

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

01226 760930

Headteacher: Mr L McClure
l.mcclure@springvaleprimary.org
www.springvaleprimary.org
@SpringvalePS



Newsletter Week 2

Monday 7th September 2020

Dear families,

What a start it has been! It has been a joy to welcome everyone back and today has been the first day when we have had every child back in school (or with the capacity to have them with us) since 20th March! Attendance has started well and the children have come back and shown resilience, character and a great thirst for learning. As ever we have to thank our staff for their endless energy and support in working long hours in testing conditions since the school was redecorated to make sure that we got off to a good start. A special welcome to new families and a huge well done to the new Y7 children who seem to have adapted well to life beyond Springvale!

COVID update: Despite the positive start, it is already clear that the year ahead will be very different and challenging in many ways. Today we have had our first ever confirmed case connected with a pupil or staff member. One of our PPA teachers started to present with symptoms late on Saturday evening and took a test on Sunday which came back at 11am today as positive. Thankfully this member of staff has not yet worked with any of our pupils' and this will not impact our provision moving forward. The staff member attended school on Tuesday morning for statutory safeguarding training and was distanced from other staff. As the symptoms started four full days after leaving the school site, Public Health England have assessed the matter as requiring no further follow up actions. The staff member in question is feeling unwell but is likely to make a full and speedy recovery. She will, of course, not be in school for the foreseeable future and until we can ensure that she is well enough to return after the new, minimum 10 day self-isolation period. This absence will affect Year 1 PPA this week but internal staffing has been organised which will not breaking our current risk assessment criteria or taking staffing from any other children. Staff covering the class know the children very well already so pupils' happiness and progress will not be affected. More than anything we wish our staff member well and send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery. In terms of our pupils, attendance fell from 97.5% last week to 92% today due mainly to many children presenting with colds. We understand and respect the need to be extra careful at the moment and we applaud that but we do want to ensure that high attendance allows children to make a positive start to the school year in their new class. We have worked alongside BMBC and Public Health England to provide the following clarification on when pupils need to stay away from school:

Colds, 'Bugs' and Coronavirus:

As we move into the winter months we will start to see lots of children presenting with runny noses, sore throat and other minor symptoms of colds or similar 'bugs'. I would like to remind you will be looking for the **three main symptoms of coronavirus** as detailed on the [NHS website](#) with regards to any advice for a child to go home, isolate and get tested:

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.

Unwell individuals who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, should not attend school.

Drop off and collection: Dropping off is now working very well but we still have a lot of parents arriving very early. Early arrivals make keeping bubbles separate much more challenging and also risk children being out in the cold and rain, and therefore their general health, as we cannot open the doors any earlier than we already are out of respect for the staff who are already working longer hours and taking on extra duties during the day.

Collection has been more mixed and will only become busier and more challenging as we introduce clubs and the entire EYFS cohort return, full time, by the end of the week. We have therefore decided to adapt our collection practice. EYFS collection will remain unchanged and parents at the start and end of the day should use the class doors at Nursery and Reception and then follow the one way system, sticking to the yellow arrows and along the path at the side of the school playing field. EYFS parents collecting from AM Nursery and dropping for PM Nursery should note that there will not be a one way system as we cannot have the gates open across lunchtime for safety reasons. Please keep a safe distance and take care when turning back up the path after collecting or dropping off your child. Collection in Y1-6 will be different from tomorrow with extra staff and leaders present to help you for the coming days until we are used to it.

The system will now work as follows:

- Parents in Y1-6 can come on to the back playground from 3.00pm but no earlier as children may still be out for PE, etc.
- Parents must stick to their allotted times, these remain unchanged, classes will not leave until those times
- There will be a stop/go traffic system in the tight area near the Y6 fire door (where collection has been taking place) please watch carefully and queue at a safe distance when the sign faces you on 'STOP!'
- Once you have got through to the playground please ensure that you space out and keep your distance from other families, even those that you know well.
- Children will be let out of their own classroom doors at the exact allotted time although we will help to gather siblings at agreed times for parents with more than one child to collect. Please tell the person holding the stop and go sign if you require a sibling.
- This system will prevent mixing of siblings and year groups in tight corridors, will be easier if children forget belongings from their own classrooms and it will also see the return of one of our key features...staff and parents building a relationship through daily interaction. Please respect our staff safety and keep a safe distance when passing any messages on. Our staff will, of course, still be learning parent and carer faces for the next few weeks, as is the case each September!
- We will review this new arrangement but believe that it will work much better. The system has been risk assessed with the support of key staff and our health and safety leader and Governor.
- Please see the times below for drop off and collection and adhere to them carefully.

Crossing Patrol: Our crossing patrol has now returned, Mrs Langley, and she will be present from 8.25-9.05am each morning and 2.55 to 3.35pm each day therefore covering the time scales below. We have already held assemblies on road safety for all ages and will continue to share key safety messages.

Water Bottles: Another crucial reminder that all children require a water bottle in school each day please. We cannot share communal cups due to COVID and we have made a commitment to reduce our single use plastic purchases so water bottles are vital and required each day with fresh water. Thank you for your support.

Stay safe everyone and have a wonderful week! **Kind Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher**

Key Information for 2020/21

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	12.20-1.30pm (12.20 lunch)
Year 2	8.50am	3.10pm	10.15-10.35am	12.30-1.30pm (12.25 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 (1pm lunch)
Year 5	9.05am	3.25pm	10.50-11.10am	12.30-1.30pm (1pm lunch)
Assembly Online 10.35-10.50am				

Please adhere to these times very carefully.