



Spring Common Academy End of Year Newsletter 2024

[A message from Rebecca, Headteacher](#)

Dear Parents and Carers

As the year draws to a close, it is time to reflect on our achievements across the school, lessons learned and plans for next year. I would like to start with a big thank you for welcoming me into the school community in January and for the strong support you show both for your children and with school events. It has been wonderful to continue the Spring Common tradition of regular half termly open afternoons and additional events where you can join your child in learning activities together. These are aimed at enriching our curriculum and opening the school to parents and carers. Recent events included sessions based around Communication and International Communication Day, the summer fair and Arts Week. They gave pupils opportunities to plan events, link with a school in Spain and welcome their families into school. Arts Week focused on the theme 'time' with classes accessing a wide range of arts and media, culminating in the production and release of a new school song, written and performed by pupils. This proved very popular with pupils, staff and families and achieved in excess of 13,000 views on social media within the first few days. It shows the lovely sense of pride that pupils have in themselves and the school.

Summer term also saw our Ofsted inspection which was warmly welcomed by the school community. Pupils and students were very positive about the school and their learning experiences. Highlights from the report include that "Warmth and kindness shine through as pupils and adults enjoy being in each other's company. Smiles are aplenty in classrooms, playgrounds and corridors...Pupils are safe in school."

Ofsted noted that the curriculum is "carefully designed to meet pupils' needs" and the "important skills pupils need to possess have been precisely outlined." Ofsted agreed with the school's proactive identification of two areas for improvement, which are the Early Years and consistency of teaching and learning. These are on the School Development Plan going forward and we have plans in place to develop them.

The last part of the summer term was marked with our regular parents evening and end of year reports. Parental feedback was that there were inconsistencies in quality and some technical difficulties with reports. Your feedback is helpful in planning improvements to the process and is appreciated. July also saw three landmark Spring Common events in the shape of the leaver's assembly, the Prom and transition weeks. Leavers assembly was very moving with Tom giving a personal speech about each student, key points in their time at the school and their many strengths and talents. Several students chose to also write a speech noting things they have enjoyed and friends they have made. The Prom was a wonderful celebration of our students and the journey they have taken at the school. It was a tremendous privilege to be part of the event which saw students arriving in a fantastic and wide-ranging array of vehicles including a McLaren, a Porsche, a stretch 'limo' and a lorry. Our leavers are moving onto different destinations, many are going to take up places at their local college and we have one student going on to learn about mechanics. I wish all of our leavers every success in their next steps. Pupils and staff have been working in their new classes as part of the two-week transition period. This enables pupils to start to settle with arrangements prior to the end of term and establish routines ready for a smooth September start. It is aimed at reducing anxiety and supporting behaviour and is helpful for new children visiting. It is a long-established tradition at Spring Common and part of what makes us unique.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank staff that are leaving for all their hard work and for being a positive part of Spring Common's journey. As you will know, we have staff moving on to Prestley Wood Academy and some onto other schools either due to promotion or relocation. We have two pupils moving to Prestley Wood, which will result in a shorter travel time for them. I am sure you will join me in wishing everyone well with their new paths. Spring Common in turn will look forward to warmly welcoming our new pupils and staff into our community.

For me professionally it has been an exceptionally positive six months since I joined the school to take up my first headship. I have learned a tremendous amount and had opportunities to work closely with other schools in the Trust and beyond for the benefit of Spring Common. I have been warmly welcomed into the academy and as Ofsted's opening statement notes, it is clear "Pupils are the beating heart of the school." My plans are to keep this at the centre of what we do and build on our many strengths to drive further forward with improvements to the Early Years and in teaching and learning, so that pupils are best placed to achieve. I wish you and your family a safe and happy summer and very much look forward to welcoming you back in September to start the new year together. Best wishes,

Rebecca

Leavers' speeches.....

Kitchen Worker
Task 6

Alisha

I have enjoyed my time at Spring Common.

I've made lots of friends especially Kiera, Kimberley and Kai. I'm going to miss them.

I'm going to be going to Wisbech College where I will be making new friends. I think I'm going to be doing a life skills course.

I'm feeling a bit sad about leaving school but I'm going to be doing something new.

