

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Week 3 Newsletter

Monday 13th September 2021

Dear families,

The start of the school year already seems a distance memory as we settle in to our daily and weekly routines at school. The return of clubs- with so many new ones to enjoy- is always a highlight for me as these help children to grow socially and gain confidence through a range of exciting activities. The new systems seem to have been smooth and we look forward to an exciting year ahead for everyone connected to the school.

School Bags: During a recent health and safety check I noted that some classes had lots of large rucksacks in the cloakroom. With coats and PE kit already on pegs this meant that larger bags were stored on the floor. This then creates a safety concern. We have provision for PE bags and book bags to be safely stored but if we could ask that larger bags are minimised where possible please? I know that anyone cycling in will require a rucksack style bag and perhaps on days where we have football matches, for example, a larger bag is required. That is fine and we can adjust on such days.

Music in Y3: Y3 enjoyed their first ukulele lesson last week. This lesson will be every Thursday PM and children can now bring home their instrument to practice. Please ensure that it is returned each week in time for the Thursday lesson.

Football Opportunity: One of our parents has asked if I can highlight an amazing opportunity for girls in Y1-3. On Saturday mornings 10-11am behind the PGS astroturf (on grass) there is a football coaching session for girls. The first session is free and if you enjoy it and sign up it is £2.50 per session.

Clubs: Our clubs have been very popular this term and we see the introduction of some great new clubs (Dance, Games, Environment, Dodgeball) as well as the return of all of the old favourites! We have contacted parents where a club did not have enough members to run (Y1 and 2 dance only so far but JAM is also at risk of cancellation). All other clubs go ahead as planned. JAM club- I do enjoy this part of the newsletter every year- is 'Jesus and Me Club' and not, as many new parents always check, about making preserves! Mrs Walker, who leads a fortnightly assembly, likes to teach the children stories from the Bible. We have changed this club to work with the older children for now as they know Mrs Walker well but we will offer it again in the future.

Snack: A reminder that we are a 'nut free school' and that all nut based products are not allowed in school please due to allergies.

Water bottles/sun safety: Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school. These are for use in class and fresh water/cups are now available in the hall for lunchtime for pupils on school meals and packed lunches. **Please do not add a drink in your child's packed lunch now that we are providing drinking water.** On warm days children should bring a hat and have sun-cream applied. They can bring sun cream as per the policy which has been distributed to all parents.

Class Timings/Safety: Things seem to be working well but we do still have a lot of parents still arriving significantly early for collection at the end of the day. This makes it more difficult to spot the parents waiting for the 'half way point' collection at 3.15pm if they have siblings. We would also ask that all parents keep children close by and do not allow children to stay on site talking/playing in the MUGA as we do still have to be very careful with mixing and social distancing.

Pencil cases: Our risk assessment has removed the request for pupils to bring in any personalised resources now but I know some older pupils are still doing so to allow them to be more prepared for secondary school systems.

Teaching Assistant Role: We currently have a TA role advertised. It is a short term role to support a pupil with emotional and behavioural needs. If you are interested at all please do get in touch ASAP as it closes very soon.

P4Sport Returns: We are delighted to see the return of our local sports partnership this year. Emails will be sent to pupils involved each week with 5-7 days' notice of events. Some events are listed on the diary dates below!

Reading Army: Our Reading Army relaunches this Wednesday afternoon 1.30-3pm in the Community Room. If you have any spare time and you have a passion for supporting pupils to read then please come along. Our staff support the session so you would be supervised and supported throughout. On the first session we will explain how we have taken measures to keep everyone safe with our new approach. If you're interested, or know someone who would be, please do get in touch.

Games, Games, GAMES!: If our blockbuster Zoom teaching taught us one thing (and hopefully it taught us a lot more than just one thing) it is that children like games and that they help children to socialise, challenge themselves and learn new things. They also help children to learn through play...bingo! You will have seen that we have introduced a new 'Games Club' (staffing ratio is 15 to 1) with our very own pointless egghead Miss Heeley (there is a small charge but we hope the price is right!) We have also signed up all classes Y1-6 with Imagination Gaming to have a day with the best new games from around the world later in the term- these days are always popular and we will be doing extra sessions on these days to engage with happy families before and after school, our special needs pupils at lunchtimes and we are even planning one for staff one evening if they play their cards right...everyone loves games! Our final new idea is to introduce a Games Library in school so that people can try new games and share their favourites. We are buying some games but if you have any donations to get us started and make this idea a little more tenable then please do let us know. More details to follow about how to borrow soon! How soon? The countdown is on! We will seek your views on these new initiatives and we will, of course, let you know what our survey said.

Diary Dates- Autumn Term: Please find below a list of key dates for this term...

Thursday 23rd September: Y3/4 Mixed Football at PGS 4-5pm (P4Sport event)
Friday 24th September: Dress Down- Wear Green for Macmillan (family donation encouraged)
Thursday 30th September: Y5/6 Boys Football at PGS 4-5pm (P4Sport event)
Friday 1st October: Barnsley Football Club- Penalty Shoot Out (Sponsored event)
Thursday 7th October: KS2 'Get Mucky' event at PGS 4-5pm (P4Sport event)
Friday 8th October: KS2 Shakespeare day
Monday 11th October: Y3/4 Magna Visit
Thursday 14th October: KS2 Orienteering at PGS 4-5pm (P4Sport event)
Thursday 14th October: Immunisations in school ('flu)
Wednesday 20th October: Club bookings Autumn 2 open at 2pm (online)
Thursday 21st October: KS1 Family multi-skills at PGS 4-5pm (P4Sport event)
Friday 22nd October: school breaks up at 3.20pm
Monday 25th to Friday 29th October: Half term holiday- School is closed
Sunday 31st October: Deadline to apply to secondary school (current Y6 pupils)
Monday 1st November: School is closed- INSET day
Monday 1st November: Parents' Evening booking opens at 5pm online
Tuesday 2nd November: Autumn 2 clubs open (5 weeks)
Thursday 4th November: Parents' Evening 1.30-7.30pm F1-Y6 settling in and next steps
Tuesday 9th November: Individual and family photos
Thursday 11th November: Special Remembrance Assemblies
Thursday 11th November: Gaming Day in Y5 and Y6 (new board games, social skills)
Friday 12th November: Children in Need Day- Spots and Stripes (family donation welcomed)
Thursday 18th November: Gaming Day in Y3 and Y4 (new board games, social skills)
Saturday 20th November: Art Gallery at the Metrodome (Barnsley School Art Project) 10-5
Monday 29th November: Christmas Raffle on Sale
Monday 29th November: DT Day for Y1 and F2
Tuesday 30th November: DT Day for Y2 and F2
w/c Monday 6th December: Christmas show week or video launch- TBC
Thursday 9th December: Gaming Day in Y1 and Y2 (new board games, social skills)
w/c Monday 13th December: Christmas party week- more details to follow after half term
Thursday 16th December: Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 17th December: Break up for Christmas

Have a great week everyone! **Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher**

School Statistics- Week 2

Attendance: 98.8% Class of the Week: F2 and Y5 with 100% Late marks: 0 GOOD to be GREEN: 98%

Mini Diary- Week 3

Monday 13th September: All clubs begin, Y5/6 assembly monitors and sports leaders begin, Y5 Bikeability all week

Wednesday 15th September: SEND TA role closes

Thursday 16th September: Y5/6 Girls Football at PGS (4-5.15pm)