

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Week 24 Newsletter

Monday 13th March 2023

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We wanted to thank all families for their support with our snow plan on Thursday and then the closure on Friday. We want to keep education going at all times but the horrendous weather late on Thursday and in to Friday forced our hand and we must act to keep everyone safe. The forecast was very accurate which helped us to make the correct calls, so it seems! You may hear of further strikes this week in schools- Wednesday and Thursday- **but we remain open as normal**. I wanted to say an enormous well done to Y6 pupils who were an absolute credit to their families and the school on the residential in Lincolnshire! The feedback we had from other schools and the PGL staff was delightful. They were incredibly resilient and brave in pretty awful conditions! Thank you to families for supporting the visit financially and to Mrs Mayston and Mrs Gale for giving up their time to plan and lead a wonderful opportunity!

School Budget: Over the last few weeks we have been working through our projected budget for 2023/24. Unfortunately, we are set for a year of tightening our belt, once again. Managing the budget over the last 6 years of working together has been difficult and the excellent work of the Governing Body and Miss Chapman must be acknowledged. This year our budget has increased very slightly but we have to find significant savings due to rising costs which far outweigh the increases. My calculations suggest that we need to shave 7% off our running costs which will not be easy. In the interests of transparency we wanted to update families as we may not be able to replace staff who leave us or we may have to pass on more costs to families regarding things like visits or special events which we have always tried to subsidise. I feel that our school does a fantastic job and provides a high-quality education and well-rounded curriculum experience for our pupils including additional provisions in physical and mental health, speech and language support, etc. Over the years we have cut every pot of spending possible without affecting provision but with rising staffing and utility costs we feel that standards could be affected if we were to cut elements that start to impact children directly. We have contacted the Local Authority and our Local MP, Miriam Cates, to express our concerns about the current situation.

Red Nose Day: This Friday is Red Nose Day! We aren't selling red noses in school but children can bring them to school if they like. We are having a 'wear red' dress down day and we encourage a family donation of your choosing! In the afternoon we will have a special comedy show in the hall. Children can sign up with me by the end of Wednesday to show their funny routine to the whole school. They have up to 2 minutes to tell jokes, perform a comedy routine or funny dance. Pupils can sign up by telling me in school or a parent emailing me by Wednesday evening please.

Barnsley Youth Choir: Mrs Andrew has kindly organised two special singing sessions for Y1-Y6 pupils. KS1 today and KS2 on Wednesday afternoon. 'BYC' are a top-class organisation who make a real difference to lives of young people across the Borough. If you would like more information about how to join after the sessions, please let us know!

Marathon March: Last week's closures has made our Marathon plan a little messy! We are 3 miles behind now so we are having a double mile day on Monday and Wednesday this week to partially catch up! We also have a double mile day on Friday which was pre-planned. On double mile days children will run with me at lunchtime and their class during the day! My marathon is still planned for 26th March but I have been having problems with a knee injury so I am hopeful a little rest will see me able to complete it. I will share the route and timings next week in case any children want to run part of the route with me between Tesco and Oxspring.

Have a wonderful week everyone.

Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher

Mini-Diary and School Statistics (Week 22 and averages)

Attendance for the year so far: 97.6%	Attendance last week: 98.7%
Late marks last week: 1	Class of the week for attendance: Y6 Heroic Hexagons with 100%
GOOD to be GREEN 2022/23 average: 99.3%	GOOD to be GREEN last week: 100%

What is happening in school this week? (Week 23)

Weekly themes: Music- 80s music; Wellbeing- Healthy Living- Diet; Week 2 dinner menu (note some changes)
Monday 13th: Y5/6 Dodgeball Match v Thurgoland (AWAY) (3.30-4.15pm) Y5/6 Hockey match v Cawthorne (4.15-5pm)
Monday 13th continued: KS1 Barnsley Youth Choir session
Tuesday 14th: 3-4pm Y5/6 Netball match v Thurgoland, KS1 visit (return late at 4pm), please don't park at the church AM
Wednesday 15th: Barnsley Youth Choir KS2 session, F2 eye tests taking place
Thursday 16th: Y3/4 netball event selected pupils at sports event 4-5.15pm
Friday 10th: Lunchtime DISCO, Y5 swimming, Star of the Week, pupils return from residential