Maybe one day I'll come back to see you all.

Alisha aged 19.....nearly 20!!!

Kiera

I have enjoyed my time at Spring Common.

I've made lots of friends. I've enjoyed being in Linda's and Carol's class this year.

I am going to miss the seeing the teachers and people in my class.

I am looking forward to going to college and making new friends.

I feel happy and ready to leave Spring Common and I am ready to start my course of Independent living at CRC.

I hope to come back and visit sometime.

From Kiera aged 19!!

Kimberley

I have really enjoyed my time at spring Common.

I've made lots of friends especially Kiera and Alisha, Kai and Amy.

I've enjoyed P16 especially going to Belgium with Tom, Niki, Sarah and Spencer.

I'm going to miss some of the teachers especially Sam because he needs to know that I am a better dancer than him!!

I'm feeling sad about leaving school but I Am looking forward to starting college in September.

I'd like to come back and visit someday.

Kimberley aged 19

A message from Leigh, Deputy Headteacher

It is always with a slight sense of shock that we realise another school year has come to an end! The progress so many of our pupils has made has been quite incredible, not least in how they have shown how they have matured in facing many different challenges. Our older students continue to be fantastic role models, and I have seen many examples where they have helped younger students settle during the transition weeks – this thoughtfulness and kindness is greatly appreciated.

With many pupils and colleagues moving on to new challenges, there is a mixture of sadness and excitement about what next year will bring – however, it is also an exciting opportunity to find new and better ways of working to provide the very best opportunities for our young people.

Finally, I wish all our families a peaceful break and look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for another terrific year when we return in the autumn.

Take care! **Leigh**

A message from Tom, Assistant Headteacher and Safeguarding Lead

As we conclude this term, we reflect on the remarkable achievements and experiences of our post-16 and key stage 4 students. This term has been packed with academic excellence, personal growth, and community involvement.

Our students have demonstrated exceptional dedication and hard work, resulting in outstanding achievements across various subjects.

Participation in extracurricular activities remains strong. The annual Key stage 4 Christmas and Summer Fairs were a renowned success, along with the successful Macmillan coffee Morning and Easter Fair for Post-16.

Our Post-16 students have been actively involved in a number of community link projects. Our ties with local and regional businesses continues to develop well and I hope that our current connections with The Fabb Herd Farm, Mick George and Huntingdon Tennis Club will continue next year and beyond.

It was an exciting final week for our Post-16 leavers this year as we celebrated with leaver's assembly and Prom which brought together a truly memorable celebration with laughter and reflection.

As I say farewell to my eleven years here at Spring Common, I have been very lucky to be able to work alongside amazing staff and students. Spring Common will always have a place in my heart and I will cherish the memories dearly.

Have a restful Summer holiday - **Tom**

A message from Sam, Assistant Headteacher

As we reach the end of another successful school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress our students have made across all areas. It has been wonderful to see their growth, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning.

I am pleased to report that the transition into our new classes for the 2024-25 academic year has gone smoothly. Our dedicated staff have worked diligently to ensure that each student feels welcomed and supported as they embark on this new chapter.

Going forward, I will be overseeing the lower school for the 2024-25 academic year. I look forward to working closely with our new students, parents, and carers, and continuing to create a positive and nurturing environment that fosters learning and growth for all.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Wishing you all a wonderful summer break!

Warm regards, **Sam**

Dreamdrops donation.....



We were very fortunate to receive a donation of sensory equipment and toys from Dreamdrops Charity.

Dreamdrops was set up with the aim of raising money to buy all those little (and large) extras that are not covered by NHS public funds but which make a hospital stay more comfortable - or less stressful - for children and their families.

The charity's work doesn't just stop at the hospital door, as funds are also used to help sick children who are being cared for at home.

Dreamdrops aims to make life a little easier, when it can be at its most stressful.

From high-tech 3-D machines to take children's minds off their treatment, to portable monitors that can make the difference between a child being allowed to go home with mum and dad, or spend another night on a ward.

More information for this amazing charity can be found on their website

<https://dreamdropschildrenscharity.org/>

I am sure you will join me in thanking Dreamdrops for their lovely donation to Spring Common Academy.

Getting closer to nature.....

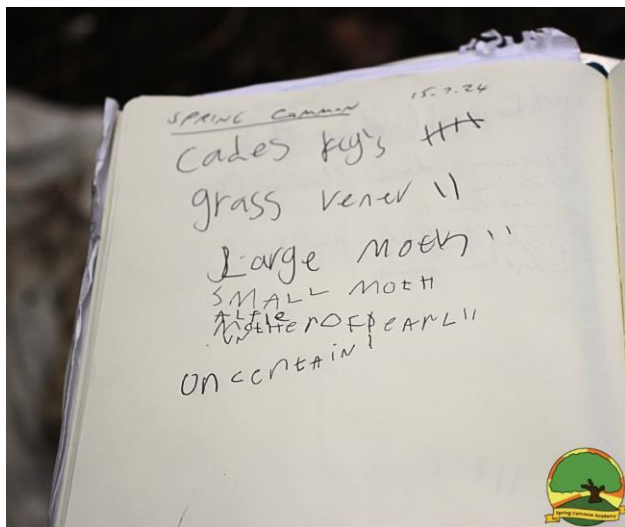
Forest School Moth Trap

3CW made a brilliant start on Forest School during our transition time and used a moth trap in the woodland. As part of being an Eco-School, we wanted to find out which kinds of moths live in the wood. Spencer (Forest School Lead) joined class staff, Rebecca and wildlife enthusiast Ben to see what was inside the trap that was placed overnight. Students were excited to see that there were quite a number of moths. Some used magnifying glasses to observe them and others viewed them in small containers. Aston and Paige wrote down the names of the types of moths and kept a tally of how many were found. Students asked lots of questions such as 'what do moths eat?' (leaves), 'how do they grow?' (from eggs) and 'is this moth pregnant?' (we couldn't tell!) All the moths were carefully released back into the woods to go about their daily business of feeding and pollinating plants. Fantastic work 3CW!!











Precious pots for Autism awareness.....



‘Precious pots’

Rainbow Infinity Symbol Instillation



It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the wonderful pottery our pupils' have worked hard at creating and bring them together to make the autism symbol. We created a large rainbow infinity sign out of pots placed in colours on the KS3 playground. Celebrating each one of our pupils as unique individuals within our Spring Common community.

The effort and thought that has gone in to creating the piece of art is just outstanding and is made up of creations made by each and every one of the students at Spring Common Academy - what a wonderful way to share Autism Awareness!

Sponsored walk.....





Zoe Flack and her Son Taye, presented Rebecca, Headteacher, with an amazing donation of £480 for Early Years and KS1 sensory equipment and play cars. Taye, along with his Mum, siblings and friends completed the sponsored walk to raise funds for his new school. Rebecca was absolutely delighted to receive the donation of a whopping £480 that Taye had raised by walking 8 miles.

I am sure you will join me by thanking Taye and his family and friends for this amazing donation!

Uniform.....





We have plenty of new, nearly new and used school uniform for both lower and upper school students in various sizes for both boy and girls. This is not only good for the environment to recycle and reuse but will also save you money. You will see Taye, our youngest model, showing off his free brand new uniform from our uniform eco shop!

We are encouraging our pupils to wear uniform for many reasons including promoting a sense of pride in our school community. Also it may be easier in the morning for getting dressed, promoting some independence where possible for getting ready for the school day as a child won't need to spend time choosing etc.

Please request your uniform needs through the office office@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk or your child's class teacher. 4VC will aim to fulfil your requests! We look forward to your orders.

We also sell iron-on school badges at £1.44 each available from the school office. Just let us know how many you would like, we will then raise an invoice on ParentMail to pay. Once paid, these will then be sent home with your child. This gives parents and carers the option to buy affordable uniform from shops such as supermarkets that don't sell school emblem embroidered uniform. Aimee, pictured, and her Mum Helen were our school badge chief testers. Mum Helen said they were "great and so easy to iron-on. They have also passed the wash and dry test".

We also have a uniform supplier, Price&Buckland. They can supply all uniform including coats, bags, PE kits and accessories. Details can be found on their website <https://price-buckland.co.uk/> Just enter Spring Common Academy on the home page.

Thank you for your support with this initiative.

Kind Regards,

Veena Crowther - Class Teacher

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



Lower Base Room

Our topic this term was jungle animals, sea animals and seaside. We have been out and about in the community as often as we can. We had a visit from therapy ponies at the summer fair and visited we visited Johnson's Farm which was a great sensory experience.

We wish you all a lovely summer - *Michele, Carla, Amy, Cathie, Michele, Emma & Emily*



Early Years

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. 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. We even had our adults in to join us for our Early Years cruise, playing games like pass the shark and even limbo, it was lots of fun!

It has been great fun being your teacher this year and seeing you all progress, I am so very proud of you all! **Shirelle, Chloe, Kim, Tamara & Mia**



1EB

What a year it has been in 1EB! We are so proud of all of the hard work our lovely learners have put into every aspect of their learning and development at school this year. Many of our class have successfully toilet trained or begun the journey towards toilet training; we have seen communication skills grow and embed themselves in each child; and we have seen some beautiful friendships blossom within our little class community. Within the nurturing environment of the classroom each individual has had the opportunity to thrive and flourish, they have all come such a long way and it has been a joy to be a small part of their learning journey!

Thank you for being fantastic EBgeebees!! - **Ellie, Tierce, Lucy & Grace**



1DG

We have really enjoyed the Summer term in 1DG. With our learning based on The Rainbow Fish, we have thought about what makes a good friend. We worked together to create our giant Rainbow Fish in art, took turns in Attention Bucket sessions and shared a space and equipment in the classroom and during PE. The highlight of the Summer term was our class trip to Adventureland. Here we enjoyed riding on

the train, taking turns on the sky net, playing together on the diggers and getting messy in the sand and water! What a super end to a terrific year! Well done 1DG!

Danielle, Leanne, Christina & Madonna



2SG

Wow what a busy final half term we have had in 2SG. Our focus in personal development was learning about and experience road safety. We learnt about all of the key words and rules, we acted out role play scenarios in school then went on a few trips to the local park to put what we had learnt into practice. It has been a pleasure to teach all of these children, we hope you all have a lovely summer.

Sinead, Nikki, Jordi, Donna & Jessica



2SW

We have been working on our life skills this year and to end our wonderful year together, we made some clock biscuits linked into our festival theme of time. We have loved using the kitchen and all the equipment that we have used to cook or prep our different food items. This year we have made; pizza croissants, Yorkshire puddings, fairy cakes, toast, fig rolls, cookies, chocolate brownies, cheese scones and so much more!

Have a lovely summer break - ***Sammie, Becky, Adeline & Kanza***



2AM

This term our focus has been on Ancient Egypt, specifically on the gods and pharaohs. We have also developed our personal and social skills through various activities and games. Additionally, we have celebrated Art festival Week, engaging in a range of creative tasks such as dancing, singing and constructing / designing art pieces. Another notable event was 'My money Week' where we learned to manage role playing and participating in activities such as visiting the summer fair.

Have a great Summer - *Agustin, Mili, Charlotte & Cherry-Jane*



2TS

What a fantastic half term we have had in 2TS this last half term of the academic year.

These photographs show us having a fabulous time in the community at Johnson's Zoo. We had a great time exploring and walking around the zoo and exploring the sounds, sights and smells of the animals. We worked hard on our personal development skills during this trip; sticking together as a class group and making transitions positively together. We enjoyed the new experiences of exploring the different animals, and their environments. We all showed our enjoyment through engaging and looking at the animals and smiling, laughing and pointing at them in their homes.

Have an amazing Summer Holiday, hopefully with some sunshine!

I'm looking forward to a full, fun filled time with lots of different sensory learning opportunities next year.

Tabitha, Amy, Nicole, Hilda & Anastasia



2CW

Class 2CW have had a lovely term continuing our topic all about Ancient Egypt, particularly learning about different pharaohs! We've completed some excellent work, but our favourite sessions have been making crafts for Festival week, and going out on a walk to the shops for My Money Week!

Have a great summer - **Chris, Andy, Emily, Conor, Abby & Carrie**



This half term in 2IJ, we have worked on our personal development in lots of ways. We have enjoyed our weekly visits to the School Shop and we are getting really good at using the visual choosing menus to help us say what we would like. We have also been working hard on using other communication aids in class, such as communication books and mats, and lots of us are now experts at using our visuals to share our thinking! Otherwise, we have loved all the events going on in school recently, like the Summer Fair and Arts Festival Week.

Have a great Summer! ***Isobelle, Ali, Chloe, Kay & Bakhtawar***



2CR

2CR have had great fun this half term. We have been playing and sharing alongside each other while having lots of fun with coloured spaghetti. We enjoyed a class day out at Dino Land and all students had great fun. They especially enjoyed the castle trampoline net and feeding the ducks.

I wish you all a fun Summer - ***Claudia, Kelly, Sophie, Conor and Dasanthi***



Upper School Base Room

The Upper School Base continued to explore weather in the second half of summer term. They enjoyed the sensory story of Noah's Ark and did beautiful artwork in creativity. For the end of the year trip, we went to Houghton Mill. We enjoyed sensory walks through the fields and watched the boats sailing down the river. We also had a taste of ice cream to celebrate Freya's birthday. It was a wonderful day out enjoyed by all!

We wish you all a lovely summer break - ***Pepy, Michele, Cat, Andrea, Margaret, Trish & Sonia***



3MM

This year all pupils have progressed with their personal development becoming more independent in school and being able to make independent choices for their health and being able to choose appropriate self-regulating activities to alleviate their sensory needs. Pupils have also really enjoyed the Art festival week activities being able to create 'seasons' themed art projects together with their family members and adults.

I wish you all a relaxing summer - **Mihaela, Janice, Dave & Holly**



3DW

Throughout the second half of the summer term, Class 3DW enjoyed exploring different science experiments like making their own rainbows and making large soap bubbles to observe and discover how air is trapped inside the soap to form the bubble.

In the last art lesson for the term, pupils were encouraged to use different art mediums and draw something to express themselves. The featured picture by Rose was completed independently, with each coloured large dot being drawn independently.

Pupils have been working hard to develop awareness of themselves and others and the different relationships they have with people in their lives. They have completed work about emotions, learning to self-regulate better and begin to develop a positive and healthy mindset.

The Class 3DW team wish all our families a happy and safe summer break - **Deb, Tina, Niki, Gemma & Daniela**



3MuL

3MuL have had a wonderful end to the year!

We have finished planting our allotment area with potatoes, beans and sunflowers. Unfortunately, our chilli's were a little slow at growing and are currently still growing inside.

We went to Herrings Green Farm for our end of year trip. We got to handle different birds of prey such as owls, condors and hawks. We were able to have a go at flying some of the birds to each other. It was a wonderful experience and although some of the class were a little scared at the start, they all interacted with the birds in their own way.

Thank you 3Mul for a great year! Have a great summer! **Munfred & Michelle**



3DH

This term 3DH have been thinking carefully about personal development. For our final school trip of the year we went to 'Clip n' Climb' in Cambridge, where we were able to experience dry wall climbing. We had to put harnesses on and had some great fun and exercise on the climbing wall. It was fantastic to see how resilient the pupils have become this year!

Have the best summer - **Dave, Jan, Rachel & Tom**



3SBx

3SBx have had a very positive last term together. We have particularly enjoyed being part of the Spring Common Academy song and sharing this with the parents during Arts Week. We have also had fun following instructions to learn dances in our drama sessions. By the end of the year we were all able to follow the routines independently.

We would all like to wish you the best of times in your new classes - ***Sarah, Chelsie, Niki, Beatriz and Gemma***

4VC CLASS OF 2024



4VC

We have had a wonderful end to our year together with various activities such as running the summer fair, completing the Norris Museum project & competition, our roast dinner lunch, a Woburn Safari visit and finally a lovely trip to the park on our last day. The class worked hard all year and we are very pleased with their achievements. We wish the three girls all the best for Post 16. I look forward to another year together with the remaining pupils into year 11 to support their journey to post 16.

Have a restful, peaceful and warm summer break - ***Veena, Dawn & Cheryl***



4KH

In 4KH we have always had a huge focus on independent skills and doing things for ourselves. Throughout the day, everyday, we focus on life skills, communicating our needs and participating in class jobs as independently as possible. The pupils in 4KH really enjoy the responsibility they get from this and sense of achievement when they have achieved something by themselves.

