

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Week 31 Newsletter

Monday 15th May 2023

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We wanted to start this week's update by congratulating all Y6 pupils on their hard work and progress this year. Last week they completed their SATS assessments. They showed their confidence, determination and resilience alongside vastly improved academic skills to be the best that they could be. A test doesn't measure the most important qualities of a child or learner but the way that the children behaved and carried themselves is a credit to the staff, the families and the children themselves! Well done everyone! I want to thank the staff for going the extra mile- breakfast clubs, boosters, all those extra little bits of support- and the wonderful families too! As you may have seen last week we received a letter from the Schools Minister, Nick Gibb, to congratulate us on our multiplication tables successes so far. Last year's results were in the top 200 schools in the country (there are 32,000 primary schools in England!) and this year's Y4 results are on track to be just as good- keep it up everyone! This week, Y2 pupils will take assessments in a much less formal way, good luck to them all! We wanted to say an enormous well done to lots of different sports teams this half term too!

- The Y3/4 netball team were absolutely amazing and came in 2nd place after a tight final defeat!
- The Y1/2 football team who went to Cawthorne away (a tricky place to visit on a cold, Monday evening) and gave a wonderful account of themselves in an exciting match that ended in defeat
- The Y1-6 children who took part in the football this Friday (75 in total!) who all worked their socks off and enjoyed their exciting games! One of the games ended 8-7 with a last-minute winner! I enjoyed every minute of the matches and the progress to see was incredible! Thank you to Mrs Lowe and Amelia and Chloe in Y6 for their support with the matches!
- The Y1/2 football skills team at PGS last week gave it their all and finished in 4th place- they were a superb little team full of energy and enthusiasm!

We have fixtures in the diary for everyone to enjoy across a range of sports and Sports Day is almost upon us too! Next week's newsletter will give everyone the full details of Sports Day but please note that the timings have already been released (see diary dates)...all are welcome as always! Please ensure that you have returned the slip for a Sports Day school picnic by Wednesday if one is required.

Ofsted Feedback: As you may be aware our school is due to be inspected by Ofsted, probably in the coming 2 or 3 months. We would really like our families to complete the Ofsted feedback form online if possible to help us to build a picture of our standards and strengths. We have 'self-assessed' the school as a securely good school. Many parents tell us that the school is 'outstanding' which is lovely to hear. Leaders and Governors recently met to consider the evidence that we have to be an 'outstanding' school. Whilst there is lots of positive evidence to support this it is very difficult to prove and the key word that Ofsted use is that the school should be 'exceptional.' With this in mind we wanted to ask you to get in touch if you feel that you or your child have experienced exceptional learning, support or guidance in any way. We're not 'fishing' for compliments...if the word exception strikes a chord with you about your experience then please tell us in an email or note! The link for Ofsted feedback more generally is here: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Barnsley Alliance Role: For the last two years, as well as being the Headteacher of Springvale, I have carried out the role of Primary Chair of the Barnsley Schools Alliance. This role was a two year contract and I have decided not to renew the contract beyond August 2023. I have enjoyed the role enormously and learned an awful lot, much of which has benefitted our school in terms of learning for us as an organisation, as well as the funding that supported our school budget. I remain a Local Leader of Education as I have been since I started at Springvale in 2017 and, in light of our current budget position, will continue to support other schools by sharing expertise we have to offer at Springvale to support our budget and the continued development of our team and schools in the local area.

Learning Logs and Home Learning: The last few weeks have been a little out of routine with INSET days, Bank Holidays and assessments returning. We have been so delighted with the standard and frequency of home learning and support from home this year but many teachers note that this has been falling away slightly over the last few weeks. If we could see a return to our usual tip-top standards that would be wonderful! Thank you!

Postcards from Paradise: We are constantly thinking of new ways to encourage children to write and learning about the world that we live in! Over the Summer Holidays we wanted to ask if parents could help us with a lovely idea from Mrs Lowe! If you send us a postcard from your holiday destinations UK and worldwide, we will have regular assemblies to place them on the giant maps in the hall to help the children to learn about UK and world geography!

Cost of Living Feedback: Thank you so much to everyone who shared their views relating to different school costs. We had eleven responses and most were very positive about how school do things at the moment but we did have some excellent feedback about making things even better which is really valuable to us, thank you for taking the time to share this! Please see some of the feedback and ideas here, all of the shared comments will be discussed at leadership meetings and Governor meetings over the coming terms. We will launch some Twitter polls relating to some of the comments and respond to others with some feedback, extra information about why we do things the way we do or update you on any adjustments made in response to the feedback given.

- Continue with the £20 external visit cap
- Make parents aware of residential costs as early as possible so they can spread the cost over maybe 12 months
- Refrain from selling anything except books at the Book Fayre and consider more book swaps
- Offer an opportunity for parents to visit the Book Fayre with children
- Continue with uniform swap shop/freecycle
- Limit to one visit per term, use local and free opportunities or bring more people in
- Avoid last minute requests for money- plan ahead
- I don't think school should ask for money for events that are in school- only external experiences
- Mixed feedback on charity days- some feel too many, some feel just right
- It is not clear how monies raised are being spent
- A summer fayre to raise money would be a great idea
- Good feedback on clubs and costs- link to childcare costs is mentioned where club and provider is required on the same evening
- Source an alternative/cheaper photography solution- most feel they are too expensive

Regards, Mr L McClure, Headteacher

Mini-Diary and School Statistics (Week 30 and averages)

Attendance for the year so far: 97.5%	Attendance last week: 98.2%
Late marks last week: 4	Classes of the week for attendance: Y6 Heroic Hexagons and Y4 Superb Squares with 100%
GOOD to be GREEN 2022/23 average: 99.3%	GOOD to be GREEN last week: 99.7%

What is happening in school this week? (Week 31)

Weekly themes: Music- 60s music; Wellbeing- How Can We Help Others?; Week 2 dinner menu
Monday 15th: Y5 DT Day, Y6 in sports clothing all day, 2pm Nursery Tours, KS1 SATS begin, Cawthorne fixtures Y6 4-5pm
Wednesday 17th: Y3 Faith Visit
Thursday 18th: Y6 presentation from PGS (2pm), Y5 Residential Meeting 3.15-3.45pm, Y5 Get Mucky Event 4.15pm
Friday 19th: Lunchtime DISCO, Y5 swimming, Star of the Week, EYFS/KS1 Captain's Table