

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Week 12 Newsletter

Monday 22nd November 2021

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter! The weeks are whizzing by and it will soon be Christmas...we'd better get started on the latest news so we can fit everything in to one page!

Questionnaire Outcomes: We are absolutely delighted with the questionnaire outcomes. Please see page two for outcomes and analysis. Thank you for your time and support.

School News: There has been an awful lot going on in school and feels like good news is everywhere you look. We have been supporting staff in other schools to improve a lot recently and they are blown away by our staff, our pupils and our community ethos- this makes us very proud! This week we have handed out so many times table certificates, merit awards and Star of the Week prizes too...we had our first Silver Merit Award of the year too- well done to Ayla in Y5! A huge well done to our Y4 boot camp team who came in 3rd place against older pupils- you were all fantastic! We would also like to say an enormous well done to the Y5/6 girls football team who are...wait for it...champions of Barnsley! They have now beat the best in the surrounding area, the whole town and, next...we take on the best of Yorkshire! More details to follow but I have to say they are an incredible team. Athletic, talented, committed and they always play together as a team with big smiles on their faces...perfection! Good luck at the next stage girls!

News nuggets:

- The school remains clear of any confirmed COVID cases.
- We raised a fantastic £250 for Children in Need this year! Everyone looked fabulous too! Thank you!
- All pupils in Y2 will undertake a phonics check this week with Mrs Evans- it will be done in a way to feel like 'normal learning' so children won't know they are being 'tested' Mrs Evans will share news of the outcome by the end of the term and explain what extra support is in place for any pupils who do not reach the expected score (32 out of 40)
- It was a pleasure to attend the art gallery at the Metrodome this week, the work from all 30+ schools was outstanding and I was very pleased to see the level of our work! Well done to everyone who had their work presented and to everyone who is working so hard on their artist skills in school!
- An important letter will be sent out this week about Christmas meals and party boxes...please reply to the letter by 2nd December.
- We have launched our games library now- see attached letter (also added online) and use the reply slip to book a game out! Our gaming days are having such a positive impact and games are proven to develop social skills, understanding of the wider world and tactical/critical thinking...oh and they are great fun!
- We currently have a vacancy within our staff team for a new SMSA- we have a permanent and an ad-hoc contract available. Please contact us for more details and information about how to apply if this role is suitable for you.
- We are seeking any donations from families or local businesses to support our Christmas raffle this year- please let us know if you can help in any way. Tickets will be on sale next week!

Have a great week everyone!

Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher

School Statistics- Week 11

Attendance: 99% Classes of the Week: Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y6 with 100% Late marks: 0 GOOD to be GREEN

Mini Diary- Week 12

(Well-being theme: Healthy Living- Being Responsible/Music of the week: Ella Fitzgerald/Louis Armstrong)

Dinner menu: Week 1

Tuesday 23rd November: Visit from the Mayor of Barnsley- meet with School Council, Prospective Parents 5-6pm

Wednesday 24th November: EYFS Production in the morning (F1 and F2)

Thursday 25th November: Y5/6 at Orienteering Event (PGS) leave at 10.30am and return at 12.30pm

Friday 26th November: SMSA job advert closes, Star of the Week assembly

Questionnaire Outcomes

Pupil questionnaire (only 19 responses so we are planning further pupil surveys in school soon):

Behaviour at school is mostly good: 100% Yes

The following questions are marked out of 5 stars:

I enjoy attending Springvale Primary: 4.63

I know the school rules and the school ethos: 4.68

School meals quantity: 3.53

School meals taste and variety: 3.80

The lessons at Springvale are enjoyable: 4.47

I enjoy school visits: 4.63

Favourite lessons were writing, art, PE and maths

There was nothing significant on the general positive and next steps comments but we will explore them all at School Council meetings in the coming weeks. Some children mentioned more equipment on the playground and this is something we will be ordering soon. Any feedback on school meals will be shared directly with our catering service and in-school team.

Parent/carer questionnaire (62 family responses):

Springvale Primary is a good school: 100%

Springvale Primary is an outstanding school: 87%

Springvale Primary is well led: 4.92

Communication at Springvale Primary is effective: 4.79

My child feels safe at Springvale Primary: 4.81

The curriculum at Springvale Primary interests my child and meets my child's needs: 4.76

My child is making progress at school: 4.74

I know how to help my child make progress: 4.73

The general comments about what is best about Springvale were a delight to read. They mainly highlighted the school's ethos, the staff and their efforts, communication and the curriculum. The visits, clubs and special events were all mentioned too.

The general comments about improving further were quite varied and most were 'even better if' comments laced with positives too. Younger classes would like more clubs to access (this could happen if COVID restrictions are eased soon), school meal portions were mentioned and this will be taken to the School Council meeting this week and shared with our catering team. Communication was mentioned as a general positive but that it can be too regular and detailed. We will aim to keep all newsletters to one page in future unless it is a particularly busy time of year. As you can see above we will try to make the quick, little news lines more simple and quick to access.

One parent mentioned that we could do more to prevent bullying. We have only had two families in the last 12 months reporting a 'bullying' incident and we have responded quickly to these and put several things in place to make significant improvements. One was improved significantly and immediately and one is still being monitored with the support of the family in question. Our work on these cases was quick, considerable and appreciated by the families. The key message is please contact us ASAP if you are concerned about bullying- we can only address any friendship issues if we are made aware of the seriousness and if you are already in touch please be open and honest about your happiness with how we are dealing with the matter.

A few parents mentioned wanting us to run our own breakfast and after-school wrap around club. We explored this 3 years ago and there was nowhere near enough custom for us to run this effectively. We also have a range of good quality providers on our doorstep who already offer this service including school drop off and pick up. With all of this in mind we will not be exploring this again. It is also worth noting that schools with their own wraparound care were considerably out of pocket from the national lockdowns caused by COVID- another reason to take caution with our own approach.

Cultural capital questionnaire (114 family responses):

This was a really useful exercise and it shows what a great offer pupils get at home and in school in terms of experiences. The gaps to further explore with our school offer appear to be, for example, more theatre visits, more art gallery opportunities and visiting places further than the very local area. The growing impact of teaching Spanish in Y3-6 is a big positive and will help many children to learn to converse in a different language with confidence.