



Spring Common Academy End of Term Newsletter October 2024

[A message from Rebecca, Headteacher....](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic start to the new school year with both returning and new families and staff. The work that families and staff put in during the transition weeks at the end of the Summer term really supported to lessen anxiety and has meant that classes got off to a good start. It was wonderful to see so many families in school for our recent Sport's Day, with lots of fun to be had together.

Parent's Evening

Parents evening will take place on Wednesday 13th November and will take place face to face, via Teams or over the telephone. The class Teacher will send you more details in the new term.

Parent & Carer Benefits Workshop

On November 20th 2024 10:00 - 11:30am, we will be hosting a Parent and Carer workshop covering Benefit Support and what is available to you and your young person. Anjela Jones from the Welfare Benefits Team at Cambridgeshire County Council, will be the guest speaker discussing what is available to you and how you access this.

Workshop open to all families covering:

- How disability living allowance and personal independence payments work.
- Carers allowance.
- How claiming disability and carers benefits can affect other benefits for the family.

If you are interested in attending, please email the office, office@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk to let them know in advance of the day by 19/11/24, so that we can ensure we have allocated the correct size meeting space. All are welcome and parking will be available on site.

A message from Leigh, Deputy Headteacher....

Another sensational year is underway at Spring Common Academy and as ever, our pupils are all doing us proud!

It has been wonderful to see our new colleagues settle in quickly to the life of the school, and be ready to ensure our young people continue to receive an excellent, engaging and exciting education.

The weather hasn't been terrifically kind, however as the season turns, I know colleagues are planning to continue making the most of opportunities to take learning beyond the classroom walls. Our pupils have settled down and are showing everyday how calm and ready to learn they are. As ever, it is fantastic to see how our more established pupils have been magnificently supportive of new students, as well as demonstrating their increasing maturity as astounding role-models for others in the school. Spring Common Academy feels such a safe place, with everyone welcomed and everyone ready to learn.

It was really terrific to see so many family members joining us for our sports afternoon in September; unbelievably, the Christmas season will be upon us, and we are now looking forward to welcoming you to see our festive performances!

Take care! *Leigh*

A message from Shari, Assistant Headteacher & Safeguarding Lead.....

Safeguarding Information for Parents and Carers

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping our children safer, we want to share some important information regarding safeguarding practices within our school community. Your partnership is vital in ensuring that our students feel secure and supported both at school and at home.

Understanding Safeguarding

Safeguarding is about protecting children from abuse and neglect, ensuring their health, wellbeing, and development. This encompasses a wide range of issues, including physical and emotional safety, online protection, and supporting children navigate difficult situations.

Our Safeguarding Policies

Our school has robust safeguarding policies in place, these can be found on the school website: [Spring Common Academy - Policies](#)

- **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs):** We have trained staff members who are responsible for safeguarding concerns. They are available to listen and provide support to students and parents. You can log a concern using the school website by clicking [here](#). Alternatively, call the call office and request to speak to a member of the Designated Safeguarding team.

- **Regular Training:** All staff receive ongoing training to recognise and respond to safeguarding issues. This ensures that they are well-equipped to support our students.

Designated Safeguarding Team Members.....



SHARI WELSFORD
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER &
DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD



LEIGH AITKEN
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER & DEPUTY
DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD



SAM BUCK
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER &
DEPUTY DESIGNATED
SAFEGUARDING LEAD



REBECCA GREIG
HEADTEACHER & DEPUTY
DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD

How Parents Can Help

- **Communication:** All concerns start with a conversation. Maintain open lines of communication with your child and child's teacher. Encourage them to talk about their feelings and experiences, both in and out of school. Use the home school communication books to share key information to support staff in interpreting and communicating with our young people.

- **Online Safety:** Discuss the importance of online safety, including the risks of sharing personal information and interacting with strangers online. Set clear rules regarding screen time and social media usage.
- **Know the Signs:** Familiarise yourself with the signs of abuse and neglect. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, please reach out to our safeguarding team.

Signs of Physical Abuse

“... a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.”
Keeping Children Safe in Education

- Bruises on soft tissue, the face, neck or torso
- Unexplained, untreated and recurring injuries
- Broken bones/fractures in multiple stages of healing
- Other injuries, e.g. welts, burns, bites, effects from suffocation or poisoning
- Defensive injuries
- Unlikely or limited explanations about injuries
- Flinching
- Watchfulness or over-compliance
- Reluctance to go home
- Pupil hiding injuries
- Aggression or acting out the abuse
- Caregivers minimising injuries

Signs of Emotional Abuse

“... the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development.”
Keeping Children Safe in Education

- Pupil told they're worthless, unloved or inadequate
- Seeing/hearing mistreatment of others
- Age or developmentally inappropriate expectations of the child
- Silenced or made fun of
- Serious bullying causing frequent fear
- Low self-confidence or self-deprecation
- Mental health difficulties
- Excessive reactions to mistakes
- Abrupt onset of speech disorders
- Bedwetting or soiling
- Repetitive actions, e.g. rocking, thumb sucking
- Stopped from socialising
- Inability to play
- Substance abuse

Resources and Support

We recommend the following resources for further information:

[Support & advice for parents | NSPCC](#)

[Safeguarding children and child protection | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

[Cambridgeshire Online | 0-25 Disability Social Care](#)

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safer.

Have a lovely half term break - *Shari*

A message from Sam, Assistant Headteacher....

We are delighted to share that all of our Lower School classes have settled in beautifully, and the new school year is off to a great start! Both students and staff are embracing the routines and making excellent progress. It's wonderful to see everyone growing more comfortable and confident in their learning environments.

Our Key Stage 1 class has especially enjoyed making great use of the new outdoor equipment, which has added an exciting dimension to their play and learning. The children are exploring new ways to be active, build social skills, and enhance their problem-solving abilities while outdoors. The fresh air and space have proven to be a wonderful extension of our classroom learning.

We also want to extend a special welcome to our new students and staff. They have integrated seamlessly into our school community, and we are thrilled to see them flourish alongside their peers.

Thank you for your continued support as we progress through the term. We look forward to sharing more updates with you as the children continue their journey through the year!

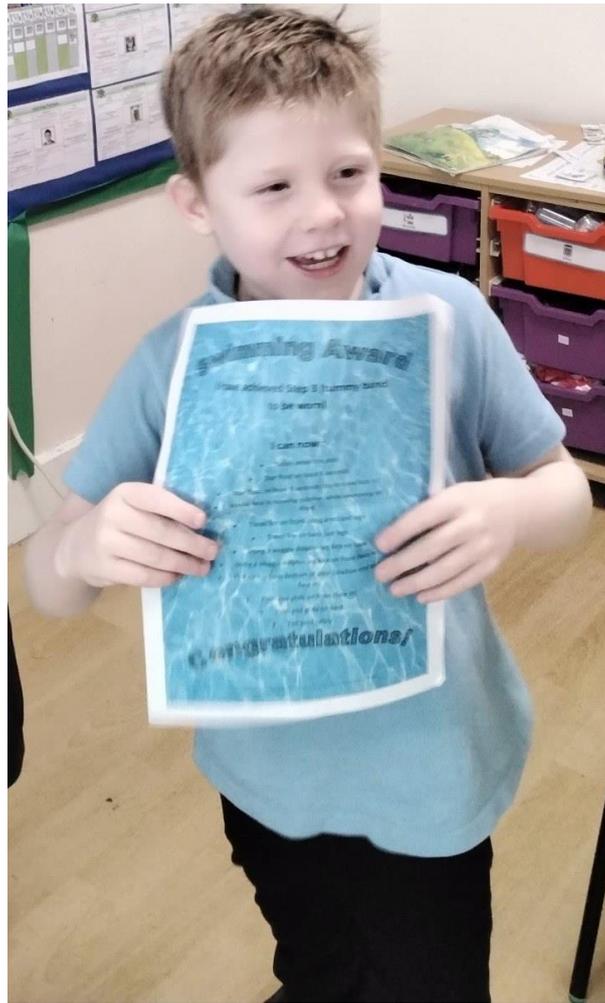
Have a restful break - *Sam*

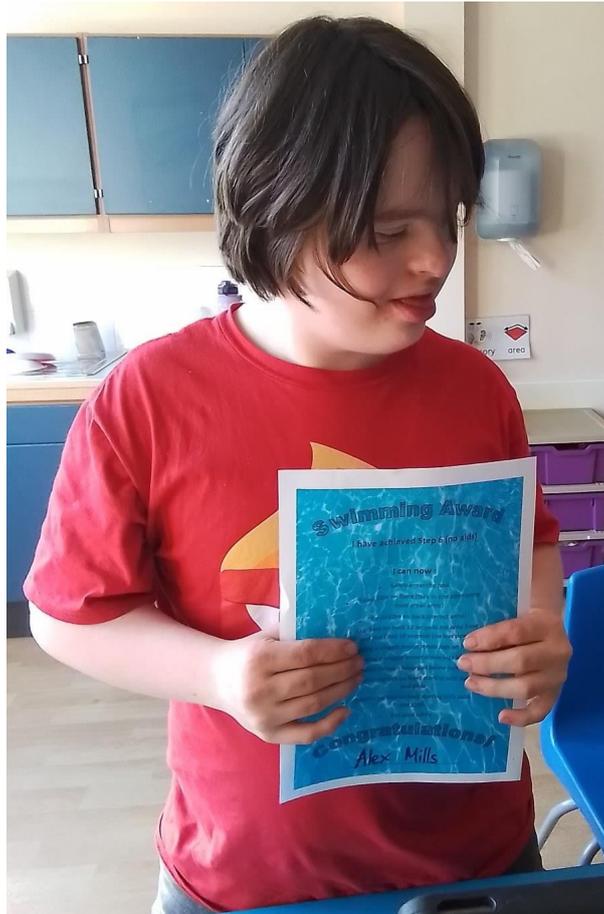
A message from Amanda, Swimming Teacher.....

Well done to everyone settling in so well at swimming this term - Its been a great start to the year!

A special shout out to Jack in 2AM for achieving swimming 10m with no swimming aids, Alex in 4SB for achieving step 6 and Oliver in 2AM for working extremely hard after not using armbands anymore, and has also achieved step 3.







Learn-2-Live Well Funding.....

The Learn-2-Live support is for Cambridgeshire primary schools with up to £10,000 funding that will increase physical activity and improve healthy eating habits.

This money will mean that the Spring Common Academy can purchase a pair of wall mounted interactive fitness boards for our pupils to engage with at playtimes and as part of structured sessions. The boards allow for inclusivity of pupils of all abilities, and allow peers to play together.

The money will also be spent on improving our Oral Health resources as part of our PSHE curriculum for EYS and KS1, as well as installing an outdoor water fountain which links to the need to hydrate during exercise.

Overall, we can use the money to improve our playground facilities, our physical activity resources, and our exercise and oral health knowledge.

This is an amazing opportunity for the school and our students.

Tesco Stronger Starts.....

We have been chosen to be part of Tesco Stronger Starts!! Tesco Stronger Starts supports thousands of local community projects and good causes across the UK. The scheme is open to all schools, registered charities and not-for-profit organisations, with priority given to projects that provide food and support to young people.

Funds given to us will be going towards sensory integration which is a form of therapy for people with ASC which comprises a range of different components including swinging, spinning and deep pressure.

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token. The stores that are taking part for Spring Common Academy are;

Huntingdon Extra Large PE28 2LA

Stukeley Meadows Express PE29 6UH

St Ives Needingworth Express PE27 5LB

Please share far and wide to encourage family and friends to vote for SCA!!



BINGO.....eyes down.....



Heather, a parent of Spring Common Academy, has raised a whopping £913 for Spring Common Academy with a local Bingo group that she supports. This donation was very gratefully accepted by Rebecca, Headteacher.

Heather has also organised a Bingo event to take place here at Spring Common Academy, to raise more funds for the school. This event will take place on Friday 29th November 1900 - 21.30 pm. Please share the event details with friends and family and bring them along for a guaranteed evening of fun!

Spring Common Academy Christmas Fayre.....



This year's Christmas Fair will be taking place on Friday 6th December 9.30 am - 2.30 pm, led by Veena and her class, 4VC.

They are currently asking for donations of new or used, good condition cuddly toys, as well as new unused gifts, confectionery and biscuits or any other items suitable for the tombola. These can be sent to school with your child, just let the class team know it needs to go to Veena, or donations can be dropped off at Reception.

Thank you in advance for all your help and support with this event. Please bring along friends and family to the event, all are welcome!

School Uniform.....

There is an expectation that pupils wear school uniform at Spring Common Academy and this creates a real sense of community and belonging for our pupils. For many, it provides a clear signal that it is a school day and supports with transitions. We have different uniform options available at Spring Common Academy.

We are pleased to share that our uniform provider is Price & Buckland, chosen for affordability, quality and range. They offer a large range of clothing and extras such as coats, bags and hats to cover all seasons. Please note that the black sweatshirt option is only for Key Stage 4. The website can be reached by following the link below;

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/springcommon>

We also have an alternative option, of an iron-on school badge. This is modelled, tried and tested by Aimee below. The badges are £1.44 each and available by emailing the school office office@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk with your child's name and class. An invoice will be raised for you on ParentMail to make payment and once paid, the badges will be sent home with your child with easy instructions.

We are proud to have a range of **FREE** pre-loved uniform in school . To enquire about sizes and availability please email the school office for the attention of Veena office@springcommon.cambs.sch.uk Items will be sent home with your child, subject to availability.

Donations of uniform that you child has grown out of that have plenty of wear left in them are warmly welcomed and can be sent into the office.





Term dates.....

TERM DATES 2023-24

A HORIZONS
EDUCATION TRUST

***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

TERM DATES 2025-26

A HORIZONS
EDUCATION TRUST

Autumn Term 2025 (1 September to 19 December)

Staff training day: Monday 1 September
Staff training day: Tuesday 2 September
Staff training day: Wednesday 3 September
Autumn term opens: Thursday 4 September
Half term: 27 - 31 October
Staff training day: Monday 3 November
Autumn term closes: Friday 19 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.

Spring Term 2026 (5 January to 27 March)

Spring term opens: Monday 5 January
Half term: 16 - 20 February
Staff training day: Monday 23 February
Spring term closes: Friday 27 March

Summer Term 2026 (13 April to 20 July)

Summer term opens: Monday 13 April
Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 4 May
May Half term: 25 May - 29 May
Staff training day: Friday 3 July
Summer term closes: Monday 20 July



Dates for your diaries.....

- Monday 4 November - Staff Training Day - School closed for all students
- WC Monday 11th November - Autism Accreditation Week
- Wednesday 13th November - Parents evening
- Wednesday 13th November - Moving on event
- Friday 15th November - Children in need - Details to be confirmed
- Wednesday 20th November - Parent / Carers Benefits Workshop - 10 - 11.30 am
- Friday 29th December - Family Bingo - 19.00 - 21.30 pm
- Christmas Fair - Friday 6th December - 9.30 - 14.30 pm
- Monday 9th December - KS2 Christmas performance - Details to be confirmed
- Tuesday 10th December - KS3 Christmas performance - Details to be confirmed
- Wednesday 11th December - KS4 / Post-16 Christmas performance - Details to be confirmed
- Thursday 12th December - KS1 Christmas performance - Details to be confirmed
- Friday 15th December - Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day
- Friday 20th December - Break up for Christmas - Last day for all students

- Monday 6th January 2025 - Return to school for all students

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

1J.....



