

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Newsletter- Week 30

Dear families,

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We continue to work as hard as we can to support our children and families during these complex times. Staff have been making calls home and continuing to plan exciting home learning projects and additional resources. Our staff were delighted to hear so many familiar voices last week- children and their parents- we hope you found it useful to catch up! Thank you for your excellent feedback on the support and work we are providing and for your ongoing support. Many families that I spoke with last week said that last week was the hardest so far and reported feeling a little low- we hope to have more details about what happens next soon to hopefully lift spirits, hopefully including some positive news about getting back to normal one day soon- but only when it is safe to do so! Please remember we are not just here to be a school from 8.45 to 3.15pm we are available- any day, any time for support. If you do feel low or have any needs, educational or otherwise, we are here to help. Please just get in touch!

**Learning Projects and Home Support:** This week's theme is 'The Environment.' 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 with the latest to be added nearer the top of the page. The latest work is at the top of the page but we will always email it to you too in Word and PDF formats! We are worried, as time develops, about reading as this is still the most crucial skill that unlocks all other learning! We have offered books and extra materials to all children and some have requested them. From now on, on Mondays and Fridays we will wheel out our mobile libraries to the top of school between 9.30am and 3pm for any materials you may want to take (during your daily walk)- we would just ask that you keep them safe so that they can be returned as books are obviously such a vital resource! Mrs Royston has found two new online reading schemes with thousands of books available on each platform- please see the website and your emails for more precise details. If you would like some guidance from your child's teacher on which materials/age group/band to target please let me know. The key for F1 to Y2 is that the phonic level is appropriately challenging and for KS2 it is more about being about to discuss the text and answer questions rather than simple read through it quickly. We do have another resource in mind but this is taking some time to set up so we will keep working on it!

**Free School Meals:** Vouchers are still taking longer than they should to arrive but they are coming through and being redeemed and used to purchase food. Last week's vouchers are now out on email for everyone to download and use and we have ordered this week's vouchers now. If you have any issues or you are struggling with the wait for the voucher please just let us know.

**Initial plans for recovery:** Like everyone else we are waiting to see and hear what will happen next and how best to get life back to normal, or as close to normal as we can. Staff, leaders and governors are working really hard to make sure that we have a safe and effective plan to get children back to school and playing, learning and achieving together. We will follow any Government guidelines very closely indeed but we have planned for all eventualities of a partial re-opening. Staff are working incredibly hard to complete many leadership roles, online training, reports and assessments as well as teaching on a rota and planning resources and projects for home (and keeping themselves and their families safe!) This workload is significant but we are committed to getting ahead so that we can dedicate our time and efforts fully when the time comes to re-open partially or otherwise. If you have a specific question or worry please do get in touch. Obviously, we cannot wait to be back, all of us, together!

**TT Rockstars:** Mrs Evans and Mrs Mayston are blown away by the numbers this week as we go well ahead of all other local schools! The class contests are great too and they have been very close! Congratulations to Y5 and Y4 who took the wins and the prize of champions! Y5 were a long way behind a week ago...great effort! Well done to this week's top ten which has been shared on Twitter! There is one week to go in the pyramid competition so keep it up, we are currently the top 4 classes out of the whole area! Please note that access all day now counts in these competitions due to school being 'closed.' Well done to little ones too who are all using 'Numbots' another great, free resource! Let us know if you need your child's password details.

**Social Learning:** We have had a few parents ask about plans for online social meetings for pupils through Zoom. We know that the social aspects of learning are the hardest to replicate but we do not, at this stage, have plans to move to zoom learning or school organised social sessions. We do not yet have a secure and professional account and we have explored the setup of such a system and encountered safeguarding and GDPR issues that in our opinion, far outweigh the potential benefits. We do know that many classes already have groups set up through parents so if any parent is worried about their child's social time with class mates but they are not involved in any such out of school arrangements please just let us know and we will do our best to put you in touch with some appropriate families (without sharing any details without permission, of course). We will continue to develop our ways of communication and the quality of our home learning support as this situation develops, unless we start to return to school of course! Please note that feedback through Twitter, emails, calls, parent governors and the Parent Council are all methods to share your views with us! We are meeting governors every fortnight and emailing Parent Council members every few weeks too. Also, we would love to hear from our School Council members about their views! Last week's projects seemed to be the most popular by some distance so please keep telling us what you like and/or what you don't like so that we can adapt and make things better for everyone! Please note that our staff are ready and able to offer feedback on work too- via Twitter, on email or posted work but this is not an expectation. My role is to seek views and provide a system that works for our community and the expectation of feedback may heap pressure on some to complete and return high quality work at a time when this is not possible for every family.

**School Display:** Mrs Tomlinson, our art and DT leader, had a lovely idea last week- we wondered if we could create a display near our new rainbow sign on the school gates with all of our children joining hands! If children create an A4 self-portrait with their hands held out touching the edges of the paper- see Twitter for an example- we will leave a plastic box outside school with plastic wallets, a stapler and some string to add your portrait to another child's! This could be done as part of your daily walk. We will put up a few on Monday morning to get it started! If we get quite a few it will look fantastic across the front of school! The equipment will be available from Monday lunchtime!

**Next week and beyond:** Our immediate plans are to remain open for Emergency Provision as we are with parents emailing at least weekly where they require support. We are open on Bank Holiday Friday as normal and will have a disco and Bedtime Story, etc as per a normal Friday! Thank you to our recent guests on Bedtime Stories and the Disco! The discos are fabulous and it makes us so happy to know that so many children are enjoying them simultaneously (although you can 'listen again' online at <https://www.penistonefm.co.uk/> for a week or so I believe. Remember we are constantly doing quizzes and little assembly themes to keep an element of routine going! A big thanks to our new quiz master Ms Heeley (she asks tougher questions than me so get those thinking caps on!) Please note that we intend to move back up to the Grammar School for what would have been Spring Bank if the situation hasn't changed by then. We would then return to Springvale again.

**Springvale Quiz Night:** Next weekend we will launch our 'Springvale Big Quiz Night In' on our Youtube channel. It will be about an hour long but you can pause it to give you more time to discuss, debate, fall out and make up! The quiz will have questions for children and adults and some extra bits of fun thrown in! We will send all parents the link and it can be viewed on any day to suit you and your hectic social calendars! Thank you to everyone for joining in with other online quizzes and our staff pet quiz too! Did anyone get full marks? Answers were emailed out and they are now online!

**Family Sports Day:** This week we will be planning our first ever Stay at Home Olympics for the whole community! We normally have two excellent sports days in school for Y1-Y6 and then EYFS later in the Summer. As it is clear that neither will be possible (even in late Summer due to large gatherings, etc) we are announcing that the whole school Sports Day will be happening across four days this month! Families can choose one of the days or spread it across the four day Bank Holiday weekend to suit their needs! So between Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May we will set you a special series of challenges. They will be for all ages and abilities. The games will include resources that all houses have so there will be no need to buy special equipment. You can cancel that 50m swimming pool project and the pony for dressage now! The full plan will be sent out at the end of this week! We will also have an opening ceremony and prizes for parents, children and whole families. You can email or tweet pictures to us and we will have the option to record and share your results for a virtual competition! Twitter should be lively that weekend!

**Community Hub:** A further reminder that we are here to help and we can share news, request support for the elderly or vulnerable or advertise projects or businesses in need of help here! Thank you to everyone who has shared items at our food bank recently! The bank has been well stocked and is now regularly used. If you have any items that may be useful to others please let us know or feel free to drop them off! Thank you for your fabulous support once again!

Stay safe everyone and thank you for your outstanding support.

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