

**SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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## **Newsletter- Week 5**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. This week has been incredibly challenging and, to mirror the Prime Minister's statement last week, it seems like an appropriate time to remind everyone that this is a team effort to keep school moving and to keep everyone safe. In terms of teaching and the curriculum, the school year has started brilliantly and pupils are much better placed than they might have been, factoring in the unprecedented circumstances. Families and our staff should feel very proud of the position of the children and the way in which they have settled in school already.

Our safety measures appear to be working well, despite the nursery closure, and we are delighted that we haven't heard of any further positive cases or significant symptoms since last weekend. The picture across the country appears to be one of bubble closures and significant percentages of children and adults requiring a test before they can return safely. Last week we had a very thorough assessment of our approach to COVID- both the safety side and our educational offer- and we received outstanding feedback on both fronts. As I have said, it does still feel like the right time to ensure that all families understand the rules and expectations that we have in place to ensure that we remain 100% as safe as we can! Please read the following section very carefully:

### **KEY MESSAGES**

- 1. Only arrive at or slightly after the specified times-** the playground is completely closed to parents before 8.30am and until 3pm and parents arriving early may have to wait which frustrates parents who have arrived at the correct time only to be at the back of a queue!
- 2. Keep a safe distance from other families whilst on the playground at times**
- 3. Keep children close by at all times-** this includes siblings who should not be running around or away from parents, please do not allow children to play on the trim trail or in the MUGA.
- 4. Please leave the school grounds as soon as you are ready to and avoid congregating on school grounds**
- 5. Only one parent per family to enter the school grounds**
- 6. Please use the one way system from 8.30-9.05 and from 3.00-3.35pm AND for club collection**
- 7. Please do not enter school through the car park (walking or cycling)**
- 8. Cyclists and scooters should dismount from their bike/scooter once on school property**
- 9. A test is only required for a person who is displaying one or more of the three key symptoms**
- 10. If a child (or a member of their household) takes a test they must self-isolate until the result has been received. If it is negative they can return to school. If it is not a period of self-isolation begins and we will send home some work for you.**
- 11. Children who are unwell or not in school due to self-isolation should stay at home and should not be seen playing in parks or on the streets with classmates.**
- 12. General Government guidelines (the rule of 6- which does include children now) should be followed at all times.**
- 13. Children are kept 2m apart from all other bubbles during the entire school day- this takes an enormous effort from staff- so this should be followed at home/whilst socialising too. Children should only mix outside of their family home or in childcare/school settings.**

I know that we have said all of these things several times before and, furthermore, have sent several texts/email/tweeted reminders. Unfortunately, all of the above points have been witnessed or reported to us as not being followed several times in the last week. The vast majority of Y5/6 children arrive very early and many parents continue to arrive before the allotted time, thus creating queues and unnecessary build up around school. This is really disappointing to see and hear after all of the communications that have been shared and I must stress, with further infections likely in the present climate, that we will continue to do all that we can to keep our children, families and staff as safe as possible with your help. Could I also remind everyone that we have some staff and children who are considered medically vulnerable and that we are accountable for keeping them safe each and every day? **These messages are vital and we all need to play our part, every day.**

Sadly, we've also experienced parents not being contactable when children start to display symptoms or not being completely transparent about their child/their symptoms. **It is vital to keep your contact details up to date and to have a plan in place for brisk collection of a child- we could have to close a bubble at any moment.** We have also experienced parents challenging our decision to send a child home when they have started to display one or more of the key symptoms. Our risk assessment is clear and it has been shared with parents for their feedback. Since it is approved by the LA, unions and our Governing Body we will continue to follow it to the letter.

**Harvest festival/fundraising update:** Thank you to everyone for their kind harvest donations so far. We need to collect them over the next week or so as items have to be cleaned or quarantined before being distributed. Boxes are out in the shelter to drop off any items. Remember, this year we are hoping for 'pick up me' goodies for the elderly and vulnerable including hot chocolate, biscuits, tea bags, etc. All items very much appreciated! On Friday we raised a fantastic £180 for Macmillan Cancer Care- well done everyone, a great effort!

**Online Safety:** We continue to experience a high number of reported concerns about online safety for our pupils, especially those in Years 5 and 6. A separate letter is being compiled about our very serious and ongoing concerns about the online activities of our pupils and an apparent lack of supervision from parents and carers in some instances. Last year our school covered online safety messages in 19 different events including family agreements, assemblies, parent newsletters and, most importantly, completely revamping our computing curriculum to give computing skills and online safety equal weighting. School cannot address the concerns as they happen out of school but we will be reporting any further incidents to the relevant services where it is clear that a child is at risk due to their online activities. We have sent out our Online Safety Family Agreement again for 2020-21 and we will hand out a hard copy to every child soon, this should be discussed at home as a family and then returned with a signature and date please.

**BMBC Road Safety link:** As many of you will know we are working really hard to ensure that everyone is safe around school as much as they are in the building at the moment! Please see the link below from BMBC Road Safety team:

<https://spark.adobe.com/sp/urn:aaid:sc:EU:7a4acc09-5190-41c0-b129-90602eb287ac?fmt=page>

**SMSA role:** Last week we successfully appointed Mrs C Palfreyman to the role of relief SMSA. She joins us with a wealth of experience in childcare and a proven commitment to working with children. We welcome her to the team! We have relaunched the advert for a further two weeks as we would like one or two more relief SMSA staff on board for any staffing shortages in the present climate. If you are interested please let us know.

Have a great week everyone,  
**Kind Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher**

Week 4 Information	2019/20 Average	Week 6 Diary Dates
Attendance: 98.2% (96.3%) Late marks: 0 GREEN LIGHTS: 99.0%	Attendance: 98.3% (96.1) Late marks: 0 GREEN LIGHTS: 99.1%	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> : Y5 at Murton Park (8.30am to 4.30pm) Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Star of the Week Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Y6 swimming continues (PM)
Classes of the Week: Courageous Colonel Moore's with 100%		