

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Week 9 Newsletter

Monday 1st November 2021

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter! We hope and trust that you had a good half term break. Are you ready for 7 weeks of learning, events and organised chaos? Then we shall begin!

COVID update: After a very challenging few weeks, especially with the high cases numbers in Y2 and Y3, we are pleased to report that cases have fallen dramatically in the run up to half term and we have only been made aware of one new case over the break. As winter approaches we will be taking a very cautious approach with school events and we do not expect, sadly, to plan any large scale indoor events for parents this half term. That makes planning for Christmas more challenging but as you know, we will always find a way to live out our ethos of including families and ensure that we keep everyone as safe as possible.

Christmas Events: We will continue to update you on any changes to Christmas events through text, email and (of course) summarise these on weekly newsletters. Any plans will be carefully risk assessed against the latest advice and guidance plus our own case numbers/patterns in classes. So far we have planned out a pantomime for all children, a cinema visit for all classes, parties in the school hall and a little something from Mr or Mrs Claus might even be in the offering...assuming everyone is on the nice list!

Parents Evening Booking and Important Information: Please note that our bookings open online at 5pm today (1st November) in the usual way (you will receive an email and a text.) The actual event is on Thursday 4th November in the school hall. There are no clubs or special events on this day.

- Please don't arrive very early, 10 minutes before your time would be ideal to allow time to sign in and look at work in your child's book
- The booking system is very busy when we open so please book quickly if you need a very specific time slot and please avoid the later appointments unless they are absolutely necessary for work/family commitments
- Sign in at reception, some work samples will be available for F2-Y6 (Nursery use target tracker)
- 10 minute appointments maximum- please feel free to arrange a different night if you feel that 10 minutes isn't enough, we have 30 parents to see from each class in the day and we want to avoid congestion in the hall due to COVID risks of large groups waiting
- If any parent would like to meet in a more private space than the hall, perhaps to discuss a sensitive issue, concerns or a medical need- please let us know via email ASAP so we can arrange this.
- If you have symptoms or need to isolate please do not attend in person- please contact us to change your meeting to a telephone consultation
- If you have any issues booking between 5 and 5.45pm tonight please email me directly as I will be on the system. Any issues beyond that time please call the school office on Tuesday.

Meetings for F2/Y1 parents: A huge thank you to the families who attended our special parent meetings or caught up with the information afterwards. The meetings were very useful for staff and families and they were well attended. The slides and notes were sent out on email shortly after the meetings if you haven't had time to catch up yet. It is vital, especially after COVID disruption, that we work together and ensure that every child gets the support that they need in school and at home, every day, as we strive to support them to reach their full potential.

KS1 Topic: Our topic is Superheroes and we are hoping for parents who are within the emergency services to maybe offer to come in and talk to Y1 and Y2 about their role for about 15 minutes. This could be done over Zoom if you would feel safer but pupils respond better in 'real life!'

Y5/6 Club Collection: A reminder that this half term and next (up to February half term) all Y5/6 pupils need to be collected after clubs or events due to the dark early evenings.

Clubs: Our Autumn 2 clubs are still live and we have spaces in some clubs. 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.

Questionnaire Appeal and Staff Feedback: This week we will be 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. I have designed an online survey that will take just a minute or two of your time. I had planned to launch this before half term but I have held back as it makes sense to seek views after parents' evening when you have seen your child's latest work and spoken to their teacher. The questionnaire will have two parts with very similar questions. One part is for parents to answer and one is for children. Mrs Fearn has designed a paper questionnaire that we will share with you at the parents' evening event while you wait to see the teacher. This is based around our curriculum design work. We want to know what experiences our pupils have had/are likely to have in the near future with their families so that we can ensure that curriculum is appropriately pitched and well designed. This work is around what Ofsted call 'Cultural Capital' as schools need to ensure that they provide exciting opportunities across the curriculum to supplement what pupils received out of school hours. As ever your time and feedback are valuable and much appreciated. Our recent staff questionnaire outcomes made us very proud. Our staff work hard but leaders and governors are very keen to ensure that the wellbeing of staff is catered for and that staff feel safe and happy when they come to work. Here are some of the outcomes (rated out of 5) but we are delighted to say that all questions were responded to with an average outcome well above 4 out of 5 stars- there were 20 responses.

Springvale Primary is a good (or better than good) school 5.00 stars
Springvale Primary is well led 5.00 stars
Communication in school is effective 4.78 stars
I enjoy working at Springvale Primary 4.89 stars
Behaviour at Springvale Primary is good 4.74 stars
The lowest score was for workload. My workload is fair 4.26 stars

School Improvement Update: We like to update parents on the projects that we have undertaken every so often to move our school forward to also share any external views of school. This year we have signed up to lots of training and support events for a range of staff to make sure that we are keeping abreast of the latest best practice. We are engaging with creative writing courses, subject leadership development work, multiplication tables and maths fluency training and new initiatives for early reading, writing and speech and language. We have also applied for an exciting outdoor learning course for our EYFS team recently. The biggest impact of COVID is on attainment in writing. Many children are using the skills taught in class well but are struggling to write at length so this is a key focus moving forward. Visits by other Headteachers and LA staff have received string feedback on our ethos, the environment and how our children and staff work together. Behaviour and the calm atmosphere across school are always commented on as a key strength. We will continue to keep you updated on external views and improvement work, including a review of safeguarding and our website in the coming weeks. In terms of new staff, Mrs Turner has settled in to her new role and she is working hard with the children who require a little extra support in reading, phonics or speech...her little Environment Group are having a big impact too! All of the staff who have moved classes this year have settled really well into their new role/environment...well done to them all!

School News: The week before we broke up was incredible busy with lots to celebrate! We must congratulate our cross-country runners first of all! Thirty-two pupils across KS2 attended the Barnsley finals event and we had outstanding results! Take a look on Twitter for the full details and names but we had 5 children in 1st place, 3 in 2nd place and 3 in 3rd place! We had 6 teams in gold position and 2 in silver position...absolutely incredible work! We also had our Y6 female team finish in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th which is a competition first! Well done to everyone who trialled for the event and everyone who competed so well...you made us very proud! I also wanted to congratulate the Y5 children for their marvellous work on enterprise and a special well done to the winning team of Mitch, Ayla, Charlie S and Amelia-Rose who will represent us at the Barnsley Finals! Lastly, can I please thank our Y6 young leaders who received rave reviews following their first event as tour guides for prospective parents? The feedback we had on the whole event, including the marvellous and mature leaders was music to our ears!

Harvest Feedback: We wanted to say a huge thank you to every child and their family for their kind donations and contributions. The packs were gratefully received by those in the community who need a little help or a friendly face! The radio show received lovely feedback too, thank you to everyone who listened in. If you have any general donations of non-perishable foods or old school uniform please note that we continue to collect these (they can be left in the school foyer) and share with anyone in need or with wider organisations like Barnsley Food Bank.

Have a great week everyone!

Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher

School Statistics- Week 8

Attendance: 92% Class of the Week: Y4 with 99.7% Late marks: 1 GOOD to be GREEN: 99.7%

Mini Diary- Week 9 (Well-being theme: Respect for others and self/Music of the week: Songs from Musicals)

Monday 1st November: INSET Day- school closed to pupils, 5pm Parents' Evening bookings open

Tuesday 2nd November: Barnsley Football Club prize-giving assemblies 10am

Thursday 4th November: Parents' Evening 1.30-7.30pm (sign in reception area, appointments in the hall)

Friday 5th November: Y6 on a visit (9-3.15) Y5/6 football v Thurgoland 3.15-4.15pm (selected pupils)

DIARY DATES FOR AUTUMN 2 ARE ON PAGE 3 BELOW

Autumn 2 Diary Dates

Thursday 4th November: Parents' Evening 1.30-7.30pm F1-Y6 settling in and next steps

Monday 8th November: Y5 on a School Visit (8am leave and 5.30pm return)

Tuesday 9th November: Individual and family photos

Wednesday 10th November: Y6 on a visit (11.45am leave-4pm return)

Thursday 11th November: Special Remembrance Assemblies in school time for pupils

Thursday 11th November: Gaming Day in Y5 and Y6 (new board games, social skills)

Friday 12th November: Children in Need Day-Spots/Stripes Dress Down (family donation welcomed)

Tuesday 16th November: KS2 visit (8am leave and 5pm return)

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) 10am-5pm

Tuesday 23rd November: Visit by the Mayor of Barnsley

Tuesday 23rd November: Prospective Parents Tour (5-6pm)

Wednesday 24th November: AM- EYFS Christmas show (school hall)

Monday 29th November: Christmas Raffle on Sale

Monday 29th November: DT Day for Y1 (AM) and half of F2 (PM)

Tuesday 30th November: DT Day for Y2 (AM) and half of F2 (PM)

Thursday 2nd December: Christmas Jumper Day for Y6 (filming Christmas song/message)

Friday 3rd December: Christmas Jumper Day F1-Y5 (filming Christmas song/message)

Thursday 9th December: Gaming Day in Y1 and Y2 (new board games, social skills)

Thursday 9th December: KS2 Cinema visit (Christmas Treat) AM

Thursday 9th December: Prospective Parents Tour (6-7pm)

Friday 10th December: Launch of Christmas Video at 7pm

Sunday 12th December: Y5/6 optional Christmas visit (times and costs on letters and emails)

Monday 13th December: Y1-6 Pantomime Day 1.45-3pm (school hall)

Party week: can wear party clothes on their day...Y1/2 Monday 13th AM, F2 Tuesday 14th AM, Y3/4 Tuesday PM, Nursery Wednesday 15th AM, Y5/6 Wednesday 15th PM

Thursday 16th December: Christmas Dinner Day (Christmas Jumper Day- whole school)

Friday 17th December: F1-Y2 at Cinema visit (Christmas Treat) AM

Friday 17th December: Break up for Christmas, Bank Holiday on Monday 3rd January 2022 and INSET on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Return on Wednesday 5th January 2022.