

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Newsletter- Week 39

Dear families,

Welcome to our final weekly newsletter of the academic year. What a rollercoaster it has been for everyone. Thank you for working with us and supporting all that we do. We are delighted to have supported families throughout the year, including the unique and challenging circumstances of the last few months. We will try our best, in the letter that follows, to tie up any loose ends for this year **and** inform you about our plans for the academic year ahead!

**School Improvement Update:** We would normally dedicate this final newsletter to our school improvement journey. We are delighted with the progress that our children have made and the way that our staff have provided excellent standards of teaching both in the classroom and through online systems during the COVID disruption. Our teachers have developed their curriculum subjects significantly this year and we have taken further great strides towards embedding our ethos and culture of working together as one to help children to be successful in their play, learning and achievement. The sad thing is that we were on track for our smoothest and best year ever; outstanding progress, high SATS grades with all pupils on track to meet their potential, further sporting, arts and music developments and the usual range of excellent experiences on offer through visits, theme days and residential, etc.

Looking on the positive side of our COVID experiences, your feedback tells us that we navigated the challenges (unprecedented as they were, as we are constantly told) with great strength, clear communication and, crucially, never losing sight of our common goals and community spirit. That makes us very happy. In a funny sort of way, this has been our best year and the last 4 months have proved what a great community we have- including amazing children, supportive parents and governors plus a wonderful team of talented and committed staff that go above and beyond time and time again. I am very lucky to serve you all as Headteacher and I appreciate your support every step of the way, always. Great communities show themselves to be exactly that when times are the hardest they have ever been, you and we have certainly done that in my eyes. The time has come to take a break, recharge the batteries and focus on what will be a new challenge in September. Regardless of where your child is and how much time they have had in school; we have the skill, experience and character to support them to settle, enjoy, grow and, ultimately, achieve their potential. We wish you all a restful summer and look forward to working hard for you and your children from 2<sup>nd</sup> September. If you are concerned, in any way, about your child returning in September please make contact with us this week so that we can discuss and support a smooth transition to your child's next class. We are preparing for every child to return so please make contact if you are not ready and/or able to take up your place in September. All existing policies like 'safe collection' and 'absence request forms' will resume from 1<sup>st</sup> September.

**Transition Updates:** The face-to-face and zoom transition sessions held so far have been a joy and we look forward to the sessions with Y3 and Y2 children. Please ensure that you look out for a zoom link if your child is not in school (the times are on last week's newsletter) so that all children have a chance to meet their new teacher

**Initial Plans for Next Year:** Please find enclosed a calendar for the next academic year and a suggested planner of events. The events are all subject to health and safety guidance- we will keep you updated on each event as soon as we can!

**Heads Together:** This year's Fun Run for Jack and Paul was cancelled due to the COVID outbreak but the show must go on! We have posted a link on Twitter to the fundraising which will happen virtually this year. Families can walk/jog/run wearing bright t-shirts and then post a picture of them taking part to receive a medal! Please ask us for details if you are not on our Twitter page.

**Cluster Lead Role:** After 5 years of working with BMBC's Alliance Board (2 at Shawlands and 3 at Springvale) I have decided to step back as the Penistone Cluster Lead. During the COVID pandemic the workload for a Cluster Lead has grown significantly to become significant and substantial. This has made balancing my Springvale role, LLE work and family commitments very difficult indeed. It was an honour and a pleasure to represent Barnsley Central and Penistone schools over the years and I hope to have had an impact on these areas through the work conducted and support of many colleagues. I am committed to supporting children across the region more widely than just our school and will be working with BMBC to support them in the future in a different and less demanding role. Mr Tabbner, Headteacher at Silkstone Common, will replace me as the Penistone Area Lead. As someone I have known for a long time, I am sure he will do an amazing job!

