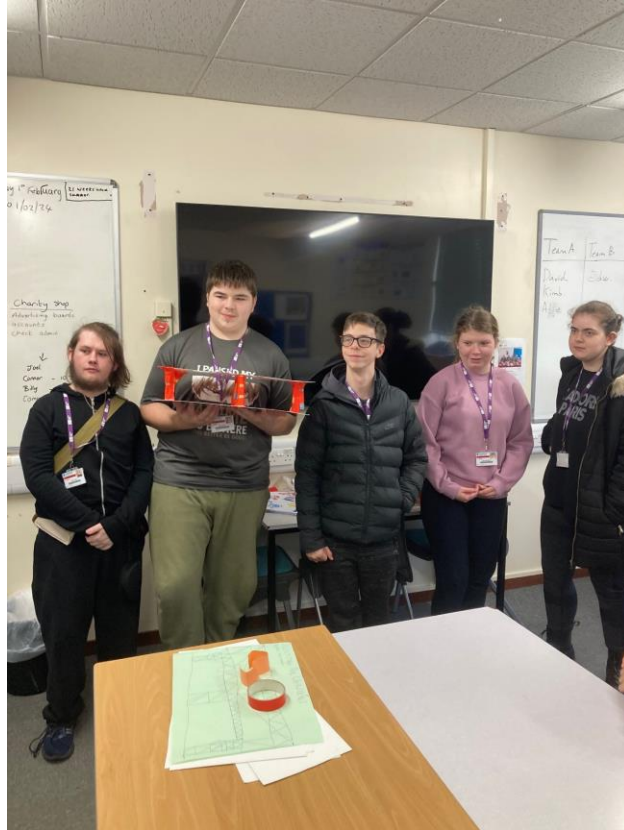
Have a happy Easter! *Linda*



### **P16RG**

This half term, in Literacy, we have been focusing on making choices as well as communicating likes and dislikes. We have explored this through food tastings, visits to the school shop, choosing colours for art work, choosing activities to help us self-regulate, discussing activities we like to do and also discussing places we like to go.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break - *Rae*



## P16TD

The class have continued to enjoy the opportunities presented this term such as the ongoing bi-weekly work placements at Mick George and The Fabb Herd Farm. The experience is invaluable for our young adults and will hopefully provide a stepping stone for future career prospects. The class have ran a Spring Fair this term and were very successful at raising over £800 which is something they should be very proud of achieving.

In literacy our class have been focusing on writing CV's which will link nicely to next term's work experiences. The class recently read and followed a criteria as a team for creating their own bridge structure, this took place at the weekly college link visits which have been a success so far this year.

We hope you have an enjoyable Easter break - Tom



## Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter April 2024

# Education Inclusion Family Advisor April 2024

## Newsletter

### A Message From Me

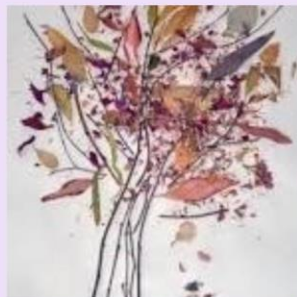
I hope all of you have a lovely Easter Break, I look forward to working with you again next term.

If you would like to contact me for support, please complete this quick referral form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/h963ySwVc7>

### Activity Idea

Now that Spring is here and the weather is getting warmer, it may be nice if you go outside and create some pictures using what is around you. Whether you are on a beach or in the middle of a wood, you can create some stunning pictures, as a family using the materials that you find.



### Parenting Top Tip

#### How can I help my child manage angry feelings positively?

- Talk to your child about what they are finding difficult.
- If they do not want to talk see if you can find other ways to communicate.
- Help them identify triggers.
- Support them to find more positive ways of managing their anger.
- Create a plan of action together.
- Keep to the rules.
- Model the behaviour you want to see
- Reassure your child and stay positive.

### Check it out!

**NEW** workshops in April and May 2024

#### Core Offer Workshops

<https://forms.office.com/e/Dw4JzZ5232>

#### Transition Workshops

<https://forms.office.com/e/ce65VGXsQt>

**Does** your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability? Pinpoint ([www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk](http://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk)) have lots of information, advice and tips. For Cambridgeshire's Local Offer go to [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer)



Cambridgeshire  
County Council



charlotte.dean



Contact me directly on  
@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Term Dates 2023-24

## **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.



Enjoy your break.....

On behalf of myself and the team here at Spring Common Academy, we wish you a lovely Easter break,  
and we will see you on Monday 15th April

*Rebecca*