

Springfield Primary School

HEAD TEACHER: Mrs Alison Bhardwaj BEd (Hons) NPQH

DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER: Mrs Claire Seddon

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Friday 11th September 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year, it is jam-packed edition! It has been an amazing first two weeks with lots to share and celebrate. Firstly, well done to all our pupils who have demonstrated positive learning attitudes and behaviour. Special mention should go to our new pupils in reception & nursery who are settling really well into the new school routines and showing lots of confidence. We also give a warm welcome to new families who have joined the Springfield community. The children have been brilliant in adapting to the changes in their new year groups and it is fantastic to walk around school, seeing their independence, feeling the calmness and children learning in classrooms and playing positively with each other at break times.



I also wanted to take this opportunity to pass on our congratulations to Mrs Seddon who has been at Springfield now for 30 years. I know many of you swathe special children's tea party we arranged for her last term. I know she has worked passionately for the children in our community, and this hasn't stopped. It is pertinent that she has also be awarded this commendation at the start of the new academic year. This is what Neil Moggan has shared

"I've been hugely impressed by the way Mrs Seddon has taken RISE Up and embedded the principles across different parts of school life, from the Sport Sanctuary and Play Wrapped in Care through to SPARK Leaders.

But I particularly wanted you to know about the impact Mrs Seddon has had beyond Springfield.

Mrs Seddon was incredibly generous in opening up Springfield's journey through our case study and then speaking alongside me at the Sandwell Virtual School conference to share your experiences with other schools.

The impact of that has been remarkable.

Following Mrs Seddon sharing Springfield's work, **Sandwell Virtual School is now funding seven schools to take part in RISE Up next academic year.**

That's a fantastic legacy.

September's School Value: RESPECT

Respect is:

- Respect is feeling good about myself



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Respect, Resilience, Reflection and Empathy.



- Respect is knowing I am unique and valuable
- Respect is listening to others and their ideas
- Respect is knowing others are valuable, too
- Respect is treating others kindly
- Respect is treating my surroundings and objects nicely and taking care of them.

Related values for respect:

Respect					
Liberty	Democracy	Equality	Fairness	Friendship	Responsibility

INSET days 2026- 2027

Monday 2nd November 2026 Day 2

Monday 4th January 2027 Day 3

Friday 28th May 2027 around May Half term Day 4

Monday 7th June 2027 around May half term Day 5

Please note to help families who are considering longer weekend/week holidays that link in with cheaper prices in school term time this year we have set two INSET days either side of May half term to enable you to take advantage of this. Friday 28th May & Monday 7th June 2027. It will be useful to have any feedback from you regarding this. Thank you

Reminder

Remember if your child has moved from year 2 to year 3 this September, they will no longer be eligible for Universal free meals unless they are FSM. Please contact the school office for application form as it is possible your child may be eligible, please don't assume just because previously you didn't meet the criteria the same applies, similarly do not assume if a previous sibling qualified this child will either.

Secondary school & Primary school admissions

Reminder Y6 secondary applications for year 7 September 2027 close on 31st October 2026, please submit applications online. Please note all secondary schools usually have open days for new pupils & parents, please

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look on the Sandwell website or contact schools direct for further details.

Online applications for a **reception place** for 2027 open on **Monday 14th September 2026**.

If you need any help or advice re the application process, please get in touch.

Questions/need help?

We really do want to work with you, hear your suggestions for school improvement and help with any worries you or your child has. At the start of the new school year can I remind you of the process in school and who is available to help.

Mrs Morgan is our family support worker who can support with family difficulties including routines, attendance, behaviour management, finance, housing etc **Miss Dowell** is our SEMH support for our pupils alongside Mrs Morgan.

Mrs McMahon is the school SENCo who leads on special educational needs, medical needs & inclusion.

