

SPRING VALE SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2023



SUMMER BREAK



TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVING MORE

Have a great



END OF YEAR REPORT FROM MR WEST (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)

When I sat down to write this report, I started by reflecting on another successful year for the school as we continue to grow but maintain the high standards of education that everybody expects of us. When I heard the sad news of the passing of my fellow Governor John Parker, I thought I would reflect on John and the contribution he has made and the impact he has had on this school over many years. As a school, Spring Vale would not be where it is today without John's contribution. John has seen us develop as a school in his 30 plus years as a Governor to the wonderful school we are now. I thought that this was a good opportunity to reflect on John both in and out of the school. I am probably repeating what others have said but I thought it appropriate to say something from a Governors perspective.

My first impressions of John when I met him over 35 years ago was a quiet undemonstrative man. I learnt that he enjoyed running but I didn't know much else. As I have got to know him both socially and through being a Governor I learnt that he didn't just enjoy running but was an excellent runner. I also got to learn about the quiet determination he had to ensure that his community and particularly the children of Spring Vale had the best opportunities available to them.

First the running, John was a member of some of the all-conquering Tipton Harriers Road and Cross Country teams in the 80's and 90's, probably the equivalent of playing for Manchester City now! But as well as being part of a successful team he also received national recognition and won many individual races. He won the prestigious Snowdonia Marathon twice, had memorable performances in London and his best time for the marathon of 2 hours 23 minutes would put him in the top 60 of British Athletes in most years. John wasn't just a runner he was a top athlete.

It was as I joined the Governing Body at Spring Vale that I really got to know John. He was already well established as a Governor. He had started as a Parent Governor and now was able to see the school as a Grandparent! John loved the school and put many hours into helping it function. I never knew much about his job, but he did seem to be able to manipulate his shift patterns to fit in with the needs of the school. I think this was testament to both John's dedication to the school and perhaps to the flexibility his employers afforded him.

John was involved in Health and Safety in his job, and he was able to use these skills to give us assurance around Health and Safety at the school. He was also safeguarding lead on the Governing Body and through these roles he ensured that the school provided a safe and secure environment for our children.

John was always available for the school, to provide Governor support for recruitment and whenever we needed a Governor representative to meet with the Local Authority. If we needed an advocate or someone to turn up and represent the school, John was always a willing volunteer.

John was passionate about the school providing wider opportunities for the children passing through. Spring Vale has always strived to provide a good standard of education, not just in the classroom but outside. John felt that we should provide the widest variety of opportunities, giving our pupils the best experience and the chance to make lasting memories. And he wasn't just an advocate for this, he lived it. John would turn

up and help at so many Spring Vale events, he manned the finish line at Sports Day, he refereed school football matches he helped with athletics and other school teams. So many pupils got to know John when they visited the Towers outdoor centre in North Wales. John was a driving force in the school trips to Towers, attending every year. He believed that every pupil should have the opportunity to experience what Towers had to offer and loved seeing the pupils come out of their shells and develop in their week there. When the Council decided they could no longer afford to keep Towers running John joined the Friends of Towers, working to try and return this valuable resource to the children of Wolverhampton.

When Spring Vale was finally graded outstanding by OFSTED, one of the reasons we achieved this was because of our wider curriculum. For years John had championed this within the school, so I suppose that outstanding grade is a suitable memorial to John.

To me as Chair of Governors John will be that person every organisation needs. Not the Alpha shouting wanting to be at the centre of everything, but the worker dedicated to the cause with no other hidden agenda but simply wanting the best for the school, working tirelessly to ensure that the school is safe and secure for its pupils and providing the best it can to help them grow and develop. The sort of person that does nothing for personal recognition and does so much for everybody else. The sort of person who makes sure things are done. Every organisation needs a John Parker, we were so lucky to have him.

Have a great summer

Matt West (Chair of Governors)



We will be saying our official goodbyes to Year 6 at their Leavers' Assembly on Tuesday 25th July. Parents have been invited to attend at **8.50 am**. We would like to wish our Year 6 children all the very best in the future and we hope they continue to work hard in their new secondary schools. We are really proud of how hard they have worked during their time in Year 6.

Subject	Spring Vale Primary EXS+	National EXS+
Reading	87%	73%
Maths	93%	73%
Writing	87%	71%
Grammar/punctuation/spelling	83%	72%
Reading/Writing/Maths	80%	59%

This year 6 cohort have been outstanding. You will see from the table above that their achievements are amazing but more importantly, they have really enjoyed being part of the Spring Vale family. We will never forget them.



IMPORTANT REMINDER:-

Children break up on Tuesday 25th July after lunch at 1 pm - last collection by 1.30 pm. Please be prompt collecting your children from school.

ENRICHMENT activities

This half term we have trialled various after school activities. The children have thoroughly enjoyed these clubs and we are looking at a timetable for Autumn, Spring and Summer.



ONE STOP DONATIONS

Many thanks to the One Stop who have been collecting food to donate to Spring Vale families. We will be holding a mini foodbank on three occasions during next academic year where families can come and help themselves to what they need. However, please ask if you ever need a parcel and we will try our best to help. We will text the dates when we have set them but this is likely to be one of the days in the week before we break up for our half term holidays.

STAFF NEWS

We will be welcoming Mrs Patel (Year 2 teacher) to the Spring Vale team in September.

At the end of this academic year, we will be bidding farewell to:-

- Mrs Sahota (Teaching Assistant) who has secured a promotion in a local Wolverhampton school. We thank her for all her efforts in the time she has spent at Spring Vale and will miss her greatly.
- Mrs Woodstock-Townsend (Jade) will be leaving us in the summer to take up her new role in training to become a social worker. Jade has made a massive difference to some of our children and families. We wish her all the very best in her new career. As a school, we are working hard to appoint a replacement for Jade's position.
- Miss Kaur (Lunchtime Supervisor).

We wish them all the best of luck in the future.

Last Friday marked the end of an era. Mrs Vawer officially retired, having worked at the school since 1996. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for her relentless pursuit of excellence for all the children she has ever taught. She retained the same enthusiasm for teaching throughout her whole career. I personally will miss her scrutiny, commitment and most importantly her friendship.

And finally, Miss Heywood-Cross is getting married in the summer and will return to school as Mrs Heywood-Cross. We love the fact that Mrs Heywood-Cross has given us a whole year getting used to her name!





BACK TO SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2023

You should have received a 2023/24 academic year planner with your child's report. Children in Years 1 - 6 return to school on Wednesday 6th September. Existing Nursery children (who will remain to Nursery) on 11th September. New Reception and Nursery children have been given their start dates and times.

SCHOOL TIMES



The KS1 and KS2 playground gates will be opened at 8.30 am when children are let into school. All children should be in their rooms by 8.45 am which is the official start to the school day. If a child arrives at school before 8.30 am there is no staff supervision and the child remains the responsibility of the parent/carer. **Any child arriving after 8.45 am will be marked as late in the register.**

- Years Reception, 3, 4, 5 and 6 finish at **3 pm**
- Year 1 finish at **3.05 pm**
- Year 2 finish at **3.10 pm**.
- Nursery: Morning nursery session times are **8.30 - 11.30 am**.
Afternoon nursery session times are **12.15 pm - 3.15 pm**.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please make sure your child is kitted out with the correct uniform for next term. Also make sure your child has **black low heeled shoes not trainers** for school. Socks should be plain white, black or grey.

Jewellery is not allowed to be worn in school.

Extreme hairstyles are not allowed in school - as outlined in the school prospectus.

We insist on a maroon hoodie or jumper and navy joggers to be worn to school on class PE days. Our school uniform is available from Ron Flowers Sports, Queen Street, Wolverhampton. There is a link on our website to enable parents to order online or you can purchase directly from the shop. Alternatively, school colours can be sourced from a number of different supermarkets and shops. **Children are not allowed to wear random PE kit to school after this academic year.**



PRE LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM

If any families would like to donate any pre-loved uniform to school, we will be holding a pre-loved uniform sale at different points during next academic year. If as a family you are struggling with uniform or PE kit, please let us know at school and we will do our best to help you.

School Dinners

Why not try our school dinners for a term? Dinner money in September 2023 will remain at £2.40 per day, £12.00 per week (£1.40 per day, £7.00 per week for flexible charging) payable on the first day of the week. Children need to state at the beginning of a term whether they are having dinners or packed lunches. We are not increasing the cost for school dinners this year even though the price of raw materials has increased significantly. Our aim is not to pass on any of these costs to our families. However, we will need to review this as we progress through the academic year.



A full program of after school clubs will be sent out on our return to school in September.

RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

One of our wonderful parents won a "Lose weight and donate" competition and has very kindly donated his £100 winnings to our breakfast club. In his email he said "I want to make a special shout out for the breakfast club whom I could not thank enough for their kindness and patience to allow us to drop our daughter off at 7:40 which allows us to go to work full time."



The end of an amazing school year tinged with sadness. This year marked the return to full assessments across the primary education sector. Yet again, as a school, we saw record results particularly in the phonics check where 87% of our children met national expectations. Proof that the hard work of the staff in embedding our new phonics scheme has paid off.

More parents than we have ever had before attended our sports days back when the sun was still shining! Year 2 and Year 6 had residential visits and all children in our school went on a school trip except for nursery who had a visit from the animal man!

For the first time in years we are saying goodbye to staff either through retirement or promotion. This will mean welcoming new staff to school in September to join our Spring Vale family. We will formally welcome these members of staff in our newsletter in September.

The relentless pursuit of excellence for our children underpins everything we do at Spring Vale. I wish you a safe and happy holiday and look forward to welcoming new families and our existing children to another exciting year at Spring Vale.

Together Everyone Achieving More