**Alarm Issues:** We are aware that our school alarm has been triggered during times of school closure, often late at night. We report every such incident straight to Engie who are responsible for the installation and maintenance of the school's security alarm system. Due to a high number of false alarms in recent months we ourselves have complained to the company about the disruption caused to neighbours. We would like to apologise on behalf of Engie and assure you that every issue is reported and followed-up. We work hard to build excellent relationships with our whole community, not just our neighbours and we want our near neighbours to feel confident that we are taking the issues seriously. The issues seem to have settled down since the most recent work on the system so we hope that there will be no disruption during the Summer Holidays. Neighbours are welcome to contact us for Engie's helpdesk details for any false alarms over the Summer.

**Leavers' Assembly:** A reminder that our Y6 leavers' assembly will be this Friday at 1.30pm. This will be outdoor on the school field, weather permitting. If the weather is too poor to hold the event outdoor we will have to cancel parents attending and seek permission to broadcast an indoor version on Zoom. We will email details about where to go and how to stay safe in the coming days.

**EYFS Unit:** Due to the strict guidelines on controlled class bubbles we will pause the plans for the EYFS unit and review the situation every half-term. We will still work towards this goal and have the benefit of the more consistently class timings and a collaborative approach to planning the curriculum and special events. We will keep you updated about our plans for the new approach!

**Class names next year:** Apologies that we missed off the staffing list last week that Mrs Haigh is supporting SEND in Y6 until Christmas before reverting back to class support in Y3, thus releasing Mrs Kelly to her normal role. This year's class names will be themed around NHS and medical heroes! Here are the class names:

F1 Rainbow Rangers

Year 1 Nina's Neurons

Year 3 Courageous Colonel Moore's

Year 5 Hippocrates' Heroes

F2 Dr Ranj's Rangers

Year 2 Sensational Seacoles

Year 4 Fantastic Flemings

Year 6 Winston's Wonders

**Summer Opportunities:** We will be sharing news and details of any summer childcare/fun club arrangements on offer to support working parents during the summer break. We have tweeted (and will email) an opportunity from Team Plus already but we would also like to signpost to the excellent local options through wraparound/childcare providers who are allowed to support children in small, controlled bubbles through the Summer. They have been affected by the DfE guidance and our safety first measures but they are ready and keen to support at Childsplay, Little Freddie's and Rascalz. We will tweet and email any other offers shared with us including HeppDT and Pop Shop.

**Ear-piercing:** A reminder that ear-rings of any kind (including transparent plastic ones) are not allowed in school and children will have to remove them if they come to school wearing them. If children are to have ears pierced soon they need to be done at the start of summer holidays so that ear-rings can be removed in 6 weeks' time for lessons. It is vital that no child misses any curriculum area from September.

**Learning Projects and Home Support:** This week's theme is 'Space.' We have also shared our weekly Art/DT challenge from Mrs Tomlinson! We hope that you enjoy all of next week's opportunities! Our website link [www.springvaleprimary.org/curriculum](http://www.springvaleprimary.org/curriculum) provides everyone with a wide range of resources.

Stay safe everyone and thank you for your continued outstanding support. Have a great Summer!

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

## Key Information for 2020/21

**Risk Assessment:** Our risk assessment has been developed and will be carefully reviewed this week before being shared with BMBC, unions and parents at the end of next week.

**Childcare/Wraparound:** We are working with all local providers and the DfE guidance to clarify the position on the use of childcare/wraparound. More news by the end of next week.

<b>School Uniform:</b> All back to normal. Uniform and PE kit back in place. Plain, black shoes. Name in all items.
<b>Equipment:</b> F1 to Y1 all provided. Y2-Y6 to bring their own pencil case and stationery please.
<b>Clubs:</b> All end at 4.30pm. All classes Y1-Y6 offered at least one club per term, offer rotated. Subsidised.
<b>Visits:</b> Will return where dully risk assessed and safe enough to attend.
<b>Visitors:</b> Limited. Only allowed access by appointment. Parents and guests to stay out of the building.
<b>Temperature Checks:</b> Remain daily for all pupils and staff. All visitors to have temperature taken.
<b>PPA cover/specialist teaching:</b> All plans made to reduce the number of pupils taught. Limited to 3 groups.
<b>Drop off:</b> Limited numbers please- 1 parent maximum. One way system in operation for drop-off/collection.
<b>Playtimes:</b> Taken in zones with a maximum of 3 classes at once, one in each zone.
<b>Assemblies:</b> All online, mid-morning. Normal themes and timetables followed.
<b>Leadership:</b> Leaders assigned to key times and for safeguarding/medical support needs.
<b>Staffing:</b> All staff to return unless medically unable to do so.
<b>Attendance:</b> Compulsory and chased up daily as per normal circumstances.
<b>Punctuality:</b> Late arrivals logged and discussed with parents. Need for all parents to arrive at precise times.
<b>Breakfast Clubs:</b> Cannot go ahead at this time.
<b>Events/shows:</b> Will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and online version attempted if needed/possible.
<b>Dress up/down days:</b> Will be limited but we will still plan some to support charitable causes.
<b>Water Bottles:</b> Needed in school every day. Must be cleaned and returned every day.
<b>Book Bags:</b> They will return for any homework, books, reading diaries. Daily reading is vital.
<b>Catch-up:</b> We have plans to assess, track and review all pupil progress more closely in all subjects.
<b>Curriculum:</b> The curriculum will return in full. Some extra/extended content like handwriting/mental maths.
<b>Transition:</b> Please ensure that you have seen relevant letters and Powerpoints and shared with pupils.
<b>Holiday Requests:</b> Every single minute of available education counts so we discourage term-time holidays.
<b>Homework:</b> Homework projects, tasks and expectations around reading, spelling and x table skills return.
<b>Home Learning:</b> We expect that all pupils will return unless they have a significant medical reason.
<b>Work to support shielding/at risk:</b> We will share some examples of class work via email.
<b>School meals:</b> A new three-week menu will begin on our return: hot, vegetarian, jacket and sandwich option.
<b>Music Tuition:</b> Will resume soon- await more information! Please contact us if you want to start learning!
<b>Ukulele lessons:</b> New Y4 will continue to October half term and then new Y3 will learn Nov 20 to July 21.
<b>Sittings:</b> There will be three meal sittings (F2 and Y1 12-12.30pm, Y2-Y4 12.30-1.00pm, Y5-6 1.00-1.30pm)
<b>SMSA mixing:</b> Lunchtime staff will stay with their group and track them between the hall and the playground.
<b>Where do we go to drop off/collect?</b> Nursery/reception at the class doors. Others at rear of school near Y6.
<b>What do siblings do until their class time?</b> Sit in the hall with a book. Must be sensible and on task.
<b>Class Times:</b> See below. Families to arrive at the earliest sibling time and collect at the last sibling time.
<b>Milk and Fruit:</b> We expect these to return soon and will update further on costs/refunds from this year.

Class	Start	End	Playtime	Lunch
Year 6	8.30am	3.30pm	10.50-11.10am	12.30-1.30pm (1pm lunch)
Nursery	8.35am	11.35am or 2.35pm (30h)	Outdoor Learning	11.35-12.05pm lunch
Reception	8.40am	3.00pm	Outdoor learning	12-1.00pm (12noon lunch)
Year 1	8.45am	3.05pm	10.15-10.35am	12-1.00pm (12noon lunch)
Year 2	8.50am	3.10pm	10.15-10.35am	12.30-1.30pm (12.30 lunch)
Year 3	8.55am	3.15pm	10.15-10.35am	12.30-1.30pm (12.30 lunch)
Year 4	9.00am	3.20pm	10.50-11.10am	12.30-1.30pm (12.30 lunch)
Year 5	9.05am	3.25pm	10.50-11.10am	12.30-1.30pm (1pm lunch)
<b>Assembly Online 10.35-10.50am</b>				

