

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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National Tutoring Programme

Tuesday 13th April 2021

Dear families,

We live in extraordinary times and it is no different in education...this term promises to be the busiest we've ever had in terms of teaching and learning!

We shall start with some very good news. The staff have been teaching the pupils together for 3 weeks since we returned from the latest lockdown and they have assessed all children across the curriculum to gather evidence about the impact of the disruption over the last 12 months and more. Whilst the picture isn't one that we are completely familiar with when measured against previous Spring Term data it isn't as negative or complex a picture as you might think or as has been predicted. It is no exaggeration to say that staff are feeling positive about getting pupils exactly where they need to be, *or perhaps would have been*, over the next term or two.

This situation can only be due to the hard work and support of our community over the challenging last few terms. We are delighted that the hard work of staff, pupils, families and Governors has paid off and that our approach- shaped by your feedback throughout- has led to this positive milestone. **Thank you to everyone and well done!**

As stated above, however, the picture isn't exactly as we would normally see at this time of the year so we want to utilise the additional funding provided by the Government quickly and effectively. We have used our additional COVID funds to extend the hours of key staff to provide interventions. We've been doing this with every spare penny for the last year or two anyway but we can extend it further. This means extra wellbeing support through Mrs Kent and/or Sonia Prescott our School Councillor, lots of extra reading sessions at all age and ability levels, group work to embed key concepts, maths boosting with Ms Heeley, etc. This is a model that works well as it is our staff, teaching our children, regularly and consistently. All children in school will be impacted by these aspects of support at times- this includes extra focus for SEND pupils, pupils who aren't working at age-related levels or those who have been targeted for greater depth. These groups are monitored, reviewed and adapted regularly and we would only make contact with you if we were concerned about your child's lack of engagement or progress. In short, if your child mentions a new group or extra reading, don't worry- it is all part of our plans to secure the progress and achievement levels of all pupils in school over time.

Recently the Government have announced an additional avenue of intervention called the National Tutoring Programme (NTP). We have set up a sample of pupils to take part in a series of lessons as part of this NTP. These groups will take place in the afternoon with specialist external tutors via online lessons. They will be done in small groups of 3 children working with each tutor. A member of staff will be present to oversee the learning for safeguarding and technical reasons- this will be crucial as a familiar face will help the children feel safe in school whilst being taught remotely by the tutors. The sessions will start next Monday and run through to the end of the school year. Each class Y1-5 will have an afternoon allotted and selected children will either have maths or Literacy support. This means that 45 children will take the tutoring at no cost to parents and a heavily subsidised cost to school. This will allow us to carefully monitor the impact of the progression seen from these pupils against their normal rates of progress. We have planned it so that children do not have sessions when their PE or wellbeing lessons are taking place as we see these as vital curriculum areas that should not be missed, especially after the disruption over the last few terms. We will email all parents by 12noon today **ONLY** if your child is included stating the day and subject to be covered. Please do not worry if your child is weaker at the 'other' subject in your view- this could be because they are already receiving a lot of support in that area through our existing staff and timetables. Furthermore, please don't worry if your child isn't selected and they aren't on track- again this will be due to what support is already in place where applicable, some of our children are likely to work better with a familiar face, of course. Lastly, please don't worry if your child is selected and you think they are doing fine- some of our groups have been selected due to specific gaps or to help them to push into the next grade- the groups have been very carefully selected alongside our own complex provision maps.

Once your child starts they will be added to an online system by myself and I can monitor how they are doing and gather any feedback. Teachers will get feedback and an opportunity to share learner profiles at the start of the project, in the middle and at the end of the term. If pupils or parents have any questions at all now or during the term please contact me and not your class teacher. The only information which will be shared with the NTP company of choice (Teaching Personnel) is your child's name, date of birth and Unique Pupil Number (these are the key data we use to register pupils and help us to organise their data safely. No further personal information or any data about you or your family will be shared by the school.

Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher