

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

01226 760930

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



Newsletter- Week 29

Sunday 26th April 2020

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We hope that everyone is feeling safe and well and enjoying some superb weather. We are still really enjoying all of your interactions on email, Twitter and seeing so many happy faces out for their daily exercise...keep it up! It has been another positive week despite the many and significant challenges. Your shared learning and family togetherness are keeping us happy and smiling; I have never been prouder to lead this wonderful school! We have had so many examples of kindness, sharing, caring for others and some absolutely amazing, creative learning ideas shared- it really does show how well you are all doing. Remember, if you feel that you are struggling, we are here too. Pick up the phone or send us an email- we have staff on call to help! We have helped lots of people already and it is great that people contact us to talk about their worries and problems. Our plans for provision and keeping everyone positively engaged continue to develop and evolve. This week pupils will receive a phone call home to check in with parent and child- please note that the call will probably say 'private number' on your phone! Our learning and support resources are receiving fantastic feedback BUT we are aware that, as time goes on, families may need more support or guidance. If this is the case, again, please talk to us. Some schools are planning full video lessons and daily lists of expectations but we seem to be getting it right, based on your constant feedback, with some structure but an overarching message of stay safe, smile, have fun and learn what you can. Our teachers are very skilled and experienced, the schools' curriculum has been paused and we will fix this situation when we return. Please take that one worry off your list, right now! Our weekly themes also allow larger families to #learntogether and my best advice would be to enjoy the weather, a long walk and some time to #playtogether. Remember, our school's ethos is not just for school, it is a vision for the whole community the best visions stand up to the biggest challenges.

Learning Projects and Home Support: This week's theme is 'Animals.' 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. We also have links to music, Spanish, exciting PE opportunities and so, so much more! Please keep on checking the website out as we add lots of new ideas every week! The latest work is at the top of the page but we will always email it to you too in Word and PDF formats!

Free School Meals: Thankfully the Government system is catching up with the delayed vouchers for free school meals and we hope that they will be completely on track by the end of the week. We also wanted to make all parents aware of recent changes to eligibility for free school meals as per the following information from the Government:

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, we are temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF).

These groups are:

- children of Zambrano carers
- children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 **who are also** subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction

These groups are also subject to a maximum household earnings threshold of £7,400 per annum.

We are also temporarily extending eligibility to children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This group is not subject to a maximum household earnings threshold. The extension of free school meal eligibility to these groups will take place immediately. It will end when schools have reopened to all children.

More details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-free-school-meals-guidance> or please feel free to contact school for help/ further information.

Transition: We have already started to create contingency plans for transition at all levels with our main priority right now being Y6, new F2 and new Nursery. There will be a transition- when it happens and what it looks like are obviously unclear right now. A video message has been sent to all new F2 pupils for September and a separate email for Y6 families too. We will always ensure that any decisions are taken to ensure smooth and comfortable transition for all whilst making sure that parents have ample information in a transparent and timely fashion. School tours for prospective nursery places from September are suspended so please do get in touch if you would like a form for admissions so that your child is on the waiting list. We are planning a virtual tour of school to help parents with this process but school doesn't exactly look as it normally does right now! We will do our best to assist you and answer any questions that you have whilst planning an effective transition for any new pupils in the new academic year.

Springvale Quiz Night: We're developing a new idea to keep families entertained and having fun. We now have a treasure hunt each week on Twitter too- can you find 4 special things on your daily walks? The quizzes, discos, bedtime stories and staff videos seem to be working well so we have got a new one! Over the coming days we'll be launching some fun '*Kahoot*' quizzes for families to take part in and we will also be creating a 'Big Springvale Night In' with quizzes, bingo and fun. This should be ready to go in about 10 days and we will launch it on a Youtube link open to Springvale families. More details to follow but families will be able to access it and enjoy questions for the young ones and the old(er!) ones...

Residentials: We have reorganised the Y3/4 London visit for exactly one year after the original plan- 25th and 26th March 2021 when children are in Y4/5. This should not affect the usual plans of Y5 curriculum and their own traditional residential to Scarborough. Because we have already paid and the company have the money, the cost of the visit will remain the same so no further charges will be brought. We felt that this was the most sensible decision as any rearranged dates pre-Christmas 2020 seemed to add extra pressure to the school and anxiety for families, especially with the venue being London where the current health statistics are the most concerning nationally. Many parents had paid a deposit for Scarborough for the Y5 visit. If any parent would like to have that money returned immediately please contact us and we can do that for you ASAP. We do hope to run the visit at a later date, no doubt when the children are in Y6 but this will be constantly reviewed. If we cannot run the visit then we will return all fees to parents as soon as possible.

Club costs: We wanted to clarify that the final weeks of funds for the last run of clubs are available to parents as a refund. Many parents contacted us asking to keep them and pay the club leaders anyway- another example of this very special community- but we are aware that any extra money may be vital to families at this time. We also know that families may feel uncomfortable asking for it so we have set up a trigger response to this email that will automatically request any funds to be returned. Please just reply to the email this newsletter is attached to with the word 'REFUND' and this will be actioned over the next 2-3 days. We are looking into the possibility of supporting our club leaders in the Summer Holidays by hosting some activity camp days at school to support their businesses and allowing some parents to get back to work...again, like so many things, this is subject to the situation and guidance at the time!

Community Hub: We have had 2 more pieces of ICT donated this week which have been refreshed and shared with families in need of the extra support for home learning! Our food bank has also been restocked by many kind donations. The food bank can be accessed discretely between 8am and 5pm without a need to disturb staff. There are lots of useful items, not just food! The main front door will be open with a pull and the items are stored before the security doors. A further shout out to the Thorogood family (and everyone who has supported their fundraising and production efforts) who continue to supply medical, retail and healthcare professionals with vital safety equipment!

TT Rockstars: A huge well done to everyone who is trying so hard on eLearning platforms for all ages! Numbots, spelling frame, so many to mention! Your hard work and interaction is absolutely fantastic! We currently have 3 competitions running on TT Rockstars...Y5 v Y6, Y3 v Y4 and our school against the 9 other local primary settings! Y6 and Y4 lead at present but there is still time to go...come on! The really good news is that we are leading the way against all of the other schools! Well done everyone!

Stay safe everyone and thank you for your outstanding support.

Kind Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher