

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Week 2 Newsletter

Monday 12th September 2022

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Last week was a really positive start to the new year. I have never known a more settled school year in terms of how well the children presented back in school and how ready to learn they were...well done to them, to you all as parents and carers and to our staff for an excellent transition plan paying off!

Sadly, the week ended with the news of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday evening. Our children responded beautifully to this news and were supported emotionally, where required, to understand this news. We held a short assembly on Friday to remember the Queen and, today, with the whole school present except Nursery pupils, we held a celebration of the Queen's amazing life and had a short period of silence. The children were exceptional as always. Please note that our school will be closed to all staff and pupils next Monday as we mark the Queen's Funeral which has now been declared as a Bank Holiday (Monday 19th September). This means that all clubs will be refunded for this day in due course and clubs begin when we re-open on Tuesday 20th September.

School Timings: Please be mindful that staff are still learning names and faces of their new children (except Miss Alderson of course) so home time might take longer than expected. Our youngest pupils are still getting used to their new pegs, end of the day systems etc, too so that will take a little longer. If you have a child in the EYFS and Y1-Y6 please don't worry if things take a while, we will get there in a week or two. The timings set are now consistent at 8.40am and 3.10pm for EYFS pupils and 8.45am and 3.15pm for Y1-Y6. A late mark is given if a child arrives after the registers close at 8.45am in EYFS or after 8.50am for Y1-Y6. We did, sadly, have a large number of late marks today so hopefully, now that we have the daily routine set out and people are used to the return to pre-COVID parking, etc, we will all find a routine that works for us. We understand how different everything feels again but most of the changes really benefit our staff and their ability to teach well right from the get go each morning! Regarding road safety please note:

- Things will be slightly more 'spread out' from next Tuesday when clubs begin
- Please consider a safe place to park so that you can park and stride the final part of the journey
- Where parents have granted permission to walk home from school, please ensure that children have a plan each day for school that covers where to go/who to meet and any clubs. Parents have granted permission for pupils to take responsibility for themselves getting home and staff allow them to leave at 3.15pm trusting that pupils know their own safety plans. Pupils must walk straight home and not stop at parks/shops/friends' houses.
- Please ensure that bikes/scooters are not used on the school grounds- it is far too busy now for this to be safe.

Behaviour Systems: Y2 parents should note a detailed explanation of the new system being trialled with this class has been emailed to you today- any feedback welcomed as always! The new system is called 'Marvellous Me' and has started today! We will write to all parents with our amended Behaviour Policy for the year ahead as part of our annual consultation.

Music Tuition Autumn Term 2022: Pupils who were enrolled onto music lessons in the summer term will continue automatically this term and parents have already been billed on SchoolMoney. If your child would not like to continue with their lessons, please let us know by Friday 16th September. We do have some spaces available for trumpet, clarinet, flute, violin & cello so please get in touch before Friday 23rd September if your child would be interested in learning an instrument. Some of the music teachers will be in assemblies over the next few weeks to give demonstrations to pupils to encourage new musicians. Guitar, keyboard and drum lessons are currently full but we can add names to the waiting list for these instruments so do get in touch if interested.

Key dates for the year: Assessment: Today we have sent out text messages to families in Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6 about crucial dates for assessments in the Summer Term 2023. Taking holidays or requesting leave during these key times, or indeed the months leading up to them, is likely to have a significantly detrimental impact on your child's progress and achievement. Please carefully note the dates sent out for future reference.

Maths Development Work: Last year our outcomes in maths were absolutely fantastic. The Y4 multiplication check results were the best in the Borough (in terms of average score) and every child made fantastic progress that should and was celebrated! This year we are taking further steps to deepen the knowledge and skills that our pupils can use consistently and independently. Last week we sent out some information about how progression in time tables happens across school and we also explained some key vocabulary that is very new and completely different to the language used by staff previously. Please familiarise yourself with this vocabulary from the document shared.

Learning Logs: Our learning logs are back for a second year...they are packed with lots of information about general school business, your child's curriculum and lots of resources specifically to help parents to support their child's progress. Please note that we need parents to log reading and sign/comment just once per week to evidence our partnership in working hard together to help each child to reach their potential. Please ensure that the logs are kept up to date as they are checked every week by staff.

Clubs: The following clubs are now full: Monday: Y1&2 Football, Y3&4 Environmental Club, Y5&6 Cookery Club
Tuesday: Y3&4 Cookery Club. We do have spaces in the other clubs as it stands. Some are at risk of not going ahead- mainly patchwork on a Tuesday. We will update you later in the week about any cancellations or confirmed club plans. If you are having trouble accessing your child's account please feel free to call the school office 01226 760930 or email office@springvaleprimary.org

Toddler Group: We are desperate to bring back our Toddler Group! It was a very popular and well attended group that helped our pre-school members of the community to develop their social and play skills and gave parents a chance to connect with other parents. Our group is likely to return soon using the Community Church across the road. Mrs Andrew is setting it up but would like to know which of the following times would work best. There is currently a Twitter poll asking which day (Monday or Tuesday) would work best for most families before we launch!

Autumn Term Dates 2022

September

Thursday 15th: 4pm Y5/6 Girls Football at PGS- selected pupils
Friday 16th: Y5/6 Leadership Training with Mr McClure (PE kit can be worn all day)
Monday 19th: School Closed for Queen Elizabeth II State Funeral
Tuesday 20th: Clubs begin, and Y5 bikeability all week
Wednesday 21st: Y6 visit
Thursday 22nd: 4pm Y3/4 Mixed Football at PGS- selected pupils
Monday 26th: Y1/2 parent meeting (in school) 5.30-6pm (rearranged from 19th)
Thursday 29th: 4pm Y5/6 Boys Football at PGS- selected pupils
Friday 30th: Dress Down- green for Macmillan, family donation and coffee afternoon

October

Tuesday 4th: KS1 visit
Thursday 6th: 4pm Y3/4 Get Mucky event at PGS- selected pupils
Monday 10th: Don Street closed all week for resurfacing, parents evening launched online at 5pm
Tuesday 11th: 'Flu immunisations, 6-7pm prospective parent tour
Thursday 13th: Individual and family photographs, PM Y5/6 orienteering event
Wednesday 19th: AM extra F1/F2 parent discussion slots, 10am Harvest Festival
Thursday 20th: 1.30-7.30pm Parents' Discussions and 4pm onwards PGS family sports event for KS1
Friday 21st: Break up for half term
Monday 31st: Hallowe'en Dress Down and activity day- DISCOs EYFS 2-3pm and Y1-Y6 3.15-5.30pm

November

Tuesday 1st: Y6 Crucial Crew visit
Tuesday 8th: KS1 Great Fire of London Workshop
Friday 18th: Children in Need dress down day- spots and stripes theme and donation
Monday 21st: World Cup Party Day- themed lunch, sports kits and option to watch the match from 1pm
Wednesday 23rd: Y6 visit (science college sessions)
Monday 28th: Raffle tickets on sale

December

Tuesday 6th: EYFS nativity (10.30am and 2pm)
Wednesday 7th: 9.30am and 6pm Y3/4 Christmas Shows, 10.30am and 7pm Y5/6 Christmas Shows
Thursday 8th: AM- Whole School Pantomime
Friday 9th: 10.30am and 2pm Y1/2 Christmas Shows
w/c 12th: Christmas party week, cinema visits, raffle draws (times/days TBC at half term)
Thursday 15th: Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 16th: Break up for Christmas (return Wednesday 4th January 2023)

News nuggets:

- Please continue to ensure that names/classes are written in every item of clothing brought to school
- A reminder that only water can be provided for pupils in water bottles, this includes nursery pupils
- The disabled parking bays should only be used by parents/carers with a disabled badge or permission from school leaders- please ensure that grandparents are aware of this too if they are collecting
- Ear-rings should not be worn at any time please in school
- We had a very strong start last week with over 99% attendance and only one late mark! Keep it up everyone!

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