






# Newsletter

## December 2021



<p><b>Message from Matthew</b></p> 	<p>This is not the end of the term that anyone had planned... However, I continue to be impressed with our staff team's dedication towards your children and young people to keep them safe and keep things going as normal. This term, teachers have successfully had to adapt learning tasks to take account of the current regulations that we, as schools, have to follow. All staff have been flexible in their approach and the school continues to be a calm and safe place. Whilst the increase in cases may appear scary, your children and young people must continue to attend school if they are well.</p> <p>We have tried to make the end of this term as typical as possible. Pupils have enjoyed some virtual festive activities, Christmas lunch in their classrooms and a virtual visit from Father Christmas!</p> <p>I wish you and your families and happy and healthy festive period and look forward to welcoming you all back to school in 2022! <b>Please ensure your child has a negative LFT before they return in January – a reminder will be sent at the end of the holidays!</b></p>
<p><b>Message from Eddie McCudden</b></p> 	<p>Well, what a year it has been at Springhallow and Post 16, but I am pleased to say, by us all working together, we have come out stronger.</p> <p>We have learnt new skills, using Teams and other teaching methods, our parents have also had the opportunity to see the wonderful job our teachers and TA's have done in preparing and delivering your lesson plans over the internet and in the classroom. Even the Governors have been using Teams for Committee Meetings and Full Governing Body Meetings.</p> <p>We have taken on new staff to assist with your education and future, and I know that you have all made them feel very welcome. This will assist us in the plans we have for 2022.</p> <p>I recently visited Springhallow and Post 16 and had the opportunity to talk to some of you. I was very pleased to report back to my fellow Governors that you all felt very happy, safe, and secure when you are at school, this made me feel very humble that I am doing my job as your Chair of Governors to the best of my ability and that we are very lucky to be supported by a totally dedicated and wonderful team of Governors also.</p> <p>But I think we all need to say a great big thankyou to Matthew, all your teachers, TA's, and the administration staff for the amazing job they have done over the past year in supporting you and your parents with your education, wellbeing and safety they have all been stars. We are incredibly lucky to have them.</p> <p>I would like to say on behalf of the Full Governing Body thankyou to you all and wish you a great Christmas break and Happy New Year.</p>
<p><b>Friends of Springhallow</b></p>	<p>A big, big thank you to our Friends of Springhallow and Cathal for organizing the Christmas Raffle. The big draw took place yesterday!</p> <p>The main winners were:</p> <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> Prize (Levis vouchers) Diya (Oak)</i></p> <p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (£100 Westfield) Arav (Oak)</i></p> <p><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (1 month Eden pass) Cole (Eagle)</i></p> <p>Almost £700 was raised for the school and we are very grateful for your support and contributions.</p>
<p><b>Staffing news</b></p>	<p>Last month we said goodbye to two of our Teaching Assistants. David (TA in Kestrel) had been with us for 10 years and Ewelina (TA in Maple). Today we are saying goodbye to Jack (Class teacher in Swan) and Jaimini (PPA cover teacher). Jack has decided to relocate to Canada and has secured a job in a special school over there and Jaimini is broadening her experience in different schools. We wish them all the best for their new ventures/relocation. Hugh Lovric will replace Jack as the class teacher in Swan class and we are looking forward to him joining us in January. We have also recruited a number of new TAs who are also joining the team!</p>

<p><b>Unwell children</b></p>	<p>Due to the cold weather, lots of children are getting colds and flu and are feeling generally unwell. Please be mindful that if your child has a heavy cold or flu (coughing, sneezing, very snotty, high temperatures, generally feeling unwell) that germs spread very easily and quickly across the school, so it is important that you keep your child away from school until he/she has fully recovered and is no longer infectious. We know the children love coming to school but sometimes children return to school too soon. They often need more than one day to recover.</p> <p>If they are unwell, they are unable to learn and should be kept at home. If they come back to school before they are fully recovered, it is unlikely that they can cope with the pressures and demands of the school day.</p> <p><b>If you have to give your child medicine before school, this probably indicates that they are unwell and should remain at home. It is very likely that someone from the class will contact you to ask you to collect them from school.</b></p>																	
<p><b>Therapy Top Tips</b> - Play indoors!</p>	<p>Ways to enjoy new and old toys at home with your children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow 15-20 minutes a day to have 'Special time' with your child where they get to pick how and what they play and you play long side them.</li> <li>• Follow your child's lead, look at what they're interested in and how they are playing, copy their actions and follow their interests in play.</li> <li>• Create opportunities for your child to complete an action e.g., ready, steady go where your child can activate or push the toy and say go (can provide hand over hand assistance to guide them to the task and allow them to initiate it).</li> <li>• Make a game of building! You do not need fancy building sets you can make card towers, indoor forts using pillows and blankets, or use blocks or old boxes etc. If you want to get competitive you can see whoever builds the highest tower wins!</li> </ul> 																	
<p><b>Upcoming Dates</b> <b>New/altered dates in red</b></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="323 1234 1557 1279">AUTUMN TERM 2021</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1279 719 1317">17/12/21</td> <td data-bbox="719 1279 1557 1317">End of term 1.30pm (Christmas Holidays)</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="323 1317 1557 1361">SPRING TERM 2022</th> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1361 719 1400">Tue 4/1/22</td> <td data-bbox="719 1361 1557 1400">First day of Spring term</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1400 719 1480">11/2/22</td> <td data-bbox="719 1400 1557 1480">NO INSET (date changed to 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022) – School open as normal</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1480 719 1518">WC 14/2/22</td> <td data-bbox="719 1480 1557 1518">Half Term</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1518 719 1556">23/2/22 (from 3.30pm)</td> <td data-bbox="719 1518 1557 1556">Parents' Evening. <i>Appointments to take place virtually</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="323 1556 719 1597">1/4/22</td> <td data-bbox="719 1556 1557 1597">End of term 1.30pm (Easter Holidays)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		AUTUMN TERM 2021		17/12/21	End of term 1.30pm (Christmas Holidays)	SPRING TERM 2022		Tue 4/1/22	First day of Spring term	11/2/22	NO INSET (date changed to 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022) – School open as normal	WC 14/2/22	Half Term	23/2/22 (from 3.30pm)	Parents' Evening. <i>Appointments to take place virtually</i>	1/4/22	End of term 1.30pm (Easter Holidays)
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