

**SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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## Newsletter- Week 10

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Last week we had more isolators than any other week but most were at home due to family members displaying symptoms rather than themselves. I'm really proud of our staff, the pupils and their parents as school was buzzing with excitement last week despite the lockdown situation that surrounds us- business as usual with happy children and hardworking staff doing their best, regardless of the situation! Well done everyone and keep it up!

**Christmas Card Competition and Fundraising:** This year we will be missing out on some really exciting community Christmas events and that means that our vital school funds- used to provide exciting, subsidised additions to the curriculum for our pupils- will also be vulnerable in the coming years. With that in mind we are still planning to organise our amazing Christmas raffle. We will be sending out the class hamper letters tomorrow to see if families can help us- we're doing this earlier than ever before to give everyone more time but we understand that things may be difficult right now- any help is appreciated! Gathering any raffle prizes or donations sooner also allows us to quarantine the prizes before redistributing safely! This year we are also launching a Christmas card competition but we need to move quickly! All children have from now until Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November to submit a design for their suggested card- any A4 size donation is welcomed to school by the deadline above. These need to be completed at home. Mrs Ridgwick and Kerry Houghland, our catering manager, will be choosing the winning entries next Monday! The winning entries (one from EYFS, 1 from KS1, 1 from Y3/4 and 1 from Y5/6) will be turned in to a pack of real cards which we will sell ASAP to families in time for Christmas distribution to family, friends or even to vulnerable people in the community!

This Friday is our next dress down day for Children in Need with a simple theme of Spots and Stripes. No fancy dress on Friday please! We normally have a dress down for Remembrance too and we raise a lot of money through selling poppies, etc. We have not been able to do so this year but on Wednesday we will have a very special assembly led by Y6 pupils and then we will have a safe and distanced whole-school period of silence at 11am on the playground. As we have missed a vital opportunity to support the Poppy Appeal we have decided to split any funds raised on Friday between Children in Need and the Poppy Appeal. Any family donation is welcomed. We will also add in monies raised recently by staff to boost the amounts going to two wonderful charities/causes.

**Lockdown Planning:** Things have been very positive in school safety wise recently and, despite many children at home, only one child has had symptoms recently (and they tested negative!) Despite this it serves as a reminder to us all how quickly things can change and many schools are closing bubbles at the moment. Please ensure that we have your most up-to-date contact details, that you are contactable where possible and that you have a plan in place for an immediate closure of a bubble during the school day. **(Update: we have just been informed of one more child (Y1) with symptoms who requires a home test so it should take a few days for the result. Updated: Sunday evening)**

**Home Learning:** Please find attached our latest policy for 'Remote Learning' which covers pupils missed for isolation purposes and any further bubble closures. This has been revamped based on recent feedback and polls. Please read the attached policy and share any feedback with us. Please note the new approach in each tier. If your child is absent from now on, for any reason, you will receive an email with a weekly summary from their class teacher of what they missing. Please let us know ASAP if this is not received and please do keep in touch and return pictures or updates so we can celebrate your hard work even if you are at home! We also enclose our updated Learning Journal for the half term- please take a look at what is going on and how you can help your child this term.

**Parental Updates- Mini-reports:** As our traditional face-to-face parents' evening was due this week and it cannot go ahead, we have planned some mini-reports to help you to see how well your child has settled so far. We hope that you find them useful! If you require further advice or feedback please let us know. A second copy will be posted to fathers/carers where we have registered separated parents. These will be in the post to arrive by Saturday. All other reports will be in envelopes in book bags on Friday unless parents request them posting for GDPR reasons.

**School Dinners:** School meals are running very smoothly and the new menu has received excellent feedback so far both on paper and on plates! We are the only school in the region reporting pre-COVID meal numbers and giving children a normal dining experience to boot! With winter approaching this would be a great time to give our fantastic meals a try- a hot meal in the middle of a long day of learning goes a long way. Please just let us know if you want to try a school dinner or if you want to switch. A reminder that all F2-Y2 children get a free meal- why not give it a try and save yourself a job and cost of making a packed lunch?!

**Attendance:** Out attendance policy is being updated in-line with the latest COVID guidelines but we would like to thank everyone for their support and trust in the school so far. We have an official attendance level of 98.3% this year so far- higher than ever! This, of course, masks the inconsistency of attendance due to COVID as we currently have up to 20 children each day away with symptoms in their household. For this reason we have improved our systems for 'Remote Learning' see

**COVID Reminders:** Thank you to everyone for their compliance so far- we are doing really well but always good to share reminders to iron out the one or two examples of non-compliance that risk our safety record.

**Winter weather:** A reminder that a key part of our risk assessment (recently reviewed and attached alongside this newsletter) is to have high levels of ventilation throughout school so more windows and doors will be open than would normally be the case. With this in mind please ensure that children are wrapped up warm and have layers. A non-uniform hoodie is now allowed due to the unusual circumstances.

Timings:

Class	Start	End
Year 6	8.30am	3.30pm
Nursery	8.35am	11.35am or 2.35pm (30h)
Reception	8.40am	3.00pm
Year 1	8.45am	3.05pm
Year 2	8.50am	3.10pm
Year 3	8.55am	3.15pm
Year 4	9.00am	3.20pm
Year 5	9.05am	3.25pm

#### KEY MESSAGES

1. **Face masks to be worn unless medically exempt or other permission granted**
2. **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!
3. **Keep a safe distance from other families whilst on the playground at times**
4. **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.
5. **Please leave the school grounds as soon as you are ready to and avoid congregating on school grounds**
6. **Only one parent per family to enter the school grounds**
7. **Please use the one way system from 8.30-9.05 and from 3.00-3.35pm AND for club collection**
8. **Please do not enter school through the car park (walking or cycling)**
9. **Cyclists and scooters should dismount from their bike/scooter once on school property**
10. **A test is only required for a person who is displaying one or more of the three key symptoms**
11. **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.**
12. **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.**
13. **General Government guidelines should be followed at all times- children should not be playing out with other children or visiting each other's houses except for emergency childcare needs.**
14. **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 out of school too (except siblings of course)**
15. **Pupils require a water bottle each day**

**Odd Socks Day:** Next Monday (16<sup>th</sup> November) our School Council want to hold a little extra special event. We invite all pupils, parents and staff to wear odd socks for the day. This is due to our recent work around diversity and teaching children about everyone being different but equal. We will hold a special assembly on the same day too!

Have a great week everyone and please stay safe! **Kind Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher**

Week 9 Information	2019/20 Average	Week 10 Diary Dates
<b>Attendance: 98.4%</b> <b>(91.6%)</b> <b>Late marks: 1</b> <b>GREEN LIGHTS: 99.7%</b>	<b>Attendance: 98.3%</b> <b>(94.9)</b> <b>Late marks: 1</b> <b>GREEN LIGHTS:</b> <b>99.3%</b>	DINNER MENU WEEK 2 Remembrance Week Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> : Remembrance Assembly Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> : Star of the Week Assembly Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> : Spots and Stripes dress down for Children in Need Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> : Mini-reports home to parents
<b>Class of the Week: Dr Ranj's Rangers with 99.6%</b>		