

SPRINGVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Week 18 Newsletter

Monday 22nd January 2024

Dear families,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Last week flew by and it was lovely to see all of the new clubs get off to a great start! We sent out some really important safety reminders about clubs last week on the newsletter and texts- the most recent about not coming into the school building before collection times please due to safeguarding reasons. Any adults on the school site in learning/club times must be signed in and/or supervised to keep everyone safe please. We have lots of updates for you today so...here we go!

Breaking News!

This week, Springvale Primary School has received two letters of commendation from the Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP Minister for Schools to congratulate us on our amazing 2023 Phonics Screening Check and Multiplication Tables Check results. He has praised us for achieving 97 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at the expected standard check, which is in the top 3 per cent of all primary schools in the country. It goes on to say that our particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means our pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading. This is something we feel extremely passionate about at Springvale and we are delighted that all our hard work and dedication has been formally and officially recognised by the British Government.

He goes on to praise us for also achieving an average pupil score of 24.6 out of 25 on our Year 4 2023 Multiplication Check-which makes Springvale Primary School one of the top 200 performing schools in England. To give that some perspective-there are 16,791 Primary Schools in England-so that puts us into a very elite category indeed! It states in the letter that this excellent achievement of our pupils is something the Government hopes to see replicated in schools across the country, as knowing times tables is vital for school and day-to-day life. Recalling multiplication and division facts up to 12 x 12 is important for progression in maths. That is why they introduced these checks, as a helpful tool for teachers to identify those pupils who need extra support. This is the second year running that Springvale Primary has received this commendation from the Minister for Schools-a trend which we hope to continue with our current Year 4 cohort. It has already been recognised within our own authority, as Springvale has already been approached to support other schools in Barnsley to help develop their own maths teaching and learning, so that others can achieve results like ours.

These awards are down to the hard work, dedication and commitment of many people. Thank you and well done to the children who work hard in school and at home, supported by our fantastic families. The amazing outcomes wouldn't be possible without our staff. The Phonics and Early Reading Leader: Mrs Royston as well as the EYFS and Key Stage 1 Teachers and Teaching Assistants and our Maths Leaders in school: Mrs Mayston and Mrs Evans, alongside all the EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Teachers and Teaching Assistants-we are so proud of them all. Let's keep working hard and do it again next year! Those daily extras that children complete at home with parent support and encouragement are so crucial everyone so please do keep that up! It is working!

Staffing News: We are very sad to say that Mrs Exley will be retiring from her post of F2 class teacher and PE leader at the end of the Summer Term! After 27 years of outstanding service, a true Springvale legend will be saying goodbye to our pupils, staff, Governors and families. We are really going to miss her many talents and the vast experience that Mrs Exley brings to the team but we are delighted that Mrs Exley can rest up and enjoy her well-earned retirement! We also thank her prior planning which allows us to plan carefully for September 2024! What an amazing teacher she has been...so many children and families positively impacted over the years!

Sports Updates: A massive well done to the boccia teams who played last week against Oxspring as we brought home the Spring Cup for the first time! The Y3 boys team- the Striker Destroyers- won by just 2 points! It was a wonderful event! A further well done to our amazing Y1 Sportshall Athletics team who came in 6th place at a local sports event. They worked their socks off and did a great job! Please note that there is no PGS event this week- it has been pushed back to a later date- Thursday 22nd February. This clashes with parents' evening but we will still organise a team as best we can! This week our Y6 pupils take on Cawthorne at Benchball tonight- good luck gang! Y6 will also represent the school, and the local region, in the Sportshall Athletic South Yorkshire Finals on Thursday 1st February. The whole class is keen to attend, like the original event, but we have struggled to find a suitably priced coach. With that in mind, and as parents/carers cannot attend the event due to the finals being at a college with lessons ongoing around us, we have planned to use the train to enhance the experience. Full details will be sent on an email very soon including a link to pay for the train fare which is much cheaper than a coach fee.

Gaming events: Over the next three Fridays our pupils in Y1-Y6 will enjoy a gaming day- learning about the many benefits of board and card games! On each of the three weeks our games leader, Nigel Scarfe, will be visiting the morning breakfast club to work with our attendees and on the coming Friday- 26th January- Nigel is offering a free gaming session for families in KS2 in the school hall! Please email the office to book in. The session runs from 3.15-4.15pm and is free of charge. Any KS2 family can attend and younger/older siblings are welcome to attend. We will repeat this session for F1-Y2 families the following Friday- 2nd February! We do hope that many of you can join us!

Pupil Questionnaire Responses: Here are the key outcomes from our pupil surveys completed over the last few weeks. We will now survey our staff and Governors in the coming weeks!

- 98% of pupils took part and the outcomes were very positive indeed
- Pupils feeling safe in school, having lots of friends, knowing what to do if they did have a worry or felt unsafe were key positives- which shows the strength of our safeguarding culture and the Playb Together part of our ethos
- Pupils were 93% positive about their learning, the curriculum and the extra visits and clubs on offer
- A love of reading was evident as always and more pupils every year acknowledge the hard work that they do to learn at home too
- Most pupils said they enjoyed assemblies but a number of pupils said 'maybe' to this question so we will ask our School Council to explore this further! A number of pupils said that they didn't know who the school governors were or the work that they did- despite our experienced and skilled team, many of whom visit and support school during the day- so we need to continue to champion the great work that our Governing Body do in school too!

Have a wonderful week everyone!

Regards

Mr L McClure and Mrs R Fearn

Executive Headteacher and Head of School

Key Dates	Weekly Stats and Info
<p>Dinner Menu: Week 3 menu Wellbeing Theme: Respecting Property and the Environment Music of the Week: Country and Western Monday 22nd: KS1 History visitor all day/Y6 Benchball event 4.15pm Friday 26th: Star of the Week and lunchtime DISCO! Y5/6 Gaming Day KS2 family gaming event 3.15-4.15pm in the hall (please book)</p>	<p>Attendance last week: 97.4% Late marks last week: 9 Class of the week: Y4 Puffins with 100% GOOD to be GREEN last week: 99%</p>