In terms of most matters, your first point of contact is always your child's class teacher; next, you would contact the phase leader. For nursery and reception classes this is **Mrs Vincent**, for year 1 and 2 this is **Mrs Willelts**, for year 3 and 4 this is **Mr Billingham** & for year 5 & 6 it is **Mrs O'Hara**.

Finally, if you would speak to a member of the senior leadership team you can contact either our Assistant Head teacher **Mrs Ward**, our Deputy Headteacher **Mrs Seddon** or myself **Mrs Bhardwaj**. Staff will try to be visible before and after school, but messages can be given through the school office, and staff will call you back or make an appointment with you as required.

REMINDER Contact/Personal Information

Please remember to update contact information or personal information regarding your child with the admin team to ensure our records/information on the system is accurate

Free School meals/ Food vouchers & pupil premium eligibility

If you have had a change in your personal/financial circumstances your child may now be eligible for free school meals, the food vouchers for the school holidays, free access to holiday clubs as well as school receiving pupil premium funding per pupil. Please contact the office and they will be able to advise you of the eligibility criteria and the process. It is a simple form to complete, it is confusing as all children in reception to Y2 are entitled to universal school meals, a free meal so as a parent you may assume you are already registered. Scan the QR code which will take you to the application form for pupils in reception – Y6, there is a different form for

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nursery pupils,

Please take part in this survey by 14th October 2026

Take part in this survey to share your experiences of walking, wheeling, or cycling to primary school, and what could make it better

Our school has agreed to take part in a project about walking, wheeling and cycling to school.

The survey is run by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), Britain's largest social research organisation. NatCen is running the survey for Active Travel England, who work to make walking, wheeling and cycling a safe and attractive choice for everyday trips.

The online survey should take around 10 minutes and should be completed by 14th October 2026. To take part, please use the following link: survey.natcen.ac.uk/mrIWeb/mrIWeb.dll?I.Project=P204260I_MAI_VI&i.userI=144274

Please note:

- Taking part is your choice.
- There are no right or wrong answers.
- You can complete the survey once for each child in reception, year 1, year 5 or year 6.
- Your child does not have to regularly walk, wheel or cycle to school for you to take part in the survey.

What will I be asked?

- How you / your child travels to school.
- What helps or makes it hard to walk, wheel or cycle to school.
- What you think about changes to help children travel actively to school.

More information about the project and what taking part involves can be found in the [Taking part page](#), [privacy notice](#) and [plain English privacy notice](#).

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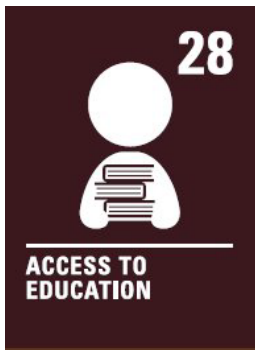
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Whole School Attendance Update

Improving our children's attendance is as important as ever this school year. We are already pleased how many families are working with us to ensure the children attend daily and on time. If you need any support, please make contact and the attendance team will be happy to help where we can and implement individual support where required.



As you know as a UNICEF rights respecting school, we aim to integrate the articles into our school and thought I would share how article 28 – access to education corroborates with our school attendance strapline- Here everyday ready and on time. Article 28: Every child has the right to an education. Primary education should be free. Secondary and higher education should be available to every child. Children should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level possible. Discipline in schools should respect Children's rights.



Following the Silver audit of our attendance practice, the school received a summary report which highlights key strengths and next steps for consideration to enhance our inclusive attendance approach. These actions aim to secure and sustain positive improvement, building on the excellent progress already achieved.

This newsletter I am sharing the strengths & action points to consider for area **4. Mental health & Resilience**

Establishing a positive school climate: family, peer & school connectedness: Narrow the gap.

The school climate at Springfield Primary School is positive, calm, and orderly. Relationships between staff and pupils are genuinely respectful and warm — a quality that was evident across every interaction observed during the audit. Staff reported some occasional dysregulation, which is skilfully managed through a clear support strategy that minimises the impact on other pupils' experience. The school's approach to managing challenging behaviour reflects the same inclusive, relational philosophy that underpins its attendance work.

Lunchtimes are well managed and clearly a time of genuine enjoyment for pupils. Lunchtime supervisors were visibly engaged and motivated, and the range of structured and unstructured activities available ensures that the social experience of school is a positive pull factor for pupils. This aspect of the school day is often underestimated in attendance strategies, and Springfield Primary School is right to invest in it.

The SEMH offer continues to be a standout feature of the school's provision. Bedazzle therapy (therapeutic art) is operating across multiple groups, building emotional capacity and resilience for vulnerable pupils. Boxing sessions provide an additional pull factor, and Miss Dowell's soft landings support remains a defining strength of the school's offer to those pupils for whom the

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start of the day presents a particular challenge. These targeted provision elements are well-matched to need and are having a positive impact.

The pupil panel conducted at the silver audit reinforced a number of encouraging themes. Pupils demonstrated a clear and confident understanding of attendance expectations — several were able to articulate that under 96% is considered poor and that 19 days' absence leads to a home visit, reflecting the school's success in making attendance a shared conversation. Pupils identified friends, extra-curricular clubs, and the enjoyment of learning as key reasons for wanting to come to school. Push factors mentioned included tiredness, bullying (which pupils reported was addressed effectively by the school), and some family-related barriers such as late nights and screen time. Pupils were clear that being off school was predominantly negative — 'upset because you don't get to learn' and 'helps your education if you go to school' were representative responses.

The school has identified the need to develop parental engagement further, particularly at formal meeting stages such as early help. Staff spoke frankly about growing frustration with low parental attendance at these meetings, and the impact this has had on morale. This is a sector-wide challenge, but one that Springfield Primary School is well-placed to address through a structured, co-constructed approach.

- Develop a co-constructed parent meeting protocol in partnership with a parent forum — asking families directly how meetings can be made more accessible, then implementing and reviewing the agreed approach. This will help re-contract with parents and rebuild engagement at the formal stage of the support pathway.
- Develop and deliver regular parent sessions on SEMH to build family capacity alongside the school's existing pupil-facing provision — specifically aligned to Key Strand 4.2.
- Continue to evaluate the impact of SEMH interventions (Bedazzle, boxing, soft landings) using attendance and wellbeing data, ensuring exit criteria are reviewed regularly.



Attendance in Early Years Foundation Stage

A Fantastic Start to the Year in EYFS!

We are absolutely delighted to share that it has been a fantastic start to the school year across our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Our new Nursery and Reception children have transitioned into school life beautifully. It has been a joy to watch them arrive each morning with happy faces, full of excitement and ready to start their school journey.

We are incredibly proud of how quickly the children have settled. They have already started making wonderful new friends and are developing very positive, warm relationships with both their peers and the teaching staff. The classrooms and outdoor areas are buzzing with energy; the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our wonderful learning environment and are showing great enthusiasm for their daily activities.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your support in helping the children settle so well. We are very much looking forward to a highly positive, successful year ahead with amazing results and milestones for our littlest learners!

Mrs Vincent — EYFS Leader

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Attendance in Key Stage One

We've had a brilliant start to the academic year in Key Stage 1! It has been wonderful to welcome all the children back and see them embracing our HERO motto: **Here, Every day, Ready, On time!**

Their enthusiasm and commitment have been truly inspiring. The children are all looking very smart in their new uniforms. To help us return any misplaced items quickly, please ensure that cardigans, jumpers and fleeces are clearly labelled with your child's name. We already have a few unnamed items in our lost property collection, so your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

The Year 1 and Year 2 staff have reported positive attitudes towards learning, and all the children have settled well into their new routines. Year 1 children have thoroughly enjoyed their first PE lessons, with many commenting on how much they enjoy learning and playing with their classmates. Meanwhile, the Year 2 children have been showing just how much they have matured, demonstrating increasing independence in their learning and daily routines.

