

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter- Week 27

Sunday 29th March 2020

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Last week was so unusual and challenging for everyone but we are immensely grateful to our families for keeping school attendance to a minimum to ensure that children and staff are as safe as possible. Our school is officially closed but we are following Government guidelines on supporting our most vulnerable pupils and in offering vital, emergency provision for families who have roles where they are not able to work from home and no alternative provision can be made. Our contingency planning has been in four stages with the initial stage of setting up a new provision offer where pupils are safe and spread out (following a similar learning theme to the children at home through the project based curriculum) being successful and complete. Stage two, starting this week, is to run this provision through with flexibility and regular communication with our key worker families to keep numbers of pupils and staffing low but providing effective and safe provision this week and, potentially, after the Easter break based here at Springvale in school week 28 and beyond. Stage 3 was to plan some appropriate Easter provision, including for the Bank Holidays, as instructed by the Government. This has now been done- see separate letter- and please note that all requests must be completed and returned by Wednesday 1st April to qualify. We are expecting very low numbers so we have to be very selective in our staffing to ensure a familiar face for any visiting pupils. Stage 4 is a contingency plan for a central education hub in the longer term- probably at PGS again- for if things become more difficult to staff or if a growing number of NHS working parents, for example, are called in to front line roles and/or extended shifts. This plan is in place but will only be triggered if absolutely necessary.

Learning Projects and Home Support: This week's theme is 'Where We Live.' These themes will be followed in school too in the mornings so that all children are working on similar projects. 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 provides everyone with a wide range of resources including e-reading materials, maths games, subject specific resources or games and even SEND information. This week we even have a virtual sports competition launched by the good people of P4Sport too! This link is updated weekly with the new learning projects listed at the top (they will be emailed too, alongside this newsletter). Paper copies can be posted on a Friday where requested in a timely fashion, these will arrive for Monday! Please note that no work will be set during the Easter holidays but all website links and games are available where needed throughout Easter. If parents need passwords or links, etc, sending through or have any questions please do email me, I will be checking emails regularly and will respond quickly. We also have the TT Rockstars challenge currently ongoing against our locality schools! We are currently in first place but Mrs Mayston and Mrs Evans are desperate for us to keep it up! The challenge logs interaction and correct answers between 4-7pm each night!

I must say how amazing it has been to see your creativity and enthusiasm for home learning on Twitter! We are sharing everything that families send to us to share ideas, keep the sense of community going and, of course, raise a few smiles and laughs. Speaking of laughter, it has been great to see and hear so many happy faces enjoying our new interactive features including bedtime stories which are launched at 7pm each night starring a range of special guests- we are already working on a new set to keep everyone hooked this week! We have received comments from far and wide, I even heard a rumour that Boris Johnson himself has been watching! The highlight of the week was the school disco- it was amazing to 'take over' the local radio

station and bring our weekly grooves and moves to everyone around Springvale and Penistone! Enormous thanks to Mr Robinson and all at Penistone FM! Please keep your requests coming in for next week! We are still sharing a quiz, a little interactive assembly theme and lots of other snippets during the day. Keep sending your work and updates in- they keep us positive too! We will also celebrate and send our Star of the Week certificates each week to selected pupils! 😊

School Meals: We are still awaiting confirmed guidance from the DfE about how we should be ensuring that children who are entitled to free school meals on circumstance (not age) receive food or meal vouchers. Last week we sent out Tesco vouchers to all relevant families unless the children were in school anyway. We are expecting the guidance at some time on Monday so we will send out confirmation of our plans moving forward then. If we have not had confirmation then we will repeat last week's arrangement. Based on information we have received I would expect that school can choose how to provide the meals/vouchers, that a daily value will be set at £3 and that this will not include the school holidays. Please note that families with children also at PGS on free school meals can collect packed lunches for their child(ren) each Monday and Thursday (term time only, I believe) at 11.45am from the school car park. A member of PGS staff will arrive and allow you to select your meals to cover enough days until their next drop off.

Please be aware that we have heard of lots of scams doing the rounds about texts/emails/calls trying to encourage people to share personal information at this time of financial hardship. Some relate to Government payment schemes and some relate to free school meals. Please do take extra care and note that school will not be contacting you for payment/bank details in this way.

Community Spirit...Achieve Together!

Remember- this is the place to share any advertising or community needs to keep Springvale moving! Email me any information by a Saturday evening to be including in our next newsletter!

- Our wellbeing packs for the elderly were delivered on Monday! They brought great joy to 25 different people. The smiles on their faces as we saw them open the package. Mrs Lowe and I delivered them individually - placing them on door steps and then running away to ensure social distancing- we received 6 emails/calls to thank the children and only one call from the police to ask us to stop 'bobby knocking'...😊
- Our food bank is still open for business and it can be accessed, discretely, between 7am and 5pm each day (please avoid 8.45am and 3.15pm). The external door will be open but not set to automatic (you need to pull!) and the trays for drop off or collection are inside the first set of doors so you can access this without entering the protected school building area. We are working with PGS to set up a larger and more accessible food bank- more details on this to follow!
- We have had some fabulous, generous donations of old ICT equipment that can be cleared for use by another family. Naturally, much of the home learning that we can offer at the moment is online so if any family is struggling for ICT equipment OR if more families have items not being used- please do get in touch!
- The local football club- Penistone Church- is trying to raise £4000 to keep afloat after the cancellation of their season. All information here:
https://www.gofundme.com/f/5kzatt-5000?sharetype=teams&member=3980138&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=p_na+share-sheet&rcid=f4ca343360e140cd8e49edf7d538cef3

Stay safe everyone and thank you for your outstanding support.

A reminder that our Twitter feed is at @SpringvalePS. It has never been more important to feel part of our school community, even if you aren't leaving the house! It is free and easy to use. If you need any support, please just ask!

Kind Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher