

**SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Newsletter- Week 5 Monday 2nd October 2017**

A warm welcome to all of our school community to this; our popular weekly newsletter! Another incredibly busy but productive week has raced by and our energetic and focused start to the year means that we have lots of little snippets of important information to share with you. Remember, we will communicate with families in a wide range of ways but this newsletter is the best place to go to make sure that you haven’t missed anything important!

**Email Communication:** Many thanks for sending in your email addresses. We will now input them into our system and start to email out letters very soon. We will send a test at some point this week. Please let us know if you have sent in an address but haven’t received anything by the end of the week.

**Special Dinner Menu:** Our new catering company are working very hard to bring a fantastic school meals service to our school and your children. They are planning a range of special menus to celebrate unique themes and to encourage all children to enjoy a hot meal. We have had some initial issues with the handover but I have to say the kitchen staff are working incredibly hard and the company have been very receptive to our feedback and they are working through a series of actions to ensure that the meals are good quality and represent value for money. Our first special menu is next Thursday (5th October) with a movie theme night with a menu of hot-dog, fries and ketchup with chocolate cake and sauce for dessert. All children are able to order the meal, even if they normally have a packed lunch. Jacket potato and sandwich options will remain part of the daily menu.

**Sports Teams:** Congratulations to our amazing Y3/4 ball skills team who competed so well at Penistone Grammar School last week! We are very proud of their efforts and they represented the school incredibly well. This week we have some Y1/2 children competing at a similar event and Y5/6 have their first football fixture against Burton Road on Friday at 3pm. All are welcome as spectators but please remember that the referee (me) has limited vision and is only slightly biased!

**Cross Country:** This Wednesday we will take our entire KS2 cohort along the Trans-Pennine Trail to the Penistone Showground to compete against other schools in a Cross Country event. A letter has already gone out (an electronic copy is available online) but could we please repeat three key messages. Firstly, children need to bring a water bottle with them on the day to use during the event. **Next, parents can only collect their children from the event if they contact school before 3.15pm on Tuesday and confirm their plans to us.** This is so that staff can create lists of children travelling back with us. Parents asking to take their children without informing school before the deadline or asking to take other children (friendship groups, etc) will not be allowed to do so for safeguarding reasons. It is a very busy event and, whilst this policy may sound cautious, it is best practice and part of our risk assessment at busy events away from the school site. Lastly, we expect to return at 3.30pm and Cartoon Club will continue as normal.

**Jeans for Genes Day:** Please note (in an additional event to the list already sent out) we have organised a special dress down day on Thursday 12th October in support of this fantastic cause. Thank you to Mrs Tomlinson and the School Council for planning the day. Jeans and casual clothing can be worn but please ensure that clothing is sensible and that the school’s jewellery policy is adhered to. Make up is not allowed. A suggested family donation of £1 would be much appreciated and would make a real difference.

**Presentation Evening:** A final, gentle reminder that the presentation evening is this Wednesday (4th October) at 6.30pm. Doors will open at 6.20pm. The event will take 30-40 minutes and then there will be a 20 minute tour of school on offer for anyone who would like to take a learning walk with Y6 leaders! Many parents have asked if older school children can attend as they would like to come. I would say that, as long as the children are an age where they can listen to the presentation then that is fine, but it is important that parents making the effort to come along can hear the presentation and that children are seated and listening in.

**Attendance:** A very important attendance and punctuality letter has gone out to all F2-Y6 parents. Attendance and punctuality are being monitored daily and we post daily and weekly stats on our Twitter page. I want to beat our targets this year and I think that we can do that by working together to raise standards. A slightly different letter will go out to Nursery pupils as we strive to promote good habits and a great start to education for our youngest pupils.

**Website:** Our website will be developing throughout the next twelve months and getting a revamp in terms of the photographs that we use

**Late collection:** Please note that some staff are reporting late collection of pupils at the end of the day. Staff have meetings with parents or colleagues and significant workloads to tackle so it is vitally important that children are collected on time. Thank you for your support on this matter.

**Parking:** We were visited by local police officers this week who have been asked to undertake random and regular parking checks around the school. They will be monitoring the local area from 8.30am and after 3pm to ensure that cars are parked safely. The officers will be issuing fines where cars are not parked safely.

**Parent calendar:** The 2017/18 calendar is now online under ‘letters home’ and will be emailed/sent out very soon. It has all of the key dates going right through to the next Summer holiday. Please take note of key events like the sports days which are slightly earlier this year. Please note the May Bank Holiday and INSET days throughout the year too. Reports will be out earlier this year too.

**eSafety:** We are in the process of organising a fantastic eSafety for pupils and families. Please look out for further details but be aware that we will be having lots of assemblies and class discussions about staying safe online in the coming weeks. Any suggestions on what families need support with in the present day are welcomed on email.

**Reading at home:** A huge thank you for supporting the big push on reading at home. Teachers are reporting that entries in reading records are becoming much more frequent in the last few weeks. Keep it up- reading is the key to success in learning!

**Twitter:** The feedback I’m receiving on Twitter is fantastic to see! Parents feel involved in their child’s day and their learning and many report that they are getting involved too! If you would like guidance on how to join Twitter or how to use it more efficiently please do get in touch. If the demand is there I am happy to plan a demonstration or a useful handout.

**SATS weeks and phonics:** Please note that children in Y2 cannot take holidays in the month of May from Tuesday 8th , Y6 children cannot take holidays in the week commencing Monday 14th May and Y1 pupils cannot take holidays on the week commencing Monday 11th June due to government testing. Holidays of any kind in Y6 between now and the end of SATS week will be unauthorised due to the likely impact on the child’s outcomes.

**Macmillan Coffee Afternoon:** Thank you so much to everyone who organised, donated or just came along and had a cup of coffee and a slice of cake for a very good cause that is close to the hearts of many in our school and the wider community. We managed to raise a fabulous amount of £300. Another reminder of what a wonderful community we serve!

**Safety at clubs:** I’m delighted to see that we now offer so many clubs. The school is still buzzing with learning and fun activities long after the final bell! I have asked that staff take extra precaution to ensure that children are supervised carefully and matched up with parents safely at the end of the extra-curricular sessions. Parents can help us by coming into the foyer (especially when the dark nights set in) and calling the name of their child to the session leader (as it may take several weeks to learn the names of children and match them with familiar faces). We tell the children to stay with us until they can see their adult. If parents ask another parent to collect due to work/family reasons, please ensure that you contact school or write a note to let us know.

Have a fantastic week!

**Kind Regards**

**Mr L McClure, Headteacher**

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| **Week 4 Information** | **2017/18 Average** | **Week 5 Diary Dates** |
| **Attendance: 97.2%****Late marks: 3** | **Attendance: 97.3%****Late marks: 2** | Monday 2nd: Y5 bikeability beginsMonday 2nd: Y1/2 ball skills at Penistone ALC 4-5.30pmWednesday 4th: KS2 Cross Country (PM) back at 3.30pmWednesday 4th: Presentation Evening at 6.30pmFriday 6th: Y5/6 football match (v Burton Road at home) |
| **Class of the Week: F2 Reception ‘Scottish Stars’ with 100%**  |