

Springfield Community Primary School Newsletter

Autumn 1—2022

October 2022

Headteacher's message

I would like to thank the whole school community for such a positive and successful start to the year. It has been a busy half-term with many trips and visitors. We have welcomed Councillor Narcross to speak about local democracy, Sally Newton - a mural artist - to paint our Commitments in our hall and Hackney Food Bank to work with Chestnuts Class. Elm Class have been the Planetarium and Royal Observatory to deepen their learning about the solar system and Holly Class have been to the Natural History Museum to embed their learning about rocks and fossils in science. Find out more about trips on page 3! It was wonderful to welcome so many of you to the families information sessions in September. It was also hugely positive to have so many of you attending our recent workshops focused on reading, home learning and online safety. Thank you everyone who was able to attend our feedback meeting on our Anti-Racism Commitment, and to everyone who plans to submit their reflections via email and on paper. Thank you also to everyone who attended our incredible Black History Month showcase assembly. Please see page 4 for more information about black history at Springfield and our commitment to being an actively anti-racist school.

Communication

Please take the time to read through the **half termly curriculum letter** your child's class teacher has shared this week. It is an chance to find out what your child will be learning next half term, and to excite and inspire them about the challenges in store. We have recently updated the curriculum pages on our website. We invite you to explore our subject overviews to find out more detail about your child's learning, including the prior learning on which it builds and the next steps they will meet.

Commitment of the half term

The Commitment we are focusing on next half term is **build positivity**. We have linked this to our recent engagement in the *Outright* Rights Respecting campaign, focused on promoting positive health and wellbeing.

Spotlight on NSPCC *Speak Out* *Stay Safe* programme

This half-term, children in Year 1-Year 6 participated in the NSPCC's *Speak Out, Stay Safe* programme. They learned to recognise the signs of abuse in an age appropriate, child-friendly way and to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline. In Nursery and Reception, children learned about the PANTS rules. We recommend regularly reviewing these rules with your child to ensure they are confident remembering all of them.



Reminders

Home reading: please support your child to read at home **every day** to ensure they make progress. **PE kit:** please ensure your child has school uniform kit. Logos, sports brands and fashion clothes are not school uniform—we value equality and wear uniform so that every child feels comfortable and under no pressure to have the most fashionable brands.

Updates


Parents evenings will run in the second week of next half term **on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th November**. You will receive a letter in the first week back after half term with the option of a phone call or in-person appointment and an early / late evening slot.



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Rights Respecting	<p>On Tuesday 4th October, we welcomed Isobel Mitchell, from UNICEF, for a Gold re-accreditation visit. Isobel could feel that Springfield children knew their ABCDE of rights:</p> <p>A = All children have rights. B = Rights are there at birth. C = Rights cannot be taken away. D = Rights do not have to be earned. E = All rights are equally important.</p> <p>We look forward to sharing the outcome with you, when the report is published.</p>
Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing	<p>It was World Mental Health Awareness day on Monday 10th October. Dr Natalie, our WAMHs clinician shared an assembly with us on our current wellbeing theme: <i>Belonging to My Community</i>. The assembly focused on children celebrating their own uniqueness and their individual identity and a reflection on how each of us benefits from and contributes to our diverse community.</p> <p>The five 'Ways to Wellbeing' were also shared again with our children.</p>  <p>We have also shared the UNICEF <i>Outright</i> Campaign with our children in assemblies to empower them with strategies to prioritise their positive health and wellbeing. As we further explore this campaign, our children will use their voices to share their ideas and strategies more widely.</p> <p>Next half-term, you will have a chance to meet Dr Natalie Bailey at a families workshop. She will share strategies to support your wellbeing during times of challenge. She will signpost support linked to the cost of living crisis and provide a safe and supportive space for you to share how you are feeling.</p>

