

**SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Newsletter- Week 26**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter which is full of very important updates. The last week has been a challenge for everyone and it has never been more important to be kind, support each other and, ultimately, to take every measure possible to stay safe.

**Coronavirus Update:** Our school is now classed as closed. Children should only attend if it is absolutely necessary to do so. Thank you for your understanding and support on Friday. The Government guidance was frustrating as it did not, in my opinion, ensure that the key message of school's being used as emergency support- as a last resort- was correlated with clear guidelines on what a key/critical worker was and how this translated to families with two parents who both need to work. This created many issues for us as we tried so hard to be fair and reasonable, but also to keep our school open for the families that genuinely had no other choice. We have reached a compromise that we are happy to offer with pupil numbers with 20-30 each day (8-12% of our school community). This allows me to run staff teams that offer suitable and safe childcare. Every child attending will have one familiar adult to them present (assuming we do not have further illness or self-isolation) and I can now provide staff with periods of isolation for themselves and their families which is crucial to my duty of care to staff.

**For children coming into school week commencing Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, the following measures/precautions MUST be taken:**

- Children will wear their own clothes which should be changed daily – we recommend putting clothes straight in the washing machine once returning home to minimise and control the spread of infection. Children should not wear expensive or complicated clothing.
- Up to date contact details for family members and emergency contact details **MUST** be available within school in the event that your child becomes ill.
- Children in all year groups must be brought to school and collected at the end of the day by an adult who has parental responsibility or has been clearly nominated by yourself in a timely fashion. No children will be allowed to walk home or leave with unfamiliar adults.
- Children should enter and exit school through the main reception. Please use the drop off area or car park and keep a distance from the school building, and each other, until our doors open.
- If you (or any other member of your household) become unwell with coronavirus symptoms you must immediately contact school and arrange for collection of your child.
- Social distancing must be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection.
- School **MUST** be informed ASAP if you no longer fall within the key worker category, if your shifts/circumstances change or if you have been asked to self -isolate.
- Thorough hand washing to take place at home just before leaving and then on arrival at school.
- All KS1 children and children entitled to a free school meal attending school will continue to receive a free school meal.
- School meals are available to KS2 children if they require one.
- If children would prefer, they may bring an appropriate packed lunch. We remain nut free.
- Children must be dropped off at 8.45 a.m. and collected at 3.15 p.m.
- No visitors, unless part of our emergency provision/curriculum offer are allowed in school. All music tuition and clubs are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

- Please note that there will be no crossing patrol for the foreseeable future, **please take extra caution on your journey home.**
- No PE kit, book bags, etc are required. Pupils in school will not receive any homework but they can use the range of web links online if required or desired. No jewellery or make up please and please keep finger nails short.
- We are not sure what will happen with fruit and milk orders but if any is received then it will be offered to all pupils. Dietary needs will be adhered to in the usual way. At least two options will be given for school meals with a vegetarian option always offered too.
- Social media will be used differently- focussing on the environment and activities to support parental anxieties and also being careful not to identify who the school deems to be a vulnerable child
- Water bottles should go home each day, be washed thoroughly, and returned the next day.

**School Events:** All school events to the end of the planned school year have been cancelled. Any monies paid for visits or residentials (with the exception of London- see separate letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> March) will be returned ASAP. We are unsure of the situation re: musical instrument tuition but we will update you ASAP. We can also offer a refund on the final two weeks of club costs where requested. An enormous thank you to those who have asked us to keep the costs of the cancelled clubs and to ensure that we pay the club leaders in full- another example of outstanding kindness and thinking of others. ☺ Whatever happens for the coming weeks and months, we promise to ensure that our Y6 pupils and families will have a celebration of their time at Springvale at the next safe opportunity to do so. After all of this I think we will need a whole school party!

**Learning Projects and Home Support:** We have worked really hard over the last week to ensure that pupils not attending school, and their families, are given the support that they need to continue to learn and enjoy our curriculum. We understand that everyone will have different circumstances in terms of time and ability to support home learning. For that reason we would like to stress that all of the shared work is for guidance purposes only. It does not need to be returned or marked, etc. We have shared lots of free online resources and web links to ensure the basics of phonics, daily maths and reading work, etc. all continue. This is SO important. We need children to keep their brains active and to have daily skills as this situation could go on for quite some time. We want to ensure equality for all so we have developed, thanks to the good people at the Robin Hood Academy MAT for their original ideas and templates, a 7 week programme of learning. Each week has a different theme that runs across F1-Y6 and we can send it out in four units for EYFS, KS1, Y3/4 and Y5/6. This week's theme is 'My Family.' These themes will be followed in school too in the mornings so that children are working on similar themes. Again they are non-compulsory but we have worked on them to ensure that they provide structure to the families that would prefer this. Our website link [www.springvaleprimary.org/curriculum](http://www.springvaleprimary.org/curriculum) provides everyone with a wide range of resources including subject specific and even SEND information. This will be updated weekly with the new learning projects listed at the top (they will be emailed too). Paper copies can be posted on a Monday where requested (should arrive by Wednesday).

In the true spirit of our ethos we will also have some shared learning that everyone can take part in. Each day at 9am we will begin the day with a live PE session with Joe Wickes the Body Coach. We encourage children at home to do the same! Link here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/thebodycoach1> We will also be sharing a general knowledge quiz on Twitter with, sharing an assembly message each day based around our values and staying safe and healthy and sharing a bedtime story with Mr McC each evening from 7pm on Twitter that can be played and enjoyed by all (story aimed at F1-Y2 but can be enjoyed by all!) We would love to see our Twitter feed being used just as much as usual, please do share your achievements and creativity at home. We set up Twitter to innovate, collaborate and celebrate and the next few weeks or months will need us to do exactly that to keep each other smiling and laughing! We may even have 'my house points' and 'star of the week!' Facetime Captain's Table might be a touch too much?! Lastly, and let's face, most importantly...we are delighted to announce that our World famous Friday Disco at 1pm will happen for all of our children. Our playlist will be streamed each Friday from 1pm on Amazon, Spotify and Apple Music for everyone to enjoy. More details on this to follow!

**Book Fair:** Our annual school book fair spanned the last two school weeks and we were amazed at how many books we sold! Clearly our work around reading for pleasure is working and Mrs Fearn's very persuasive letter worked! Thank you so much for supporting this initiative...we raised over £1050- a new record- and we now have over £600 to spend on new books for school! Wow, great!

**Governing Body Update:** Congratulations to Mrs Helen Turner who was voted in last week as our new Parent Governor. Helen will be known to many as a local childminder, member of our Parent Council and parent to three children here at school. We welcome you to the team Helen and congratulate you on your successful appointment. The voting was very close and we must thank four more superb candidates who made the choice very difficult for voters on this occasion. All of the candidates- Mrs E Kent, Mr M Williams, Mrs T Beaumont and Mrs L Richards- received good support. We were delighted to see such a high calibre of candidates and an outstanding turnout of voters with over 140 recorded, posted and counted. Sadly, we have to say thank you and goodbye to Mrs Tracey Beaumont in terms of her time as a Parent Governor. We thank Tracey for her service and her support and we are sure that Tracey will continue to be a big part of our team as an SMSA, a volunteer TA, an active member of the Parent Council and through her excellent fundraising and community work.

**School Meals:** Apologies for the confusion on the latest COVID-19 update (issue 3) about Universal Free School Meals. We were ill informed in the communication cross-fire that was Friday morning! As stated above, only children who are in school (F2 to Y2) and those in KS2 who receive a free school meal will be fed, free of charge, in school. Children who are not in school but are registered as entitled to receive a free school meal will have provision made for either food to be provided or to receive a weekly voucher to cover the cost of this. More details on this as we receive them but it is important to state that we would prefer the voucher system as this would eliminate a daily need to come to school to collect food and, in doing so, reduce the amount of interaction between school and families which is our overall aim.

### **Community Spirit...Achieve Together!**

These are such seriously testing times. Last Friday, as we arranged our emergency provision register, I had a window into the desperation of some of our families and their current circumstances. Since arriving at Springvale, aside from falling in love with the place and the people, the most impressive thing that struck me is the community spirit and the sense of togetherness especially when the chips are down. Our recent communication about a family in need brought, not only food bank donations, but cinema vouchers, shopping vouchers, paint and decorating paraphernalia and, generally, a thousand caring comments and positive wishes from our families. On Friday, our new Chancellor said: *'When this is over- and it will be over- we want to look back on this moment and remember the small acts kindness done by us and to us. We want to remember how we thought first of others and acted with decency...it's on all of us.'*

This quote resonated with me and I thought it nicely summed up the spirit of our community. In general I have felt a shift of community spirit in other areas that I am associated and connected with for the better but Springvale is always like this and right now it feels even more powerful. With that in mind I would like to ensure that our weekly communications take on a more whole community feel than simply just a school. **From next week we are keen to share any community messages that are appropriate to share.** Perhaps our parents have a local business that is being affected that we could advertise for free or, perhaps, some families will struggle for support or food or general items. Some parents may fall ill and need support due to symptoms of sickness or a need for self-isolation. Such people may be relied upon to deliver vital supplies to the vulnerable, elderly or infirm. Whatever your personal or business request- we can share them here- discretely where necessary! We will also offer the same service on Twitter for a more instant need.

Stay safe everyone and thank you for your outstanding support.

**Kind Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher**