Juniper Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 1st half -2026

Meet your teacher

Hello! I'm Mrs O'Donnell, and I've been at Springmead since 2020. I have always loved teaching and even taught swimming to young children as a teenager!
I live with my husband and our golden retriver called Thor, who is very cute!
My husband is a big Arsenal supporter which means I am likely obliged to watch their matches too (I even went to the parade this year).
In my free time, I like going to the gym and am starting to, slowly, train for a half marathon that I will be completing next June in support of a childhood cancer charity that is near to my heart.
It'll be rare to find me in any colour other than black as it just seems to be the majority of my wardrobe!
All I ask is that you put the same effort and respect into your learning as I do planning and teaching - I don't care if you are wrong but just that you have given it a good go!
If I wasn't a teacher, I would be working in a theatre behind the scenes as a lighting or sound technician.

Useful website links

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zhgppg8
https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?AgeGroup=3
https://mathsbot.com/primary/ks2Mini
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxsbcdm
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zpnvf82#zpghhcw

Optional Homework Activities

We will be celebrating children who independently challenge themselves by practising additional year 3,4,5 and 6 spellings and complete more than the 10 minute expectation for TTRs.

Children can also further their learning by conducting research into our topics and creating fact files on these.

P.E. Days

Monday and Friday

Homework

Handed out Friday, due in Thursday.
Spelling, arithmetic, TTRs.

Important Dates

3rd September – First day of school
Week beginning 14th September - 1:2:1 Year 6 parent meetings
Week commencing 19th October – Parents Evening (PTCs)
26th-30th October –Half term

Secondary school dates

1 st Sept - Secondary school applications open
Open evenings
10th September, 5:00pm–7:30pm - Ridgeway (ticketed event)
17th September, 5-8pm -Bishops Hatfield
28-9th September, times vary - Richard Hale
tbc - Stanborough
1st October, 5-8pm - Monks walk
7th October, 6-8 - Sele
31st October - Secondary school application window closes

Wellbeing

Starting a new school year can be exciting but overwhelming. Help your child settle into Year 6 with confidence by:

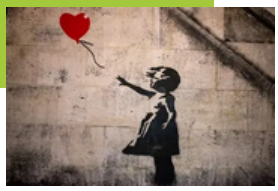
- Returning to regular bedtimes early.
- Encouraging independence with daily tasks.
- Discussing feelings and friendships.
- Keeping active through play.
- Limiting screen time.
- Asking simple questions about their day.
- Modelling positive ways to handle change.

This half term Juniper class are learning about...

History:
Who were the Anglo-Saxons and how do we know what was important to them?

Science:
Light - exploring how light travels and how it can be manipulated

Art:
Banksy - Printing and patterns using a created 'tag' of their name

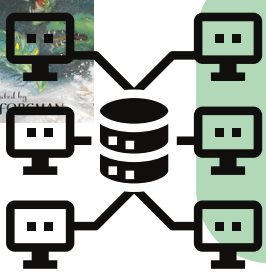


Autumn Term 1st half

Maths:
Number, Place Value, the Four Operations

English:
Narrative - writing a mythical narrative based on the Beowulf legend

Computing:
Online Safety and Databases - creating and exploring how data can be sorted into spreadsheets



P.E
OAA and Netball - team building activities and learning tactics within matches