



January 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2020

Welcome back

I hope you all had a good Christmas and wish you a very Happy New Year. The Autumn Term was a very busy one for all of us and everyone was ready for a well-deserved break. We are now looking forward to the Spring Term with new Themes to cover and activities to explore.



Christmas Performance

It was great to see so many families at the Christmas Performance. It really is a big event for the school as it is when most pupils come together [except some Nursery aged pupils]. Congratulations to all of the pupils and staff for their performances.

Many thanks to one of our Governors, Ric, who took lots of lovely photographs and managed to get a double page centre spread in the Oxford Mail which is brilliant. In case you did not see the paper, the website link is -

<http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/18105358.springfield-school-witney-put-nativity-show/>

The link is also on our school website under 'News'. Click on the News item to access the link.



The value for the first half of the Spring Term is Responsibility.

Converting to join the Gallery Trust

A lot of work was completed in the Autumn Term to prepare for Springfield's conversion. We have been working closely with Madley Brook School and the River Learning Trust to ensure that everything will be in place for the shared Bronze Barrow site.

Unfortunately our conversion date has had to move from February to 1st April 2020.



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To provide a safe, happy learning environment in which individuals achieve, flourish and develop self confidence and respect for others.



Staffing Updates

We are very pleased to have some new staff starting this month so a big welcome to all of them!

Teachers -

- Anthony Buckle leaves on Wednesday 8th January. We have a supply agency teacher working in this class initially for the Spring Term, unusually his name is also Anthony! The new Anthony Alazia starts this week. We wish Anthony Buckle good luck for his next job.
- Unfortunately Sarah Crothers has left, we wish her well for the future. We have appointed teacher Jen Forth on a temporary basis to cover Sarah and share with Jasmine as Instructor.
- Adie Perkins is continuing to cover some days in a KS 3 class with Viv as the Instructor.
- Congratulations to both Beckie Hatt and Emily Maycock on the birth of their sons in the Autumn Term.

TAs –

- Gill Caton retired at the end of last term after working for 24 years at Springfield! We held a whole school assembly and a staff tea party to wish her well and we hope she enjoys some time for herself.
- Jemma Quarterman is working in Adie and Viv's class four days a week, on a temporary contract to cover Gill's vacancy.
- Following on from the TA interviews in the last week of term we have appointed one full-time TA and two temporary part-time Tas. We will be finalising their start dates this week and allocating their classes.
- Due to vacancies and absence last term we have started to work with REED Recruitment Agency and are pleased that several of their experienced TAs have worked for us and we will continue to use them as required.

Admin –

- Chloe Bartlett starts this week in the BB Office as Admin Assistant and she is also doing some Heads' PA work.

Friends of Springfield School [FoSS]

For various reasons the FoSS committee were unable to meet in the Autumn Term, however we are currently planning our first meeting and will let parents / carers know any events that are planned for the rest of this academic year.

Please do let us know any ideas you have or if you would like to be more involved in supporting the School by emailing – friends@springfield.oxon.sch.uk

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Dates for your



- **Friday 14th February 2020** – Break up for half term holiday at usual time
- **Monday 24th February 2020** – Start of second half of Spring Term for all pupils
- **Wednesday 1st April 2020** - Parents and Carers Evening
- Conversion to join the Gallery Trust
- **Friday 3rd April 2020** – Break up for Easter Holidays at usual time
- **Monday 20th April 2020** – Start of Summer Term for all pupils

Volunteers and Lunchtime Support

Do you know anyone who would be interested in doing some volunteering at Springfield or supporting the classes over lunchtime?

We really need some additional support and more people that we can use as casual staff to cover some staff absences.

We rely so much on our amazing volunteers to enable us to try and complete some activities such as swimming. Unfortunately the pupils are not always swimming as regularly as we would like them to as we need more support

Instructor Roles

In the Autumn Term 2019, we introduced a new temporary 'Instructor' role in some of our classes. The two specific reasons for this are to give a good professional development opportunity for contracted Teaching Assistants within the school who wish to progress within their role, and to support the effective cover of teacher maternity leaves and vacancies within the school.

The Instructors have a clear job description and person specification and they have to complete a comprehensive induction process with support from Assistant Head Topaze. It is an unqualified teacher role and the Instructor works alongside the part-time teacher in their class. The expectation is for the Instructor to work as a teacher with the right support to do this. Therefore, they complete all of the work as a teacher and have equal authority when attending any meetings such as Annual Reviews.

We are pleased to be able to offer this role as a number of Teaching Assistants are considering training as a teacher. The role also offers consistency for the classes that they work in particularly during a time when it is harder to recruit full-time teachers.

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Attachments

Flyer from the Integrated Therapies Service

School Closure Information for Parents / Carers

We have been lucky so far with a mild Winter, however you never know when something may arise leading to us having to close one or both sites.

In the event of adverse weather conditions please note the following details:

The whole School will be closed for the following reasons:-

The roads become impassable (or unsafe to use) for any reason

The Transport operators decide not to send out their buses/taxis

An appreciable number of staff are unable to travel to work

Specific Springfield sites may be closed for the following reasons:-

An appreciable number of staff are unable to travel to their school site

The heating system fails at a particular school site

The site is unsafe due to heavy snow or other circumstances

Parents and carers are asked to listen to Radio Oxford (on 95.2 VHF/FM) or Fox FM [on 102.6 VHF/FM] VHF/FM) who broadcast lists of school closures from 7 a.m.

You can also look at the Radio websites and the county website -

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

We will also put information on our School website as early as possible –

www.springfield.oxon.sch.uk

The radio stations only announce school closures for the day however in severe conditions their websites may state if a school is closed for more than one day.

Safety is the key factor when making a decision about opening the School and this involves safety on the roads, at the site and how many staff can get to work.

If severe weather continues over several days then after the first day we will consider whether we can open for a shortened day or only open one of the sites and may not be able to be open for all pupils. Any changes to usual opening procedures will be based on how safe it is. On these occasions it is easiest to update parents via the school website and also contact parents through 'parentmail'. Please ensure you let the office know if your email address has changed. If you have not yet signed up for 'parentmail' then please consider doing this. You can email the office on office.7012@springfield.oxon.sch.uk and state your wish to sign up for 'parentmail'.

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