Pupil Voice	<p>Blake in Holly Class has been busy using his voice. Inspired by learning about water shortages in Uganda, he has organised a <i>Games Afternoon</i> fundraising event at Springfield Marina Bar on Sunday 13th November, 2:30 - 7:30 pm. He has also set up his very own <i>Go Fund Me</i> Page. We are so proud of Blake for taking action for positive change. Follow this link to short your support: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BlakesGamesAfternoon</p> <p>Our School Councillors have been very busy this half term. So far, they have chosen to chair their own meetings (with Ms Wyatt present in a listening and supporting capacity). They have done this with huge success. For each meeting, a new chair is selected who guides the group, takes notes and ensure all voices are heard. Our School Councillors are also Rights Ambassadors. They met with Isobel Mitchell from UNICEF during our reaccreditation visit and showcased how Springfield proudly upholds the rights of children within our community and beyond. Next half-term, our School Councillors are preparing to take a lead on some assemblies.</p>
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Term Dates 2022-2023

Half term holiday	Monday 24th October—Friday 28th October	Children return to school	Tuesday 21st February
Inset Day	Monday 31st October	Last day of Spring term	Friday 31st March
Children return to school	Tuesday 1st November	Children return to school	Monday 17th April
Last day of Autumn term	Friday 16th December	May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May
Inset Day	Tuesday 3rd January	Summer half term	Monday 29th May—Friday 2nd June
Children return to school	Wednesday 4th January	Children return to school	Monday 5th June
Spring half term	Monday 13th February—Friday 17th February	Last day of Summer term	Friday 21st June (school closes at 2pm)
Inset day	Monday 20th February	Available at: https://springfield.hackney.sch.uk/news-and-events/calendar-2/	

PE Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 5	Year 2	Year 1	Reception + Year 3	Year 4 swimming + Year 6

Trips and Learning



Birch Class took a trip to the City of London to visit St Paul's Cathedral. In history lessons, Birch class learned that the Great Fire of London destroyed the Cathedral in 1666. We were able to go and find some statues that had been partly destroyed in the fire. They are over 350 years old! We were lucky enough to get to dress up in 17th Century clothing and find out how hard it would have been to put out such an enormous fire using only leather buckets! We learnt all about the famous architect, Sir Christopher Wren, who designed St Paul's Cathedral and most of London after the fire. We observed models of St Pauls before and after the fire and we noticed that before, it had a spire, and after it had a dome. Our favourite part was lying under the huge dome, which was Wren's masterpiece!

Willow has been learning about sculpture this term, exploring the works of Anish Kapoor and Barbara Hepworth. We have built on our prior knowledge of sculpture, using this knowledge to create a 3D bird sculpture. We have used the medium of papier-mâché, investigating the size of the newspaper, different paper types and the perfect consistency of the glue. After carefully observing similar sculptures, we sketched our final design. With our final design in mind we used our papier-mâché skills and covered a balloon so that this resembled the bird's body. Once that dried we painted our birds and attached appendages such as the beak and wings. To further enrich Willow's learning of sculptures we visited Anish Kapoor's ArcelorMittal Orbit in Stratford. We got the chance to see his sculpture and have a close look at the materials that were used. Willow also got to experience travelling down the slide!



ArcelorMittal Orbit, Stratford



This week, Year 6 have been on their IntoUniversity Focus week. The focus of the week was reviewing and extending our understanding of WWII, considering the Home Front, and the role of the RAF in the Battle of Britain. We have had two days of workshops with the RAF museum as well as our own secret missions at the IntoUniversity centre! To finish the week, we considered our options for the future; we learnt about Universities and the range of courses that they offer.