In 1J our phonics focus this half-term has been purely on Phase 1, looking at things like environmental sounds, alliteration and simple rhythms and rhymes. After half-term, we are starting work on Phase 2 and our single letter sounds. We love to learn through sensory play and exploration, and so lots of our phonics activities have been rather messy! We have also loved the Twinkl Phonics interactive games on the big screen, as well as singing and signing some classic rhymes.

Have a great half-term, everyone!

1Kl.....



This half-term in 1KI we have been reading Elmer! The children have really enjoyed exploring this story together through group story times in Literacy, creating our own Elmer in Art, and learning about Elmer's colours in Understanding the World. Elmer was even a popular theme for our Attention Autism sessions, where the children were taking turns at painting Elmer's patches! We've had a busy start to the year and the children have really started settling in – we're looking forward to next half-term!

Happy half term - Kayleigh, Charlotte, Eunjin, Jane, and Lucy

LBDP



In the LBDP we experienced through our senses the story "Alice in Wonderland". The pupils explored a variety of story elements having the opportunity to show their likes and dislikes and communicate their choices. Well done to all the students for a brilliant engagement, showing anticipation and good exploration skills. It was brilliant to see them developing their initiative throughout the sessions.

2SW.....



In 2SW we have been using our phonic knowledge to draw letters and to start writing captions. We have been using lots of different methods to encourage writing and reading skills in 2SW which capture and engage the class. Here are a few examples of how we are learning. Have a great half term have lots of fun and stay safe.

Sammie

2MM.....



2MM has enjoyed starting to learn their very first sounds and discriminate between s,a,t,p sounds for phonics phase 2 this term. Pupils have had fun during various turn-taking activities such as matching the initial sound objects and pictures for stage 3 Attention Autism phonics sessions. 2MM also enjoys their daily phase 1 phonics sessions focused on developing our listening skills being able to recognise various environmental sounds such as farm and wild animals as well as music instruments sounds.

2TS.....



In 2TS we have been exploring weather noises in our Environmental Sounds Phonics lessons. We listen to the sounds whilst we explore the weather types through sensory experiences. In these photographs you can see that we are listening to the sound of, and exploring the feeling of, rain and thunder and lightning storms with flashing lights and rumbling clouds.

2AM.....



In Year 2, students have demonstrated remarkable progress in their phonics learning through the implementation of a variety of engaging approaches. Our focus has encompassed Levels 1, 2, and 3 of phonics, focusing on sound discrimination, the identification of initial sounds in words, and the understanding of phoneme-grapheme correspondence. Additionally, we have worked the ability to recognize rhyming words and to engage in blending and segmenting activities. This approach not only enhances phonetic awareness but also promotes a joyful learning environment, allowing students to thrive in their literacy development.

2CR.....



Big shout out to all lower school students for their SINGING AND SIGNING ASSEMBLY!!! It has been wonderful to see our students using MAKATON and joining in with singing . Everyone was engaged and happy to come and demonstrate amazing signing!

Our SINGING and SIGNING assembly has been a real success and I want to say a big thank you to Sammie for coming up with the idea and to all staff for organising it!

2KH.....



This half term in phonics some of us have been working on initial sounds of words, starting with the letter A. The pupils have really been enjoying feeding the words to the alligator. Other pupils have been working on spelling and building CVC words. A key skill for the whole class is working on our blending skills to read words, we will continue to work on this throughout the next half term. Well done 2KH on all your hard work in phonics this half term.

2LC.....



Here are two members from 2LC using their Phonics knowledge to create words out of SATPIN.

We had a look at the different sounds they make individually and then as a class rearranged the different letters to create mainly CVC words. One of our superstars created the word "Spain" using their SATPIN knowledge!

3RJ.....



In 3RJ, we have been really enjoying learning about King Arthur! We've done lots of work on learning new vocabulary related to our King Arthur stories and have practiced signing, speaking, and matching symbols. We also used colourful semantics to help us describe what Arthur did in different parts of the story from 'The Sword in the Stone'.

3DH.....



In 3DH we have been working hard on our letters and sounds. We have been working hard to hear single letter sounds in words and to blend words together. We have also been practising our letter formation, tracing over letters and learning to shape them independently. One of the biggest challenges for us has been to learn to spot new words containing single letters sounds in a piece of text. It's been great to see the pupils' rise to this challenge so well

3CW.....



3CW have had a lovely first term to their year. We have been looking at English legends, particularly the Legend of King Arthur, we have been partitioning numbers in Maths to improve our quick maths skills, and we have all started using My Lexia to build on our Reading, Writing, and Phonic knowledge.

3KW.....



This half term 3KW have enjoyed choosing our BookBuzz books. We had a look through a selection of books and chose ones that we thought we would enjoy the most. The pupils have enjoyed doing some reading for pleasure and exploring different themes in fiction books.

UB-ML.....



This half term the topic in UBML has been 'Great Explorers' and all the students have been great explorers themselves. Our sensory story was about a boy whose dad was lost in the North Pole and the students studied a globe and followed a map, then went on a journey to the North Pole to rescue him. They went up in a hot air balloon and landed on the North Pole using their parachute. They cuddled up warm in an igloo and got a rescue helicopter to bring them home. There was lots of sensory exploration using cold ice blocks, heating pads and foam for snow.

We have also explored paint, mixing primary colours with sponges and rollers then mixing in a variety of different mediums including foam and sand. Explored a pumpkin by feeling the pulp and seeds and then getting our carved pumpkin to ooze red goo from its mouth. And finally explored Halloween playdoh biscuits in class and real biscuits for our families in the Life Skills suite.

4SB.....



This half term 4SB have been exploring poetry enjoying poems, and tongue twisters. We learnt a poem about the skeleton, identified the words with the same end sounds and learnt how to sign the key words. We have been focusing on the letter sounds at the end of a word and have enjoyed a range of different activities to support our learning.

Have a great half term from Sarah, Tina and Sherefa.

4DW.....



Class 4DW have been listening to and reading different stories as a part of their literacy sessions. They have enjoyed a sensory story about Funny bones and used CIP symbols to help answer questions about The Gruffalo text. The class enjoyed using coloured semantics to make some silly and fun sentences as well to read. Pupils have also used their reading skills in cross curricular activities to help sequence instructions of how to brush their teeth independently and correctly. The class matched sentences to the sequence pictures, making instructions of what the Gruffalo needs and how to brush his teeth. Have a great half term!

4VC.....



4VC read their chosen reading book to an adult every morning following the Spring Common reading scheme levels. The book is of their choice entirely but at their reading level - chosen from our lovely library. Although we do not have explicit phonics lessons, pupils continue to use their phonics skills to decipher new words they come across. We also use our reading skills in a functional way in preparation for adulthood such as reading and following recipes, instructions and reading signs in the community.

Our half term has been extremely busy as we continue to work on our Entry Level work in English, Maths and Science. We are also currently making preparations for our Christmas Fair!

Have a lovely half term. Veena, Carol & Dina

P16TN.....



It has been a very busy start to the year for P16TN. Students in post-16 focus on developing skills to help them prepare for adulthood. This half term, we have particularly enjoyed visiting the coffee morning at Huntingdon Methodist Church. Students have been engaging well with some of the community volunteers as well as other service users. Whilst at the coffee morning, students are able to order drinks and snacks – the toasted tea cakes are always a popular option! We have also resumed weekly tennis lessons at Huntingdon Tennis Centre. At tennis, students listen well to the feedback given to them and this is really helping to improve their skills as well as promoting enjoyment of a physical activity.

Wishing everyone a restful half term! **Tilly and Caroline**

P16LC.....



P16LC have been busy enjoying getting to know the local area. The class have been visiting different places within the community including Hinchingsbrooke Country Park. We have been busy using our different senses to engage with these experiences. Students enjoyed looking at different items and watching the trees move in the breeze. We have also been into town to do some shopping. We look forward to welcoming students back after the half term!

Cat, Dawn, Cheryl and Mandy

We wish you all a relaxing half term break and we will see you all on Tuesday 6th November 2024 - From all staff at Spring Common Academy