

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Newsletter- Week 34

Dear families,

Friday 5th June 2020

Welcome to our latest newsletter. As ever we have lots of information to share with you, so let's get started!

Extension of provision: A warm welcome back to many families. I'm delighted to say that the first week has been a total success and staff have reported that the risk assessment is working brilliantly to keep children happy, safe and engaged in learning. Our staff have proven once again- as if they needed to- what a great asset they are. School has been buzzing since Monday and the noise of laughter and positive energy has filled our classrooms once again. It really is such a relief to see the plans coming to life in these early stages. This week we welcome back half of our EYFS pupils too- we have completely revamped the EYFS environment and added lots of new exciting features to the outdoor! We will tweet lots of updates to help parents feel comfortable and calm on their first day back!

EYFS unit: Our consultation for the proposed plan to create an EYFS unit across F1 and F2 next year has had very positive feedback. The staff have been working in school to develop the approach further and we are really excited to say that we are now committed to this approach for the next 12 months at least. We are recruiting an additional Teaching Assistant for the new approach and the application process is available here:

<https://barnsley.engageats.co.uk/LoginV2.aspx?enc=vDVLPLY6BrOnmx9szwB5icCcJDrmWSTCXqiZzICsvqNN8YFhRYmoUV2CyOWOzv0dF>

Please note the closing date is a week on Monday. We have already had a very high number of quality applicants- great to see! We will keep you updated on our progress as we hope to appoint within the next fortnight or so. Please look out for transition information for new F1 and F2 starters over the coming weeks as we hope to have virtual welcome evenings, welcome video tours, *PowerPoint* email shots and, hopefully- later in the Summer- a chance for you and your child to visit us. We will obviously balance this against the latest safety measures and guidance so please note that transition, and indeed your child's start with us, may be affected.

Nursery Places: Speaking of Nursery (F1) we have lots of current Nursery children moving to Reception age and very few staying in the Nursery group this Summer. This means that for the first time in a few years we have quite low numbers and availability for additional, new pupils. Please do let us know if you are interested or know anyone who is.

Learning Projects and Home Support: This week's theme is 'Sport.' 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. **Please note that we are committed to offering home learning until all children return safely. Next week we will have a special wellbeing project for pupils to enjoy alongside their learning!**

Diary Dates to Summer:

Friday 12th June: Y2-Y5 reports available

Friday 12th June: Deadline for Y6 hoodies

Friday 19th June: F2-Y1 and Y6 reports available

w/c Monday 22nd June: Virtual School Games

Wednesday 24th June: New starters, virtual welcome meeting- Nursery and Reception (5pm)

Friday 26th June: Dress down day- school and home- wear yellow or Summer colours for Cystic Fibrosis

Monday 29th June: Y6 hoodies delivered (target date)

Wednesday 15th July: Virtual/school picnic

Friday 10th July: Nursery Reports out to children moving to reception

Friday 17th July: final day of school, Y6 final day at Springvale

Summer Holidays: Our school has a full redecoration and some building improvement work planned this Summer. This has been planned for the last 12 months and despite being touch and go due to the Coronavirus situation it appears that we are back on track for this to take place across the traditional Summer holiday period. For this reason school will be closed to pupils and staff from Friday 17th July. We will work with local childcare providers and activity/sports clubs (assuming they are safe to operate) and signpost parents to such opportunities a few weeks before the period begins. If the worst should happen and a second peak arrives/stricter lockdown period resumes we will follow Government guidance which may include reverting to emergency educational provision only. If this was to happen, and assuming Government guidance expected it of the school, we would work with Penistone Grammar School to make an emergency offer just like we did at Easter and Spring Bank.

Childcare/Wraparound Update: We have been seeking further direction from the DfE and they have now responded and updated their official guidance. It would appear that our stance is the safest and correct one. The latest guidance states that 'providers which have before and after school provision on site and who can follow the same protective measures in place at the school are able to operate' before later adding 'all other out of school settings are not able to operate.' We are now seeking confirmation of whether this guidance also applies to the emergency group as this could affect arrangements for three families currently. We will keep you updated as soon as possible.

Updates and reminders:

- Emergency group bookings must be made by lunchtime by a Wednesday for the following week registers to allow time to organise staffing, groups and safety measures.
- Our sharing libraries will be back out in the shelter between 10am and 2pm each Tuesday and Friday from now until the end of Summer.
- Our collage of portraits on the school gates and fence have been removed due to weather damage but we wanted to thank everyone who took part and added their image! It was a lovely idea and it brightened up the front of school for several weeks! Our rainbow banner will remain!
- Children attending school must bring a water bottle. This should go home and back to school every day and it should be washed and refilled at home. Children attending without a bottle (on any day) will be given a school bottle and charged at £1.40 through the School Money system.
- A reminder that children now have their own safe and clean box in school. This box is not used by any other child, even if your child only attends for part of the week. Children should bring as little as possible each day- large bags are not required.
- Packed lunches are still allowed but please ensure that any boxes used rather than bags are cleaned carefully each evening before being reused. Foods and snacks brought to school must be prepared and stored in a way that the child can open and eat all of the contents without adult support.
- Children attending should be independent in terms of toileting as we cannot ask staff to provide intimate care without a significant and personalised risk assessment. If a child does have an accident we will encourage them and support them to support themselves from a safe distance and if they cannot do so safely or appropriately we may contact parents for support.
- Maths sheets will be emailed out to Y1-6 each week and included in home learning packs where requested. We cannot post them online due to our license agreement.
- We will be taking extra safety precautions with so many pupils experiencing school for the first time in a while and some pupils experiencing new environments or staff. These precautions include class assemblies about how to stay safe and weekly 'walk through' fire practice. This means that we may not set off the alarm as per a formal drill, but we will take the children through the process so that they know what to do in the event of a real fire or emergency scenario.
- Please note that the INSET day planned for Friday 26th June has now been cancelled. School will be open each day until we break for the Summer Holidays, as per our extension plans sent out to parents recently.

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

Kind Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher