

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Week 10 Newsletter

Monday 8th November 2021

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter! Thank you to everyone for coming along to parents' evening last week...your time and support is invaluable as always. Staff have reported very pleasing, collaborative meetings with a focus on working together to ensure that children keep progressing and keep on enjoying school...great!

COVID update: Since our last update we have only had one confirmed, new case in Y4. We hope that we can keep cases low but please do keep on testing to stop the spread of the virus. We continue to balance a 'normal' school experience with some common sense approaches to keeping pupils apart and safe. Our risk assessment continues to be available online and will be adjusted when the need arises or when national guidance changes.

Christmas Video: This year we will launch a Christmas video to replace our traditional Christmas shows. We know that parents love to visit school to share our plays but the prospect just seems so unlikely and risky that it makes sense to plan for a safer alternative from the get-go. The prospect of having 120 parents indoors, in the school hall together, plus 60 pupils and staff, in the midst of winter, just seems so reckless at the moment. Add in the prospect of staff trying to create a show when you have children in, then out, then taking a test, then isolating...it really does make sense to plan for an online version for this year and then reassess again next year. The show will feature all classes and a video will be launched on Youtube for 2 weeks across the festive period so that all of the family can enjoy it. Because this is outside of our normal media release terms we would ask that any parent who does not wish to include their child on the Christmas video this year please contact myself via email or in person. The good news is that they can still be included as a character (or perhaps wearing a mask) in our show so they are not left out. We will make every effort to include any isolating children and staff too.

Remembrance items for sale/lost property: We will be selling poppies and other Remembrance items every morning from Monday to Thursday outside the Main Reception area in school between 8.30-8.50am. Please bring the correct change for any donations or items purchased- prices are around £1-1.50. Our lost property will be out on display at the same times- please take a look if you are missing any items.

Children in Need Dates: Please note an error on diary dates. The Children in Need appeal has moved since we set out charity dates in June. The appeal is now Friday 19th November and we have only just noticed. That means that we will have our dress down on the 19th and not 12th (now next Friday). The theme remains spots and/or stripes and the plan is the same as before! Apologies for any confusion caused!

Questionnaire Appeal: Thank you for your time in completing a 'cultural capital' survey last week. Mrs Fearn was really impressed by the number of responses and the detail provided. It will really help us to shape our curriculum and ensure that our offer is enhancing the wonderful experiences that our families provide out of school. The question about travelling abroad has led to many to ask if we are planning a foreign residential. Sadly this is unlikely but Mrs Fearn has asked the Governors if she can spend the next few weeks travelling around the world looking for the perfect visit on the school credit card, so you never know! This week we are asking for your feedback to celebrate the things that we do well and to take your views and suggestions on where we could improve further in a more traditional sense. We have designed two online survey that will take just a few minutes of your time. Please click the links below to provide your feedback. The deadline for feedback is Sunday 21st November. The analysis will be shared on Monday 22nd November on our weekly newsletter.

Parent/carer survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/ui8qu8qEF5>

Pupil survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/WMEH4mSbUw>

Learning Logs: A reminder that now we are in a new half term there will be some key information for your child's learning in their Learning Log- key words, spellings, topic information, homework, etc (age dependent) will be there for you to use and enjoy with your child. Please remember to log any reading or important notes along with a weekly parent comment- this is so important to us and your child and is a whole school expectation that was agreed with a new format through parent and pupil consultation- we used to ask for a daily comment and made it much more parent friendly this Summer.

Safe Collection Lists: Just a little reminder that we are not reprinting lots of versions of the safe collection lists this year as it becomes hard to ensure that the list is **the** list! We are updating the list at the end of every term (Summer holidays, Christmas and Easter) as stated in the updated guidance so please ensure that your list is fully up to date each term and let us know if anyone not on the list needs to collect by calling the office as early as possible on the day of the required pick up. Our systems are very careful because safeguarding is so important, I would rather us be over cautious than too relaxed where anything relating to safety is concerned.

Speaking of which, we have two occasions recently where a Y5/6 pupil has left school and not attended their club. This is a possibility because children have permission to walk home and, whilst we do club registers, some children may get confused or forget their club after a busy day at school. Staff do explain which clubs are on each evening and we never cancel a club on the day, no matter how many challenges staff absence or COVID brings. The problem is how busy the end of the day is and how many systems and messages staff have to remember. So, our suggestion is to work together on this! Staff will explain to children at the end of the day while children are in their seats which clubs are on that evening, club leaders will report any concerning absences to the senior leader on duty for clubs that day so that they can call home but, lastly, we need all families to tell their children a plan for the day as they leave for school. School did phone home on both occasions where this happened and parents were at home to meet children but with things being so busy in school that call could be delayed or not happen and, if parents weren't at home due to their child being due at a club, it is clear that an incident could occur where a child's safety is put at risk.

Clubs: Our Autumn 2 clubs will have all started by the end of this week. Please let us know if your child is not attending a club for any reason as this helps to save time regarding the checks that leaders make on club attendance as stated above. Where clubs are indoor and have more than one class involved children will be kept apart and use separate resources to help to prevent the spread of COVID. JAM club, Y5/6 dance and DT club have been cancelled, sadly, due to low numbers.

School News: We are pleased to announce that the school Christmas events will all be free this year! The show/panto, cinema visit and ice-cream, the party/disco event and a special little treat will all be paid for by the monies raised by your efforts all year! (Christmas lunch not included...why is there always small print with a great offer!) We took this decision today because we know how expensive Christmas is and with the return of clubs and visits the cost of supporting your child in school has risen since we started to get back to 'normal.' Furthermore, this decision is only possible due to the amazing support of families- for example with the recent penalty shoot-out. All that we ask is that you support our Christmas raffle as much as you can with any donations or tickets purchased!

Let the games begin: This week our game obsessed friends 'Imagination Gaming' will start their special sessions. They will spend half a day with Y6 and Y5 respectively as well as doing some extra sessions with pupils at lunch. To complement these special days- which will eventually be enjoyed by Y1-Y6 before the Christmas break, we will be launching our games library to families on Thursday! This is your last push for any donations to add to our library!

PE days: Some classes have changed their PE days for this term. As ever, we encourage children to bring their kit on a Monday and take it home on a Friday for washing as plans can change and we always make sure a PE session takes place with lots of extra sessions when the weather is good! For your reference here are the new PE times for each class:

- Nursery- Tuesday AM
- Reception- Weds morning and daily outdoor learning
- Year 1- Wednesday morning and daily outdoor learning
- Year 2- Tuesday PM and Friday AM
- Year 3- Monday PM
- Year 4- Thursday PM
- Year 5- Wednesday PM
- Year 6- Friday PM

Have a great week everyone!

Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher

School Statistics- Week 9

Attendance: 98.7% Class of the Week: Y3 with 100% Late marks: 2 GOOD to be GREEN: 99%

Mini Diary- Week 10 (Well-being theme: Remembrance/Music of the week: Queen)

Monday 8th November: Y5 visit 8am-5.30pm, poppies on sale and lost property out daily at 8.30am (near reception)

Tuesday 9th November: Individual and family photographs (8.30am start in the Community Room)

Wednesday 10th November: Y6 visit 11.45-4pm

Thursday 11th November: Gaming day (Y6 8.40-11.30 and Y5 11.30 to 3.20), Y1 multi-skills event at PS 4-5.15pm

Thursday 11th November: Special Remembrance assemblies

Friday 12th November: Y3/4 football Remembrance Football Match 3.15-4pm (Red v Black)

(NO CHILDREN IN NEED DRESS DOWN- NOW ON FRIDAY 19TH NOVEMBER!)

