

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

01226 760930

Headteacher: Mr L McClure
l.mcclure@springvaleprimary.org
www.springvaleprimary.org
@SpringvalePS



Newsletter- Easter

Monday 6th April 2020

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We hope that everyone is staying safe and keeping spirits high at this uniquely challenging time. I am very proud of how everyone is working together and continuing to make Springvale feel like a learning community. Our new rainbow banner is proudly displayed at the front of school and we continue to offer parents support with learning materials, wellbeing needs and any financial guidance that may be required. As stated in an email update last Friday, we would continue to urge that any family that needs help contacts us as soon as possible please. There are some amazing projects being set up across the Borough, and the country, no doubt. We are here to help so please keep talking to us! School phone lines and generic emails won't be monitored for the next two weeks so please address any concerns to me via email in the first instance sharing your best contact number if you would like to talk.

Easter Provision: For the next two weeks we will be based at Penistone Grammar School. A small number of pupils and staff from four different local primaries have set up a special provision in the PGS heart space. We are thankful to the staff and leaders at PGS for hosting us and for helping us to risk assess and plan a new provision in a short space of time. For families using the provision please note that you will need to access through the heart space entrance to the right of the main reception area. A trained first aider and a qualified Headteacher/safeguarding lead will be on site at all times. I will be present every other day to greet the children and at least two familiar staff will also be present each day. PGS contact details are listed below:

Penistone Grammar School Information

01226 762114

Huddersfield Road, Penistone, Sheffield S36 7BX

<https://penistone-gs.uk/>

Twitter: @PGSALC

Learning Projects and Home Support: After Easter our weekly learning themes will return. We will send out projects in Word *and* PDF so that they can be easily accessed on phones, iPads and other devices. Even though it is officially the school holidays we will continue to share learning opportunities via Twitter and we will add as much as we can to our website. Our website link www.springvaleprimary.org/curriculum provides everyone with a wide range of resources which includes e-reading materials, maths games, subject specific resources, Spanish ideas, PE projects and competitions or games and helpful SEND information. There is so much to do but there is, as ever, no pressure or timescale. **Please just focus on what makes you and your family at this time!** Watching a film, playing board games and having lots of fun, jokes and cuddles are the most important things at this challenging time! Well done to everyone who worked so hard on TT Rockstars over the last two weeks. We came in second place on most of the leaderboards which is a great result when we had so many other learning projects ongoing! For those parents seeking more activities or guidance we include some Easter activities that are fun and free from our staff and please also note resources from a leading local educational trust who have some learning projects like ours and some Easter projects, listed here:

<https://www.hcacademytrust.education/hcat-homeworking/>

We have also worked with BMBC to create a link for resources shared across the borough:

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/children-families-and-education/schools-and-learning/learning-during-covid-19/>

Plan for after Easter: Based on current staffing and pupil levels we fully expect to be back at Springvale from Monday 20th April. Rather than send out lots of letters and templates we would just ask that parents **email me by 12noon on Friday 17th April with their emergency provision needs on a week by week basis.** We expect that we will provide meals, milk and snacks, etc. Our plan is to return to our phase one emergency provision in school with a leader and limited staffing. Quizzes, interactive assemblies, the Friday disco and bedtime stories will all return too!

School Meals: We will be following the Government's preferred meal scheme now and sending an eVoucher on email each Monday evening. This is through a company called *Edenred*. They will send a voucher code each week to families who have children in full-time education (F2-Y6) who receive entitlement based free meals (not to all families in F2-Y2 who would receive a free meal when at school). Families will receive £15 a week, per child in line with the Government statement. We will give a larger payment (£20) to children with dietary needs each week. The vouchers can be redeemed at a range of stores including Tesco, our largest local provider. Parents should receive the voucher via email (we are only aware of one family that need it to be posted). Please check your emails and ensure that you have received the vouchers and make immediate contact if they do not come through. We sent out an original set of Tesco vouchers in week one to cover the period of time it took the Government to set up the system-these were sent to addresses on file, please ensure that we have your correct address! This amount was larger than the set figure but we wanted to ensure that families were provided for. Despite the Government not expecting schools to provide this support over Easter myself, leaders and our Governors have agreed that we **will** continue to provide the support due to the unprecedented challenges facing families right now.

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.

Staffing Update: Our staff have been remarkable, as they always are! The staff want to work and they want to support our children, the critical workers and their families. All staff who have underlying medical issues, are of a vulnerable age or are pregnant have been asked to stay at home for the foreseeable future. The remaining pool of staff are being used as infrequently as possible to protect them and their families. Staff are still working hard planning learning projects, leadership documents, curriculum plans for the future, completing online assessment profiles, online training, etc. We have agreed a new report format that is more personal and covers the whole curriculum. Staff will be working on these reports while pupil work and assessment information is fresh in their mind. Regardless of what happens in terms of returning to school, we will be reporting on your child's time in school this academic year. We, of course, hope to return to school in full very soon but we are making medium and longer term plans that include transition plans just in case. Look out for new and exciting ways that we have planned to keep our children smiling and feeling connected to the school! We have stressed to staff that they must also take time to look after themselves and their families at this complex and worrying time. We are also communicating with staff and Governors regularly to ensure that we are all working together and supporting each other. Finally, I add my personal thanks and appreciation to all of the staff and Governors for their support.

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!

- A special mention for the Thorogood family who have created some PPE visors using acetate and a 3D printer. It is the most remarkable story that has seen a small idea snowball into hundreds of orders and requests. Genuine and high quality PPE is now being used in healthcare departments across the region (and beyond) to save lives. Isn't that remarkable?! A huge well done to Ben and his family and an enormous thank you to people who have provided materials, crowdfunding support or messages of encouragement.
- Our food bank is still open for business and it can be accessed, discretely, between 8am and 2.30pm each day, except weekends and Bank Holidays.

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