

**SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Newsletter- Week 4 Monday 25th September 2017**

Welcome to another very positive but busy newsletter! The feedback to our new communication systems is overwhelmingly positive and we hope that the weekly newsletters help to keep you all informed and up-to-speed with school news. We send many tweets each day to keep you informed but rest assured, if you aren’t on Twitter, reading this weekly newsletter will tell you all of the key information that you need to know! The start of the school year has been really positive for everyone and the staff are working hard to make sure that children enjoy their learning and experience a wide range of fantastic activities and opportunities. As the new Head here at Springvale I am looking at every aspect of the school’s organisation and hoping to make the school run as effectively as possible. Listed below are lots of snippets to update you on new ideas, minor issues and plans for the future. Thank you for your support so far in my new role and please do come and see me or another member of staff if you have an issue that we could assist you with.

**Email Communication:** To ensure effective communication and to help to protect the environment we would like to encourage parents to sign up to email communication. We would like to send letters via email where possible and on paper (where requested by the family or required for a response in writing, for example) to the eldest child in school for families of 2 or more pupils. Please list any email addresses on the attached slip as soon as possible to be added to the contact list and please ensure that the address is legible (especially dots, hyphens, underscores, etc.). We will send a test email next Monday so please contact us if you do not receive this to the requested address.

**Jeans for Genes Day:** Our wonderful new School Council, led by Mrs Tomlinson, have organised a special fundraising day called ‘Jeans for Genes Day’. The national day was last week which inspired them and they would like to hold the event on Thursday 12th October. The event is optional but children can wear their jeans with casual but sensible clothing and footwear in return for a family donation (the oldest child in each family should bring this in on the day and give it to the class teacher) of any amount. The suggested donation is £1 per family which would mean that we would raise close to £200. This event was not included in our recent diary dates so please make a note of it! I’m sure you will agree that this is a great cause to support. More details are available at www.jeansforgenesday.org.

**EYFS Christmas Concerts:** In a slight change to last week’s diary dates for the term ahead we can confirm that there will be two EYFS Christmas Concerts on Friday 15th December at 10.30am and 2.00pm. Children in F2 (Reception) will be taking part in both so parents can choose which one to attend. A calendar with the whole year planned ahead will also be coming out to parents so that you have lots of notice for key events like Sports Day or transition events in the Summer Term.

**School motto:** Whilst we remain fully committed to delivering our full and established school ethos statement we are keen to develop a succinct motto that can be articulated by children, staff, parents and Governors that encapsulates our vision. After several discussion groups and meetings we felt that a motto that mirrored the school emblem of a bridge and one that is linked to a ‘journey’ is important. As my background is very much about building teams and creating a school that the whole community can be proud of and support, I felt it was important to include the word *together*. Our working motto at this time is ‘Play together, learn together, achieve together’… Any further suggestions or feedback from parents and the wider community are welcomed. We feel that ‘play together’ encapsulates the importance of high-quality EYFS provision and those foundation skills in learning. It also demonstrates our commitment to children being active and learning to build happy and lasting relationships with peers. ‘Learn together’ ensures that we always include our families in the learning experience of children and that our lessons are enjoyable and collaborative. ‘Achieve together’ reflects a commitment from all to be the best that we can be and to reach high standards.

**Holidays:** Please ensure that if you are taking your child out of school during term time for any reason/amount of time at all (including half a day) that you complete a holiday request form and return it to the school office at least a week before the date of request. Forms are available from the office and we will add them online as soon as possible so that they can be printed from home and/or emailed across.

**Biking activities:** Next week, our fabulous Y5 class (Wonderful Welsh) take part in their bikeability sessions around bike skills and safety. Please ensure that children have all of the necessary permission forms and their bikes and helmets in school from Monday 2nd October. Also, we have just signed up to a programme supported by BMBC/Sustrans to bring a wide range of bike/scooter based activities into the school for free that will benefit all ages. Look out for further details!

**Buddy Bench and Playground Plans:** Our staff are developing the range of activities on the playground at all times and we have got some new and exciting plans. Next week we will have a special assembly about the Buddy Bench to ensure that all children who need a friend or some encouragement to play are supported by the older children. In a few weeks our Y6 children will be trained to be play leaders and they will be setting up and organising games for all pupils with new soft play equipment at morning break and lunch.

**Safety before and after school:** We have had a few injuries after school following collection of pupils from class. Children are accessing the woodland areas or trim trail, for example, unsupervised and have had minor injuries. Please ensure that children don’t use any equipment unsupervised before or after school for safety purposes. A reminder that the system before school sees that our doors open at 8.45am and will be closed and locked in Y1-Y6 (for safety reasons) at 8.50am. After this time children should come through the main reception doors and sign in. F2 doors close at 9am.

**Parent information evening and Y6 tour guides:** Our information evening is planned for next Wednesday (4th October) at 6.30pm as previously communicated. The event will be held in the school hall starting at 6.30pm. All are welcome but we would ask that you please complete the attached slip and return ASAP so that we can set up the room appropriately beforehand. Y6 children are invited to the event to listen to the presentation and also to lead mini-tours for parents after the event. Y6 children who would like to take part should indicate their attendance, again, on the return slip. The children will be trained how to lead the tours a few days before and they will take the tours in small groups with a partner tour guide. The evening should finish at approximately 7.30pm.

**Acceptance at clubs:** Please note that from now on an application to join a club will be accepted and your place secured unless you are contacted to say otherwise. We will contact you as soon as possible after receiving the club request if all places are taken.

**School meals feedback:** Thank you for all of your requested feedback on school meals. We have had some significant issues since the start of term and I have met with the catering management team to address these urgently. A full list of what we have addressed will be posted on Twitter today and can be requested by emailing myself at the address above. The management team have already started to action the requested changes and we will continue to work together to raise the quality and consistency of school meals to ensure that they represent good value for money. We will, of course, keep you updated.

**Names in clothing:** Please remember to ensure that your child’s name and class are clearly marked in all items of clothing, especially coats, to help our staff to minimise lost property. Any lost property is stored in reception between the main reception double doors in the wicker basket. It will be recycled and given to charity after half a term of being in the collection.

**Reading at home:** All children across the school now have reading records and appropriate books. Please support us to ensure that all children make excellent progress in their phonics, reading fluency and compression by reading a few times each week, even if only for 5 or 10 minutes, and adding a comment in your child’s reading record. This support will make a huge difference to your child’s progress when added to our in class reading, guided sessions and any additional support or intervention. Thank you for your support! Remember, reading is the key skill that unlocks the door to all other areas of learning!

Have a fantastic week!

**Kind Regards**

**Mr L McClure, Headteacher**

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| **Week 2 Information** | **2017/18 Average** | **Week 4 Diary Dates** |
| **Attendance: 96.8%**  **Late marks: 1** | **Attendance: 97.3%**  **Late marks: 1** | **Monday 25th: Y1 Maths meeting for parents (3.15pm)**  **Thursday 28th: House teams are organised (assembly time) and team leaders appointed from Y6.**  House point competition begins next Monday!  **Friday 29th: Macmillan Coffee Afternoon (3.15pm in the hall)**  Please note that any donations of cake or buns are gratefully received! |
| **Class of the Week: Year 2 ‘Awesome Australians’ with 100%** | |

**EMAIL DETAILS**

Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Year group (s) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email addresses:

1.

2.

3.

4.

**Parent Information Evening**

We will be attending the parent information evening on Wednesday 4th October between 6.30-7.30pm and we require \_\_\_\_\_\_ seat(s).

(If applicable) My child is in Y6 and they have permission to attend and support the event 6.30-7.30pm. (Please collect from reception afterwards.)

Child’s Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_