We wish you all the best summer - ***Kristie, Rachael, Sherifa & Chris***



P16RG

We have spent this term finishing off our ASDAN Lifeskills Challenge work as well as preparing for the Leavers' Assembly and the Prom. We all had a wonderful time at the Prom and were really thankful that the sun came out. We enjoyed getting dressed up, watching our peers arrive in fancy vehicles, eating delicious pizza and cake, watching Elizabeth & Jameson playing a gig for us and also dancing to pop music.

Have a great summer! **Rae, Sharon & Chelsey**



P16TD

We have focussed on travel training and work experience this half term in P16TD.

A number of students have been involved in placements at The Fabb Herd Farm, Mick George, Onsite caretaking and Diamond Hampers Charity shop in Huntingdon. All students have gained a great deal from the experience as the majority of them come to the end of their educational journey in School.

The class were able to celebrate through our leaver's assembly and Prom in the same week, the weather was kind to us and all enjoyed the occasion.

We wish you every success as you now move onto the next stages of your lives - **Tom & Caroline**



P16LC

The class have enjoyed their visits to the Huntingdon Methodist Church Community Cafe on Wednesday mornings, where they have interacted with volunteers, other visitors and students from CRC and other community groups. Two students have stood out with their willingness to develop their Employability skills. Kai has helped volunteers to carry all sorts of donations to be tidied away ready for collection and Alisha has excelled herself and has progressed from being very unsure of herself when taking food and drink orders from peers and staff to independently supporting her peers to do this important job.

P16LC have matured significantly over the year and 6 of the students are leaving to start their new journeys at College in September. Carol, myself and the whole Post 16 team would like to wish them all the very best for the future.

Linda & Carol

Celebrating our young people.....



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 2024

- **Alisha D - P16LC** for always going out of her way to be helpful around the class and offers to help less able peers. Alisha has become so confident at taking food and drink orders at the Community Cafe that she now supports her peers when it is their turn.
- **Alfie R - P16TD** for having a consistent helpful attitude in school, but also showing maturity and independence when undertaking a recent work placement on a local farm.
- **Naeem Z - 4KH** for consistently choosing to interact a peer when he approaches him, showing kindness and patience. Naeem will take the other boy's hand gently, gives great eye contact and mimics his sounds. Naeem is now approached on a daily basis as someone to interact with because of his kindness!
- **Laiza S - 4VC** for showing a caring nature towards other children in the school.
- **Kaya K - 3MuL** for always being kind to her peers and staff.
- **Guste B - 3DH** for always being willing to help out in all areas of the school day.
- **Toby W - 2CR** for general enthusiasm, effort and good attitudes in school, having made amazing progress managing his anxiety and being able to better self-regulate when challenged. Toby is now able to transition and access community without becoming as overwhelmed and anxious about it as he used to. Toby has had a fantastic year and he has put **A LOT** of effort into it! All the team are very proud of him!
- **Jack M - 2SW** for general enthusiasm, effort and good attitudes in school. Jack has made significant progress in attending each lesson and his engagement has been fantastic. He brings a smile to everyone's faces and brightens up the day.
- **Floyd W - 1EB** for consistently keeping the classroom tidy, showing kindness and consideration towards peers, and bringing a positive and calm atmosphere to the whole school.
- **Arthur W - Early Years** for always brightening up everyone's day with his lovely smile and giggle, and showing great enthusiasm in all in that he is required to do.

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

School Council.....



The School Council haven't been as active this term as normal, but I would like to thank Bobby, Isabel, Ethan, Freddie, Freya, Laiza, Colby, Kimberley and Joshua for their excellent contributions and enthusiasm over this year!

In the Autumn the School Council will be leading on the theme of 'Choose Respect', which is the Anti-Bullying Alliance's theme for anti-Bullying Week 2024 - <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/> *"imagine a world where respect and kindness thrives — it's not just a dream, it's in the choices we make. What will you choose?"*

Leigh Aitken

From myself and all the staff at Spring Common Academy, we wish you a lovely summer break and we will see you all when we return to school on Thursday 5th September! Rebecca