On Friday, we went to the University of East London, creating presentations and taking part in our own graduation ceremony. To find out more about the diversity of the armed forces in WWII, please see here:

<https://www.ourmigrationstory.org.uk/oms/british-servicemen-from-around-the-world>

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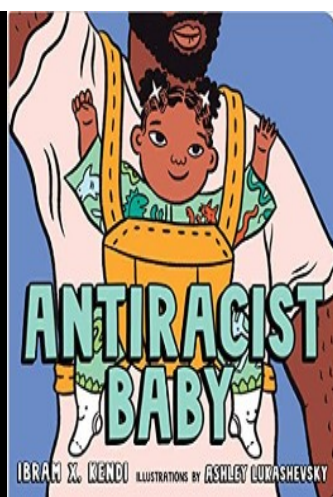
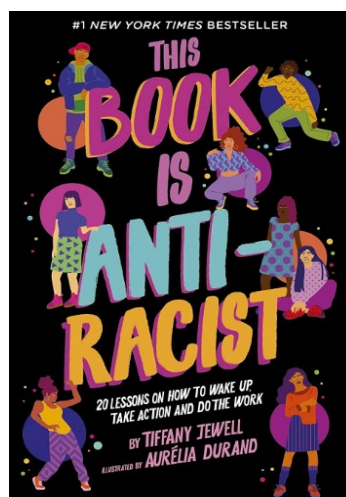
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Anti-Racism at Springfield

Our anti-racist action



On Wednesday 19th October, the first anti-racist session for all education staff in Hackney took place. It was a hugely positive experience to know that our commitment to anti-racism aligns with a broader borough-wide initiative to ensure that anti-racism is a priority in education settings in Hackney. Speakers such as Councillor Antoinette Bramble shared their unwavering dedication to supporting schools in this endeavour. Colleagues across the borough are working on *Hackney's Schools' Inclusion and Diversity Charter*. We look forward to contributing further to its creation and enacting it when it is published.

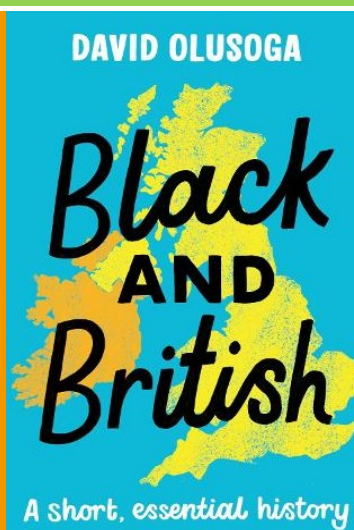
Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our parent and carer consultation on our draft Anti-Racism Commitment. It was so valuable to reflect together, ask questions and share experiences. We know that hearing a wide variety of perspectives from people with a range of lived-experiences is vital for ensuring our approach to being actively anti-racist is meaningful and that everyone in our community is represented, seen and heard. Some of the things we discussed were:

- how can parents, carers and educators talk to children about systemic racism in a way that is appropriate and accessible to children at different developmental stages?
- how do we encourage pride in race and heritage in a personalised and meaningful way?
- how do we continue to ensure our children see role models who represent them in our curriculum and community?
- how do we balance sharing the truth about challenges with a sense of hope for the future and empowerment?

If you were unable to attend, please share your reflections on the statement either by making notes on the paper copy and handing in to the Main Office, by emailing admin@springfield.hackney.sch.uk or coming to have a conversation. Our doors are open and we want to listen and make sure you are heard.



Black History at Springfield



On Wednesday 19th October, we welcomed families to share in our Black History Month celebration assembly. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. Our children performed confidently and showed off their impressive public speaking skills to share detailed, engaging and fascinating historical information. We heard about the achievements and contributions of black individuals from different periods and places.

At Springfield, we know that **black history is our history**. We are committed to ensuring diverse narratives and voices are represented in our history curriculum **all year round**. We have ensured that black history is an integral part of our units, from the Romans, Tudors, Victorians and WWII using high-quality resources from Hackney Museum. Our units on the Victorians and Ancient Benin explore colonialism and the British Empire from a diverse range of perspectives. We highly recommend David Olusoga's book *Black and British* to share more information with your child.



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