

# SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Week 33 Newsletter

Dear families,

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

A warm welcome to our latest newsletter. We have reached the final week of the first half of this busy Summer term. Next week we all take a break before returning on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June (No INSET Day).

**NTP update:** We are delighted with the progress and engagement of all pupils in the National Tutoring Programme and the additional support that all pupils are receiving with reading, writing, maths, phonics and the wider curriculum. The NTP tutors and our staff are reporting good engagement, pleasing progress and lots of hard work. We are trying very hard to get the balance right between hard work and time to play and grow socially, a crucial element that was also affected by the COVID pandemic.

**Staffing Update:** We have successfully appointed Mrs Lisa Davis as a new SMSA to start after half term following a successful interview. Miss Niamh Ryalls will also join the team as a relief SMSA and she will lead on sports activities on the playground until the end of the Summer Term when she will return to her University course. We want to keep children as safe as possible at breaks and lunchtimes whilst also encouraging play and structure games and sports as they are proven to be so beneficially to physical and mental health as well as concentration and engagement once children return to the classroom. This week we have launched two new staff positions- a temporary contract for an additional HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) and a permanent contract for a Grade 2 TA who will lead on communication, language and phonics groups across the lower school. We feel that our drive to support **every** child to be a confident reader **as soon as possible** is the correct strategy to employ. Language development and phonic skills are so crucial to opening up access to the whole curriculum in school and being an independent and confident reader opens doors to lifelong learning. A parent has recently shared a fantastic website with us that has some interesting and free activities for language and communication development, you can find it here:

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>

**F2/Y6 Play Leader Scheme:** Another crucial element of our systems to develop children and their confidence and ability levels is the opportunity to lead in years 5 and 6. Next year we will see the return of sports and wellbeing leaders in our oldest two classes. We also plan to bring back play leaders from Y6 for F2 pupils straight after half-term. This will be when activities are outdoor and the Y6 children will be trained to play games with the younger children and develop their confidence in a range of activities linked to sports, communication, singing, etc. A team of ten Y6 pupils have signed up to be leaders, taking it in turns to lead the activities. We wanted to write to parents to check that we had their support with this project despite the continued risk of infection and bubble closure. We feel that it is a sensible balance (outdoor, short bursts of interaction, etc) of bringing back something with huge benefit to both age groups and has a minimal risk. Please contact us if you have any concerns ASAP so that we can adapt our Risk Assessment accordingly.

**Class Names 2021/22:** Our new class names will all be themed around 'Famous Inventors' next year! Your ideas (and those of your child) are very welcome!

Thank you for your fantastic support as always. Have a great week everyone and a wonderful Spring Bank half term. Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher

### School Statistics

Attendance Update	Week 32: 97.3%	Summer Term: 98.1%	Year to date: 98.2%
Class of the Week:	Y1 Nina's Neuron's with 98.8% attendance		
Punctuality Update	Week 32: 1 late	Summer Term: 12 lates	Year to date: 36 lates
Good to be Green Update	Week 32: 100%	Summer Term: 99.3%	Year to date: 99.2%

### Mini Diary Week 33

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>: Musical Instrument Evening (Zoom) at 6pm  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup>: Star of the Week and Y5 swimming (AM)

