

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Newsletter- Week 32

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We hope that everyone is staying safe and keeping well in these extraordinary circumstances. Lots to get through today so let's get started!

Sunday 17th May 2020

Thank You: I wanted to extend a personal thank you to everyone who has kept school moving in the right direction at this complex time. While staff have been working from home more than ever, they have worked really hard on reports (these will be with all parents in early June this year), emergency teaching on a rota (including holidays and bank holidays), completing detailed subject assessments, curriculum documents, online training, home learning projects and related resources, phone calls home, etc. Staff have worked incredibly hard whilst protecting and caring for their own families and their colleagues- I am blessed with a wonderful team and they support our leaders every step of the way in our decisions despite natural anxieties about their own well-being. Our pupils and parents need a special thank you too, you have stayed positive, supported us more than ever before and kept safe. Amazing. I'm proud to lead this community and the messages of support and personal thanks that seem to accompany every email, phone call or tweet at the moment mean so much to us. Thank you.

One group I desperately want to shine a spotlight on is our Governors, especially Kristianne Thorogood, our fabulous chair and Derek Cliffe, our Health and Safety Governor. Being a Governor is a voluntary role and our team are balancing this support with their own workload and their family demands. They are a superb group all year round but of late they have gone above and beyond. The team are meeting fortnightly (often more), late at night, on virtual platforms. They are also working through Government guidance, my detailed emails and documents (risk assessments, etc) daily and offering crucial guidance and support. They have been superb and incredibly supportive. I just wanted to say thank you to everyone. I think I just did!

New Logo: We hope that everyone likes our new logo. This will stay in place until we can safely reopen school to all pupils. An enormous thank you from everyone at Springvale to all who work in the NHS and to everyone who has followed the guidelines carefully to support the efforts of all of our heroes, the doctors, nurses and care assistants.

Learning Projects and Home Support: This week's theme is 'Celebrations.' 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. We will now also email out Y1-Y6 maths sheets each week- four sheets of work...and the answers!. **Please note that we will not be sending out any specific work or resources for the Spring Bank week** but we do still have dozens of fantastic resources available on the curriculum tab of the website. There are many ideas to explore the wider curriculum and lots of documents and games to support physical health and emotional wellbeing too. Please do take a look- there is plenty to keep everyone busy and thriving! **Please note that we are committed to offering home learning until all children return safely.**

Stay at Home Olympics (Sports Day): This has now been sent out and it is online! Look out for our launch video to open this year's event on Friday morning! We are encouraging families to take part over the weekend 22-25th May and to share their scores, highlights and pulled muscles on Twitter or email! Have fun!

Staff Training: During the period of 'closure' we have significant extended/refreshed our levels of staff training. Schools are expected to have one person trained to Level 3 in safeguarding but we now have four staff (including the three most senior leaders) and two Governors trained to this level. Furthermore, our entire team is trained in the Government's prevent scheme. Our levels of 1st aid training have more than doubled and our support staff have accessed between 10-15 different training programmes.

Spring Bank Provision and beyond: A reminder that we are moving back to PGS for the half-term break, see full details online. This should only be requested where absolutely necessary. A letter about plans from 1st June and the potential extension of our emergency offer into key year groups is taking shape but we are not able to share full details as new guidance from the Government continues to be released daily.

Questionnaire Feedback and Response: Please note feedback from the recent 'Survey Monkey' on the below. Thank you for your positive feedback and for the suggestions about further improvement. I am delighted to note the overwhelmingly positive views but also keen to listen to your ideas for the future. We had 33 responses. Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

Question:	Disagree	Not sure	Agree
The school has communicated regularly with families.	0%	3%	97%
The school has updated the website regularly as a point of contact.	0%	3%	98%
The school has used Twitter well to stay in touch.	0%	0%	100%
The work set has been useful and appropriate.	0%	3%	97%
The extra websites and resources have been useful.	0%	3%	97%
The school has made expectations clear- do as much as you can...	0%	3%	97%
We have sent out support with PE, wellbeing and wider curriculum.	3%	3%	94%
The efforts of children and families have been recognised through rewards and/or social media.	3%	0%	97%

I am delighted to present these results. It appears that despite limited time to prepare for this new way of working we have offered a well-received series of work projects and supporting materials. Only two answers had one 'disagree' response. We have sent out many web-links and other documents on Twitter, school emails and/or posted on the curriculum tab- these are still there if required too. I think some of these were sent out quickly and in no set pattern so these could have been organised into subject specific documents if we were taking it to the next step. Re: efforts and rewards, other than a few days where we didn't seem to receive some tweets (which we noted and asked for them sharing again) we have shared and interacted with every single tweet, responded to emails on the same working day (head and class teacher where required) and we have hand delivered over 100 certificates and prizes over the last two months.

Sample of positive comments about the key strengths of our approach:

- Outstanding communication
- Learning projects and 'family approach' for people with more than one child
- Balance of work and messages about pupil and parent wellbeing
- Free resources and web based games
- Twitter, bedtimes stories, quizzes, etc
- Energy from staff and leaders to keep the school ethos alive- great idea with the disco!

One full response that we loved...

"The communication is fantastic. The ethos of the school is still evident even though most are not attending. The wellbeing of the children and wider school community continues to be the main priority of the leaders. They are doing an amazing job."

Some areas to improve and response:

- More communication with class teachers directly, video calling or video lessons. As stated above, staff have been working very hard on several projects that will allow us to focus on a return to school and supporting pupils to the level they require after the disruption. We do not have the technology, safe practice/policies or expertise (in most cases) to deliver this, especially from our homes.
- Projects sent out earlier on a Sunday to prepare for the week ahead. This can easily be done ☺
- Sometimes too much coming out and it can be overwhelming. In the initial weeks we did send out/tweet an awful lot of work but we had a wide range of needs and circumstances to cater for. The message main learning projects were highlighted as the key work and the rest was there if and when required.
- More feedback on work. This is an area that has been limited to emails and Twitter. Some schools do have platforms where this can happen more easily for all pupils. We will look into that in the future.

Stay safe everyone and thank you for your continued outstanding support.

Kind Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher