

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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End of Year Newsletter

Sunday 18th July 2021

Dear families,

Welcome to our final newsletter of the year. We hope to tie up any loose ends and make you aware of any key details about the new term in September so that you can prepare around your own work and family commitments.

Thank you: This year has been the most challenging ever to lead a school and your support and compliments have not only kept us going but they have given us the energy and drive to go above and beyond in supporting your children. All of our staff and governors have worked tirelessly to be the best that we can be within the guidance and boundaries set by the Government. I am delighted when I reflect on the year we have had, the provision and 'extras' provided for pupils and the position that children are in in terms of their learning. Our parents and carers continue to live out our ethos and support us every step of the way- for this we cannot thank you enough. All of our staff pass on their thanks for kind messages, cards and gifts at the end of the year- they mean the world to us! A final group to thank and applaud...the stars of the show themselves...the children! How resilient, how creative, how marvellous they are! They have been remarkable all year and their efforts, their smiles and their progress speak volumes of what a great year it has been. Well done everyone. Our little school is achieving big things and getting stronger and stronger week-by-week, term-by-term and year-by-year. Let's see what 2021-22 will bring, shall we?

COVID update: As we have passed over 48 hours since school closed we can officially confirm that no further bubbles have been affected and you are all free to make your plans without fear of an email or text to disrupt your summer further. Our Y1 children are 'free' from midnight tonight and F2 children from midnight on Wednesday night. Thank you for your patience, understanding and compliance.

Sports Day: Well done to every child who took part and to Yellow Beech our eventual winners. Well done also to Thomas Charlesworth and Jorja Finch who broke the sprint records in Y2 and Y6 respectively. The school record still stands at 9.2 seconds by Noah Town in 2019! Thomas and friends aren't too far behind in the timings with some years to go! How long can your record last, Noah?! 😊

Attendance Update: Our official attendance is a fantastic 98% this year- we suspect one of the highest in the entire region. This is amazing but it is, of course, masked by another year of disruption for individuals, families and whole bubbles. Factoring in the COVID absences and bubble closures our attendance was closer to 90% and, factoring in the lockdown in the spring term, genuine face-to-face attendance is more like 70% over the year. Despite all of this the children are well placed as they end the academic year and head in to the summer. As stated above this is nothing short of remarkable. Very few pupils are not yet back on their original progression path (or slightly ahead of it!) but we do want to get as close to normal next year. We would love to have high attendance and amazing punctuality from September as we continue to stress that 'every minute counts' as we strive to be the best. Holiday requests, early finishes for events and random days of leave should be avoided at all costs as we hope for school to return to something like 'normal' next year.

Class Names: Here are our class names for next year!

F1: Mini-makers, F2: Mammoth makers

Y1-Y6 are themed around famous inventors!

Y1: Super Steiffs, Y2: Creative Christiansons, Y3: Fantastic Fishers, Y4: Marvellous Marie Curies

Y5: The Da Vincis, Y6: Electrifying Edisons

Reminders:

- School meals will be £2.09 per day next year (£10.45 a week)
- Our new clubs have been organised and shared- note attachment on email- they launch on Monday 6th September at 2pm. We have a full and fantastic offer with up to two classes per club involved.
- Our key diary dates have been shared too- attached on email and on our website
- Our up-to-date uniform policy is also attached as a reminder- please note that all uniform is now 100% enforced as the shops are open and we have a fresh school year to plan and prepare for. If your child is having a piercing this summer holidays please do it very soon so it doesn't impact PE lessons on their return.
- COVID changes have been shared with all parents- please note the summary on emails and the timings for your child. Please do not be early- doors will not open until 8.40am and we do not want unnecessary social contacts

Leadership Update: Over the last three years I have supported other settings and conducted training courses for NQT, subject leaders, senior staff and new Headteachers across the region as part of my role as a Local Leader of Education. This model brings extra funding in to school that we choose to spend on exciting opportunities for children like subsidising visits and DT sessions, gaming days, etc. It also allows us to keep our leaders sharp and 'at the cutting edge' of educational research and development. In short, the arrangement helps other settings and allows our school to have a wider impact across the region while ensuring that Springvale is a forward thinking and self-improving school.

Next year I will step back slightly from this role and take on a new challenge. I have been appointed as the co-Chair of the Barnsley Alliance where I will represent the 80 primary schools in Barnsley on the board after being voted in by the other Headteachers. The Alliance is a body that supports and challenges school performance and shapes the development, training and enhancements to all schools in the Borough. I have committed to a two year agreement which will see me complete this work for around half a day each week. This means that my time/work at Springvale is unaffected and the school will continue to be led with experience and expertise in my absence by Mrs Fearn and the wider senior leadership team.

Y6 Leavers: Congratulations to our Y6 group who leave us after their best ever term...they have truly grown and matured of late and they made us very proud! The sleepover, and many other events, created memories to last a lifetime! We wish you and your families well for the future...we know that you will continue to represent Springvale well for years to come! You will all be missed! Y6 families will now be taken off the contact list for emails and texts, etc.

Around the World Challenge: Well, we made it back to Penistone...on the very last day! We did 25,000 miles in 25 weeks! Thank you to everyone who contributed and to Helen Turner for organising it all!

Summer learning: We will take a little break from Twitter over the summer but we are still here if you need any support in any way, email is the best way to contact us. The challenges of COVID are still very raw and if you have any questions or concerns please do get in touch. We have shared many summer opportunities for childcare- some are free for FSM and many are heavily subsidised. If you are struggling financially we have contacts and some limited funding to help- again, please just get in touch. We will be discreet and we can help your summer to go smoothly. We have the summer reading challenge going on this summer and we hope that you can enjoy some good weather, lots of social opportunities (let's not forget this is what children have missed out on the most!) lots of exercise and most importantly, time to relax! The only aspect of all schools, including ours, that has suffered from the disruption is writing. If your child would like to have some fun ways to keep up their writing to help them we have listed some here:

- Packing lists/shopping lists for holidays
- Write a post card to the school for the first day back!
- Write a summer diary about all of your adventures
- Write to family members who you haven't seen for a long time or to people who are isolating
- You can use for a daily picture to get the creative writing juices flowing through a website we use <https://www.pobble365.com/>

Thank you for your fantastic support as always. Have a wonderful summer. See you on the other side!

Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher

