



# Springfield School Newsletter

## May 2017

### Head Teacher's News

Welcome! It's been a busy few months and we have lots to share with you!



We have been fortunate to welcome many different visitors into school over the last few months all bringing new experiences and activities for the pupils to engage with and enjoy. We have had members of the Inclusive Folk Project who performed concerts and interactive music sessions across the school and at the Bronze Barrow we held a creative arts week jointly with Madley Brook School and pupils experienced Morris Dancing, ultraviolet puppet shows, drumming workshops and circus skills to name but a few!



The Key Stage 4 Duke of Edinburgh Awards Team has just completed their weekend canoe and camping expedition and also carrying out volunteering work for the West Oxfordshire Food Bank. I'd like to say a huge well done to Key Stage 3 who had sporting success at the Oxfordshire round of the Panathlon Challenge – Regionals here they come!



The Friends of Springfield School also have some exciting events planned for the summer months which I hope many of you will attend. There's another family disco on 19<sup>th</sup> May and a Summer party on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July.



We have said 'goodbye' to a few staff members. At Christmas we bid farewell to teacher Helen Cooke. Helen's Key Stage 3 class is now taught by Claire Colmer and Helen Maycock. Teacher, Bob Houghton, left us just after Easter. This class is now taught by Louise Jones on Wednesdays-Fridays (some of you may remember Louise when she taught here a few years ago) and on Monday and Tuesday Senior TA, Jo Donohoe, is leading. Easter also marked the end of an era for two of Springfield's longest serving team members; TA, Tonia Burden, and School Nurse, Juliet Foster, who have both retired. We will miss them greatly but wish them a long and happy retirement! I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Kim Willoughby and Andrea Farres our new school nurses. We also welcomed back TA, Charlotte Miles, and Assistant Head teacher, Topaze Skerrett, from their maternity leaves. Topaze works at the Bronze Barrow site on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'thank you' to Adie Perkins who supported us hugely over the last year whilst Topaze was on maternity leave.



Finally, I'm very pleased to announce that we have a brand new website! I hope you will find it a lot more user friendly and informative. Please do check it regularly as we add new school news and photos every week. The web address remains the same: [www.springfield.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.springfield.oxon.sch.uk).

Cont. overleaf. ➡

*Creating Opportunities*

This will be the last printed newsletter you receive from us. With resource efficiency and environmental impact in mind all future newsletters will be sent out using ParentMail and, of course, copies will be available to download on our website.

Many thanks to everyone for all their support this year so far and I look forward to seeing many of you at the summer events coming up.

Best wishes

*Emma*

Emma Lawley

## Highlights from around the school



Pupils in Nicola and Berit's class enjoyed a 'Music for Autism' concert listening and dancing to the melodies in the classical music. Some pupils even got to have a go at conducting!



Tim's class enjoyed a fantastic trip to the Houses of Parliament. They had a tour of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, as well as Westminster Hall. At the end of the tour they were met by West Oxfordshire MP, Robert Courts, who told them all about life as an MP.



On the 8th February some pupils in Key Stage 3 participated in the County Round of the Panathlon Challenge at Abingdon School. The multi-sport event included activities such as table cricket, boccia, poly bat and curling followed by some team races. Springfield won their round and are through to the next! Regionals here we come!



The Bronze Barrow held a celebration of all things arty with a Creative Arts Week. Pupils got involved in a of broad range of exciting creative activities including an ultra violet puppet show and Morris Dancing.



## Highlights from around the school



Pupils in Key Stage 4 took part in a Consumer Quiz taking on teams from other local special needs schools. The quiz tested the pupils knowledge on things such as the how to complain when something you buy is not right, how to recognise and avoid scams, how to stay safe online, fire safety and how old you need to be to buy different things.

# March

As part of their Volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the Springfield D of E team has been collecting food for the West Oxfordshire Food Bank. They had to generate donations by writing letters to parents, then collect and sort the food and, finally, deliver to the West Oxfordshire Food Bank.



Emily & Jade's classes headed off for residential trips to Macaroni Woods near Cirencester. Both classes had great fun exploring the woods and heading off on daytrips to places like Cotswold Wildlife Park and Cadbury's World!



# APRIL

The Springfield Duke of Edinburgh Awards Team spent a fabulous day on the river, honing their canoeing skills in readiness for the D of E expedition. They also worked on their camping skills – putting up tents can be tricky!

You can find out more about all of these activities plus other things we have been up to on the News page of our new website! News and pictures are added weekly! Visit [www.springfield.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.springfield.oxon.sch.uk)



## Dates for your diary

- ★ **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May** | **Family Disco**

6 – 9pm, Bronze Barrow Hall

A free event for all the family! There will be squash for the children and you are welcome to bring along your alcoholic/non-alcoholic drinks and any snacks / nibbles. The hall will be divided into 2 sections. A disco in the first half for those that want to strut their stuff, and a quieter area in the second half with sensory toys for those who prefer to chill.
- ★ **29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June** | **Half Term Break**
- ★ **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June** | **INSET Training Day. School CLOSED to all pupils.**
- ★ **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July** | **Summer party**

This year we are holding a summer party for all Springfield pupils and their families. This will replace the usual summer fete for this year. This will be a free to attend event. More details to follow. If you would like to help with the planning and organising of this event we'd love to have some extra pairs of hands! Please email Lisa Benson at [lisa.benson@springfield.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:lisa.benson@springfield.oxon.sch.uk).
- ★ **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July** | **School Year ends. WG 1.00pm and BB 1.15pm**
- ★ **Mon 4<sup>th</sup> & Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Sept** | **INSET Training Days. School CLOSED to all pupils.**
- ★ **Wed 6<sup>th</sup> September** | **New School Year starts for all pupils**
- ★ **Fri 6<sup>th</sup> October** | **INSET Training Day. School CLOSED to all pupils.**
- ★ **23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October** | **Half Term Break**
- ★ **20<sup>th</sup> Dec – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2018** | **Christmas Break. WG 1.00pm and BB 1.15pm**
- ★ **Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> & Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018** | **INSET Training Days. School CLOSED to all pupils.**
- ★ **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018** | **Term starts.**

There is an events calendar and full term dates on our new website. Visit [www.springfield.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.springfield.oxon.sch.uk)