

School Newsletter

This Week At Spring Bank

Welcome Back!

Good afternoon all,
It's lovely to be back in school and welcoming back our families. A huge welcome to our new Reception families and those who have joined other year groups across the school. You may have noticed some changes over the summer, which the team have worked hard on to make happen. There's also many changes which are up and coming, which we'll keep you posted with.
Have a lovely weekend.

Arbor

Thank you all for your patience while we have been moving to Arbor. Parent Mail is being phased out, as are the paper records and e-mailing for bookings. Arbor will be used for booking all clubs, including wraparound care, trips, school dinners and parent's evenings. This will (hopefully) make these systems in school more efficient.

We are still tweaking the settings to make it the best platform for our school community, but this will come with trial and error.

If you don't have access to Arbor, please contact the school office.

Uniform

The Uniform Shop in Meanwood is where our uniform is stocked. They have confirmed that children's hoodies with the logo will be available from next week. These are £14.99. There is an option to have their initials on them if you want for an additional £2. If you want the initials, you would have to go to the shop to order and then go back again the following week to collect. PE t-shirts with the logo printed on will also be available next week.

If you're wanting a hoodie or a PE t-shirt, you may want to call ahead to check stock levels due to the demand at the start of term.

Our uniform will be available to purchase from their website in the next two weeks.

0113 230 6272

<https://www.uniwears.co.uk/>



Wraparound Care

I'd like to welcome Mr Nathaniel Murphy to the Spring Bank team. Nathaniel has taken the lead of the wraparound care. The main difference to last year is that the bookings are made on Arbor, payments via Childcare vouchers or Tax-free childcare will be reconciled via the office. Nathaniel will be focusing on improving the offer for the children.

Breakfast club continues to run very similar to last year, with the main change coming to after school club. This will be based in the hall, or a classroom if there's an indoor club. We are waiting for a curtain partition to be installed, which will separate the hall allowing for clubs and after school club to both run at the same time in the same place.

Stay and Play / Nursery

We are still in the process of converting the community room to a nursery provision. We had a successful consultation period with families, local nursery providers and the local authority. We are now waiting for approval from the Department for Education. As soon as we receive this, we will share with you the next part of our plans, this will also allow us to provide you with an update for the Stay & Play sessions.

After school clubs

As many of you will know, a charge has been included to all of the after school clubs. I apologise for not giving you all the heads up about it, but I made all of the arrangements during the holidays.

We chose to increase the extra curricular offer following the response from our parent survey in the Spring term. Many parents requested more extra-curricular clubs. The best way we found to do this was by using external companies wherever possible. We hope that the companies are relied upon and that the clubs won't be cancelled at short notice, as was previously happening in school.

School staff may choose to run clubs and we are trying to find the balance of costings here too. We are being mindful of staff's well-being and workload, which is why there has been a reduction in staff running the clubs, allowing them to focus on teaching and learning.

Another benefit of external companies running the after school clubs are the competitions which we can participate in. These companies run events for the schools who use them for their clubs.

I am and will continue to find alternative ways to reduce the cost of clubs where possible to support all families.

Residential

Year 6 head to Robinwood Activity Centre on Monday 9th September. The children and staff are very excited about it. We'll share some pictures next week of what they get up to.

Year 4 & 5 also have a residential booked in for the summer term to Nell Bank. More details will follow later in the term.

OPAL

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) is our new lunchtime offer which we are focusing on over the next 18 months. In short, this is the opportunity for unstructured play for children from Y1-Y6. The children will be playing out in all weathers, so please ensure that they are well-equipped with suitable clothing. We have redesigned how we coordinate lunchtime areas and are now able to allow children to access most of the areas in school. We are trying out the following:

The rooftop playground has an arts/drama theme. We have a school spotify account and a speaker now for children to listen to. We are in the process of arranging a pallet stage and having storage for colouring and other art activities.

The KS2 playground is a general play area with equipment such as hoops, skipping ropes as well as the giant chess & Connect Four. A longer-term plan for this area is to have large loose parts, such as planks of wood and cable reels to allow children to express their creativity.

The KS1 playground is for ball games for our KS1 children.

The pitch is for ball games for our KS2 children.

The garden area, along with the story telling chairs is for all year groups to enjoy, with many children choosing to take reading books, as well as hiding in the bushes.

The grass at the top of the school is a work in progress. As part of OPAL, we are expecting to open the grass area all year round, but children will need to bring/school will support in providing different footwear. In the coming months, we will be trying to source a welly station/ rack to house the additional footwear.

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We are on the lookout for large outdoor storage. If you have anything going spare, or know of a business that may support this, please get in touch.



Behaviour policy

Throughout the summer term, we asked staff and pupils about how we can improve the behaviour policy at Spring Bank. We shared a draft with our governors and we have begun implementing it this week.

Throughout the term, we may make improvements to the policy, but a version will be on our website and shared with you shortly. Some key changes are:

- Based heavily on positive relationships
- Class Circles introduced on Mondays as a way to build the 'community' within the classes
- Yellow and Red Cards have been replaced with 4 Levels.
- Sanction times can be reduced with truthfulness and genuine apologies
- Zones of regulations for children with SEND who will benefit from it

Curriculum development

We have made a number of changes to our curriculum, which will all be explained and will be available when we launch our new website next month. Reading has become a daily, discrete lesson with a hybrid approach of whole-class reading and weekly guided reading. There has also been changes to a number of foundation subjects, such as geography and history to improve the quality of the curriculum.