In terms of attendance, we will be 'Spinning the Wheel' for the first time this week during Friday's assembly. Children will have the opportunity to earn rewards for their excellent attendance, such as woodland time, cartoon time, a non-uniform day, golden time, and many more exciting treats. We are all eagerly awaiting this week's rewards, and we hope the children continue their fantastic effort and commitment to attending school every day.

Looking ahead, rehearsals for our Harvest Assembly will begin soon, and PE sessions continue to be a big hit with everyone. Year 2 are especially excited to start their new history topic on the Titanic, which promises to be both fascinating and thought-provoking. Remember to keep an eye on our new Face Book thread to keep up to date with what's going on in school.

As always, thank you for your continued support in reinforcing the importance of good attendance and punctuality. It makes a real difference to your child's learning journey and success at school.

Warm regards,

Mrs Willelts – KS1 Leader



Attendance in Lower Key Stage Two

After the six weeks holiday, the start of the academic year has been a little mixed in Lower Key Stage Two. The vast majority of children have been HEROes – Here, Every day, Ready and On time!

Thank you, parents and carers, for your support with this. It's so important at the start of the new school year that the children are aware of the expectations to attend school and arrive promptly.

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2023-2026

In Year Three, Mr Taylor and Mrs Sohal have been particularly impressed with the children's behaviour and manners, as well as their attitude to learning. One of the key areas, however, is that they want the children to settle down a little quicker in between tasks within lessons, but we know that this will improve.

In Year Four, Mrs Ghuman and myself have been really pleased with the children showing that they're ready to learn — we do, however, want to see more of our children practising their times tables on TT Rockstars at home, and for them to make it part of their regular evening routines. Just ten minutes a day will make a huge difference to their outcomes when they take the MTC Test in the Summer Term. We know that at the start of the academic year, the pace of learning might seem a little quick now, but the children will soon adjust to this expectation and will be used to it in no time.

Year Three have just started their Stone Age topic, which will include a 'Stone Age Hunting Activity' for them to look forward to and, Year Four have started to learn about the Black Country, and it's 4G's first swimming lesson today!

I look forward to providing you all with another fantastic update in the next newsletter. Take care.

Mr Billingham, LKS2 Phase Leader



Attendance in Upper Key Stage Two

It has been a brilliant start to the new school year! On Wednesday 3rd September, it was pleasure to welcome everyone back with a huge smile on their faces and everyone could see how much the children had grown over the summer.

Year 6 have had a busy start, jumping straight into their English and Maths, with some fantastic learning already happening. It is already clear that they all have a huge range of vocabulary and are enjoying the new 'Outlaw' book by Michael Morpurgo. They have also enjoyed some outdoor learning — looking for living and non-living things outside and discussing what makes things living organisms.

Year 5 have also been really busy. They have spent some time settling in before starting their new book 'Cosmic' and I know they are looking forward to the adventures they will follow throughout that text. To start the term, they have created some fabulous artwork based around dots which will be displayed in their classrooms.

Well done UKS2, attendance has been terrific and it has been so lovely to see you all back at school. Long may the enthusiasm continue as we have lots of exciting things to look forward to. There are trips being booked for the Autumn term already, outdoor learning is being planned, and it will soon be time to vote for the new house captains!

Mrs O'Hara, UKS2 Phase Leader

Rights Respecting Update

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2023-2026



Our Rights team have had a fantastic year. Achieving our silver award was a great success for our children. We have also raised lots of money for our Charity Acorns as well as raising money for other

Our Rights team work so hard and really represent our school well. Giving our children a voice and looking at ways to be real change makers. We would like to say a huge thank you to our Year 6 Rights Respecting Ambassadors, Aiden and Holly, for their dedication and commitment throughout the years.

As we settle into the new school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate something that is right at the heart of who we are: our long-standing commitment to being a **Rights Respecting School**.

We Won Silver! 🏆

Our journey hit a massive milestone at the end of last year. After a big assessment, we were officially awarded the **UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Silver: Rights Aware** accreditation!

Getting our Silver award means our school has shown just how deeply we care about children's rights. The assessors were incredibly impressed by how well our pupils know their rights, how we weave them into lessons, and how our whole school culture is built on kindness, safety, and respect.

The Difference It Makes

Focusing on rights has brought a lot of positive changes to our school community:

- **Happy, Safe Children:** Children know they have a right to be safe and healthy, which makes our classrooms feel calm, supportive, and welcoming.
- **Real Pupil Voice:** Through our student leaders and ambassadors, the children have a real say in how the school is run. They know their opinions truly matter.
- **Confidence in Class:** When children understand that education is their right, they take real pride in their learning and feel confident to do their best.

Over the next school year, our Rights Respecting ambassadors will be leading assemblies and arranging some excited fun packed days.

Rights Respecting Ambassadors:

Year 4: Ava and Isla

Year 5: Ruben and Charlotte

Year 6: Emily and Mackenzie



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FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Changes from September 2026

More families may now qualify

What's changing?

From September 2026:

- If you receive **Universal Credit**, your child can get **free school meals**
- **No income limit will apply**
- Many more families will now be eligible

Important

- Current **protected/free meal arrangements will end in July 2026**
- You may need to **reapply or check your eligibility**, even if your child currently receives meals

Infant children (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2)

- Still receive **free meals for all children**
- But **please still apply** if you receive benefits (this helps the school access extra funding)

What you need to do

- ✓ Check if you are eligible
- ✓ Apply or reapply **BEFORE** September
- ✓ Contact the school if you need help

Need support?

-  Speak to the school office
We are happy to help in confidence



Apply today – don't miss out

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Important Reminder

If your child has had an injury outside of school e.g. a cast or using crutches, so we can ensure they are safe & that all necessary staff are informed, please contact the school office so that school staff can complete a risk assessment and determine if any minor adjustments are needed. Thank you.

Important Dates for the Autumn term 2026

As always, please remember these can be found on the calendar on our school website. This will be regularly updated.

Thursday 17th September — Class well-being sessions delivered to Y2-Y6

Thursday 24th September — Whole School Flu Tabs — rec — Y6

Wednesday 1st October — Black History Month starts

Y4 Fire Safety Talk — Sparks

Monday 5th October — Harvest

Friday 9th October — Hello Yellow Day- World Mental Health Day — wear yellow

Monday 12th October- Whole School Photographs- individual

Tuesday 13th October — Parent Consultation Meeting- 3.45pm- 6.55pm

Wednesday 14th October — Parent Consultation Meeting- 3.40pm- 5.10pm

Friday 16th October- Red Card Day — Show Racism Red Card — wear red

Thursday 22nd October — Y6 Visit Galleries of Justice

Friday 23rd October — Half term

Monday 2nd November — INSET Day 2- school closed to children

Tuesday 3rd November — school open all children

Monday 9th November- Friday 13th November- Plas Gwynant Residential — Y5 & Y6

Tuesday 10th November — Anti-bullying week

Monday 16th November — Odd Socks Day

Friday 20th November — UNICEF Blue Day — World Children's Day

BBC Children in Need — Children wear either blue or yellow

Whole school fun PM

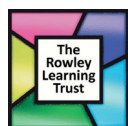
Friday 25th November- Flu Catch Up session- 9am-12.30

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Have you seen that Springfield Primary school has a Facebook page? we will use this platform to celebrate and share good news and learning, as well as helpful reminders. Therefore, this academic year the newsletter will become monthly as we will use this social media page as well as our school website to communicate.

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I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing weekend with your families. As always, if you have any further questions/suggestions, please get in touch through the main office and a member of staff will respond as soon as possible.

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Yours Sincerely



Mrs Alison Bhardwaj

Headteacher

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