

**SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Newsletter- Week 8 Monday 23rd October 2017**

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

**Parent Council (Reminder):** 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.

**Behaviour Policy, Rewards and Consequences:** Our new behaviour policy along with supporting documents are now out for consultation. There is one more week to go to share your views! We are very proud of our children and the way that they learn and behave but staff would like to have more consistent and instant methods to reward children and ensure that any unnecessary behaviour has consequences. We are always keen to minimise disruption to learning and progress.

**Steps to Success:** Our new steps are working really well and we are keen to make them part of everyday discussions rather than just a poster on our walls! We want the children to use the language included in them once they are embedded. For that reason we are sending home a colour copy for every child this week! We want the children to be able to articulate, at an age appropriate level, the content and/or the symbols. We will be focusing on step number 5 this week in school as we link being kind to our Harvest Festival and the Shoe-Box Appeal. We will also have a week were we encourage acts of kindness across our community. Staff, children and parents are quite welcome to join in by undertaking acts of kindness to others. If you know someone who is having a difficult time or someone who you value as a good friend then make sure you tell them and see the impact it has!

**Harvest Festival:** Our Harvest Festival takes place tomorrow (Tuesday) at 10am. We still have a small number of places available for grandparents. All donations of produce and tinned foods are welcome by 9am tomorrow. All goods will be displayed and then packaged up for the local community members. As always, thank you for your support with such events.

**Shoe Box Assembly:** This coming Thursday we have our special Shoe-Box Appeal assembly. I know that this is normally a popular event and it is another way to teach children about caring for and supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. The shoe boxes will be collected earlier than normal so we wanted to give you prior warning! They will be collected on Monday 13th November.

**Steps to Secondary:** I recently spent the day at Penistone Grammar School visiting Y7 lessons, meeting with leaders and having lunch with pupils. I was visiting to explore how well our pupils cope with the transition to secondary in terms of their learning, their organisation and their independence. The feedback was incredibly positive but many pupils said that they struggled in the first few weeks. I’m keen to develop a system where we can support the children towards the end of Y6 to be ‘secondary ready’ and would like some help! I am holding a meeting on Friday 10th November at 3.30pm in school where I need a working party of pupils and parents who have or are about to experience the transition to PGS. Please email me if you are available and keen. It will only take about 30-40 minutes.

**Website Issues:** We are delighted to announce that our website issues have been addressed and the website is now fully functioning. It will be significantly updated over the next few weeks. It already has some up-to-date information and the ‘letters home/diary dates’ sections should be most useful.

**Parents’ Evening (Weds 15th Nov):** Our online parental appointment system goes live tonight at 5pm. Please let us know if you have any problems booking. The letter with instructions was sent out last Wednesday and is now online. If you have problems please contact school and we will help you to book.

**Sports Teams:** Our sports stars continue to amaze us! Our Y5/6 boys’ football team qualified for the Barnsley Finals last week with a 1-0 win over Millhouse and a 2-0 win over Silkstone! We are really proud of the team and Mr Crossfield. We have some cross country events coming up and more football matches (here at Springvale) booked in on Friday 17th November (boys and girls across KS2 from 2pm onwards) and Friday 24th November against Cudworth Churchfield (just Y5/6 league team) from 2.30pm. We will send out permission letters closer to the time.

**Hallowe’en Disco- Important Changes:** This Thursday is our Hallowe’en Disco. Our doors will open at 5.50pm for a 6pm start and the disco will end between 7.15 and 7.30pm. We will call EYFS in first to register attendance then Y1 to Y6 in order. We would ask that EYFS children are collected at 7.15pm, Y1/2 pupils at 7.20pm, Y3/4 pupils at 7.25pm and Y5/6 pupils at 7.30pm. If you have children in more than one year group please come along at the later time to collect them together. This slightly staggered finish will make safety on collection and parking around school much easier. The disco costs £1 to attend (paid on entry as you register) and children are allowed to bring up to £1 extra for snacks and treats. Mr Cutts will provide the music and the parent group have kindly arranged the refreshments and games. Children can attend in their Hallowe’en outfits but please do not come as clowns as some of our younger pupils are uncomfortable with clowns.

**Reward Systems:** Some parents have asked about existing reward systems. Merit points are awarded for good/high quality work in class and at regular intervals children can achieve certificates (e.g. 10 merits result in a bronze certificate). Merits and special achievements can also earn house points and these are counted in our 4 coloured teams for an intra-school contest! These standings are tracked on the hall wall. We have a half termly team winner and that team receives a special treat! As I am so impressed by behaviour and work in classes in my first half term I’m delighted to announce that we will have a special reward for the whole school on Friday afternoon with a movie and karaoke party! This will be in the last hour of the school day and it does not affect pick up time.

**Lost Property:** We have a very high number of items in the lost property basket. Please claim any lost items ASAP. We will put it all out on the playground a few times at the end of each half term for parents to check. Please ensure that all items are marked with your child’s name.

**Bike It:** Thank you to Dave from Bike It Barnsley (Sustrans) for fixing our bikes and helping our Y1 and Y2 pupils to learn to ride last week! We have emailed out (and added online) news of an exciting family cycling initiative too! We hope families can get involved and enjoy the activities.

**Books for Breakfast:** Thank you to everyone who attended the special event last week and enjoyed a cooked breakfast sandwich and a good book! Special thanks to Engie (event sponsor) and ISS (catering team) who organised the event. It is great that they want to support events like this as part of our collaboration in providing high quality learning experiences. Extra special thanks to Mrs Fearn for organising the event and Mr Kilner and Duncan from ISS for all of their hard work! We look forward to welcoming Nursery children and Y4-Y6 in March for the second event!

**Half Term Break:** Just to remind all families that we break up on Friday at 3.15pm for the half-term holiday. We do not have an INSET day this half term so we are back on Monday 6th November.

**Play Leaders:** We have lots of new playground equipment and our Y6 children are currently being trained by a professional sports company to be qualified sports leaders! We hope that this will increase engagement and activity on the playground and keep children fit and active at all times. Y6 were fantastic in their training this week and they complete the course this coming Friday AM. The Y6 children can come to school in their PE/sports clothing on Friday as they have a practical session and then their normal PE in the afternoon.

Have a fantastic week and a wonderful half-term break everyone!

**Kind Regards**

**Mr L McClure, Headteacher**

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| **Week 7 Information** | **2017/18 Average** | **Week 8 Diary Dates** |
| **Attendance: 97.0%**  **Late marks: 2** | **Attendance: 97.2%**  **Late marks: 2** | Monday 23rd: Parents’ Evening Booking opens at 5pm  Tuesday 24th: Harvest Festival at 10am  Wednesday 25th: 32 KS2 children at Cross Country event (PM)  Thursday 26th: Hallowe’en Disco 6-7.30pm  Friday 27th: Y6 Play Leaders event (Y6 can wear sports clothes all day)  Friday 27th: Reward Afternoon (whole school)  Friday 27th: Sundown Family Ticket Prize Draw (reading reward) |
| **Class of the Week: F2 ‘Scottish Stars’ with 99.6%** | |
| **Step to Success Focus:**  **#5 Being kind and helping others** | |