

**SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Newsletter- Week 7 Monday 16th October 2017**

A warm welcome to our latest newsletter. Lots of news to share this week so let’s get started!

**Cycling Activities:** This week we start our programme of cycling activities with Dave Atherton from BMBC. Dave will be in school throughout the year sharing his expertise and his love of cycling with the children. During the year all of the children will experience some great learning opportunities! This week we have Dr Bike and KS1 Learn to Ride! See the separate letters for full details. Mr Venus has also kindly agreed to be our school-based Cycling Champion and he is working hard with cycling enthusiasts across the region to develop some family cycling events! Look out for some exciting news very soon!

**Email Communication:** Many thanks for sending in your email addresses. You should have now seen a test email on the requested email address (or an address that we have held previously in our SIMS system). Please check your emails and let us know if you didn’t receive the test as we may have recorded it slightly incorrectly.

**Website Issues:** We have experienced significant issues with updating and reorganising our website in recent weeks. We have reported the issue several times and we are now awaiting support from the website provider. Once we are back on track we will catch up and get all of our recent communication on the website. The diary dates section is particularly frustrating as it won’t let us remove events that have passed or add any extra ones! We’ll keep you updated on our progress!

**Twitter:** We’re getting some fantastic feedback on our Twitter feed! We now have over 200 followers and it is lovely to see so much positive interaction between home and school. It takes lots of time to capture the updates but if parents enjoy it and it helps to celebrate the achievements of our pupils and ‘spread the word’ about our learning then it is worth every second! Please feel free to share what you have been learning/doing at home- achievements in sport/dance/music/arts/baking, etc or news of any museums or special places that you have visited! Our handle is @SpringvalePS.

**Behaviour Policy, Rewards and Consequences:** As many of you will know from the Presentation Evening held a few weeks ago, we know that behaviour is good at Springvale but we want it to be outstanding.Children at Springvale work hard and have good attitudes to school and their learning. They are also polite and many children hold open doors or ask how you are today- this is great to see! We want to embed those features and build on them with a culture of excellence. We also want to follow up our new motto and ensure that children are always kind to each other and play together appropriately and safely. We would like to develop a simple system that is visual for children and very clear for parents and staff. The system would give children additional rewards and praise for following our ‘Steps to Success’ and clear and prompt consequences for any behaviours that are not appropriate. The suggested policy and related behaviour system will be emailed out this week and put online as soon as possible. Please share your feedback on the policy within the next two weeks so that we can adopt a final policy with your views in mind. Consultation is a very important part of our new school ethos as we want to ensure that we work together to secure the best outcomes for all pupils.

**Harvest Festival:** At the bottom of the last newsletter there was a tick list for office use that said ‘tickets issued’. Please note that we are only logging a guest list for the Harvest Festival and no tickets will be issued. A group of Y6 volunteers will be leading the assembly and all children from F2 to Y6 will be singing four specially selected Harvest Songs. All donations of harvest goods will be gratefully received from between 8.30am next Monday and 9.00am next Tuesday so that we can create a Harvest display and then create food packages for elderly residents within our local community. Your support is always appreciated both by the school and the residents!

**Books for Breakfast:** A separate letter went out on email and paper about Books for Breakfast on Wednesday for F2-Y3. Please ensure that we have your slip back in school to ensure that we have the correct amount of food. We hope that you can come along to what promises to be a great event.

**School Meals/Meet the Catering Team:** As previously stated, we are working really closely with our catering facilities team this year. We felt that parents might like to come into school and talk to catering services about their feedback, their child’s views and maybe sample some of the food that we serve! On Thursday 9th November from 1.30pm our catering team will be available in the school hall for parents to visit until 3.15pm. Please note that as part of our drive to make behaviour and attitudes to learning (see above) we have stressed to all lunchtime staff that we need everyone to work hard to ensure that children demonstrate good manners whilst receiving food and good table manners and social skills whilst they eat. Children are encouraged to eat as much of their dinner as they can and to always use ‘please’ and ‘thank you’. Lunchtime staff have many stickers for children who follow these expectations and, after half-term we will launch a Captain’s Table where pupils who stand out at lunchtime will be invited to eat with school staff at a special table each Friday. Children will receive a little ‘business card’ invitation from an SMSA on a Thursday afternoon if they have stood out during the week.

**Special Dinner Menu:** The updated food menu (with more detail) is now complete. See our Twitter feed and/email for full details. We will put this online when the website is working again. It may help your child to understand what food is available as I felt that some of the items listed were ambiguous!

**Parents’ Evening:** Please note that Parents’ Evening bookings will open next week (5pm on Monday) for the event on Wednesday 15th November. We will send you some information about how to book and, for anyone who is not able to book, please contact the school office or call in. Appointments can be booked for all children at once and changes/cancellations can be made. The event will run from 1.30-7.00pm with appointments strictly limited to 10 minutes per child. Parents can also look at their child’s key work books before or after the appointment this year.

**Sports Teams:** Lots of sports news again! Well done to our girls’ football team who played four great games against local schools and they won the last game 1-0! Well done girls! Our school team lost 7-2 in a fantastic game against a very talented team, Penistone St Johns. A reminder that we will have games for Y3/4 and Y5/6 throughout the year including special development games for children who aren’t selected for the competitive school team. Mrs Exley and I have decided to give out sports certificates as and when required across the school year but, this year, we will also host our first Springvale Sports Awards in July (TBC) to celebrate all of our achievements across the whole year!

**Parent Council:** During my previous Headship we developed a fabulous team of parents who would feedback on school events and communication. The group would meet termly and keep me updated between meetings via email. The group helped to make us a ‘listening school’ who took feedback regularly and addressed any issues on the playground. I don’t want to rush the creation of a similar group without consulting Governors and staff but I thought it might be a good idea to see how many parents would be keen to join such a group. If you are keen or would like more detail, please do get in touch via email or catch me on the playground one morning.

**Jeans for Genes Day:** Well done to the School Council for organising a wonderful Jeans for Genes day. We raised a fabulous £160 for an excellent charity. Well done everyone!

**Y2 DT Day:** Next week our Awesome Australian class will be having a special ‘Guy Fawkes Day’ and making their own models as part of a local competition. Any donations of old newspapers, tights, clothes, etc, are more than welcome throughout the next week! Please pass them on to Mrs Royston.

**School Visits:** I’m very proud to announce that most of our classes have already been out on a school visit (or two) and the children have represented the school (and their families) incredibly well. Every visit ends with significant praise for the attitudes and listening of the children with quotes like ‘the best group we’ve ever had!’ Well done everyone…keep it up and make us proud!

Have a fantastic week everyone!

**Kind Regards**

**Mr L McClure, Headteacher**

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| **Week 6 Information** | **2017/18 Average** | **Week 7 Diary Dates** |
| **Attendance: 97.0%**  **Late marks: 0** | **Attendance: 97.2%**  **Late marks: 1** | Monday 16th: Boys’ Football Y5/6 at PGS 4-5.30pm  Wednesday 18th: Books for Breakfast from 8am  Thursday 19th: Dr Bike (all day, whole school)  Friday 20th: Learn to Ride (Y1 and Y2 only) |
| **Class of the Week: F2 and Y5 ‘Wonderful Welsh and Scottish Stars’ with 100%** | |