



SPRING VALE SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2020



TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVING MORE



End of Year Report from Mr West (Chair of Governors)

What a strange and eventful year this has been! It started with some significant events in the school's history and then drifted into something that no one would have ever expected or been able to predict. Through all these moments what has shone through is how the school has ensured it provides the best education for its pupils in the best and safest environment for the children, their families and its staff.

September seems a long time ago, but it started with the move into the new building. Having spent last year watching this fantastic educational facility growing we were now able to take advantage of it. All the hassle of the previous year was over, we would be able to start using these fantastic new facilities and there would be no more upheaval for staff and pupils (or so we thought!!). We could celebrate this as a big step forward for Spring Vale. And I am sure you will all agree that the new building does look great. Even the older bits of the school have been upgraded and refurbished so we have the perfect environment for our children to learn.

We came back to school in September knowing that OFSTED could pounce at any time. An early inspection under the new OFSTED framework was viewed by many as a poison chalice. Until schools had chance to get used to the new requirements then it would be extremely difficult to do well. However, we had confidence in the broad curriculum the school was already offering and we knew we were ready. And we were proved right. The hard work of staff and pupils and the support given by the Spring Vale parents and wider community paid off and we became one of the first schools in the country to be judged **OUTSTANDING**. I have said previously that I wasn't worried about gradings as we knew we were providing an excellent, well-rounded education for our children. But it is lovely to be proved right. The new OFSTED framework judges a school by the broad educational experience it provides to its pupils, something we have always prided ourselves on at Spring Vale, so it is great to be proved right.

As we were starting to build on our successes a new challenge was thrown on us all. Many years ago I did a small piece of work for the Department of Health as part of their work on preparedness for a flu pandemic. When this was finished I expected that it would be a document that would sit and gather dust on a shelf. I never thought that in my lifetime we would actually go through a real pandemic of any sort. The last few months have been novel, strange and difficult. It has tested us in so many ways. Some of us have had to get used to an office in our kitchen or spare bedroom. For others it has meant work ceasing, hopefully on a temporary basis. Social distancing is the new norm. I have had many conversations with Mr Blunt about how we provide an education to the children and keep everybody safe. The whole way primary schools work and especially Spring Vale is very interactive. Children love to play with their friends, parents, grandparents and carers socialise while waiting for their children. These were all things we were no longer allowed to do. The

staff worked hard to find ways to provide some sort of education to the children, either for key workers children in the building, or setting work on line. It has not been a substitute for proper classroom based learning, but staff have been tireless in supporting all the children the best they can.

I hope that from September things will be a little more "normal" and we can return to what Spring Vale does best. Providing an outstanding, well-rounded education to all our children in a setting that is safe and secure, nurturing and friendly, and enjoyable for all. In the meantime I hope everybody has a great summer, stays safe and healthy and we look forward to a return to normality whatever that is!!!

Matt West (Chair of Governors)



Our Year 6 officially leave us this week - we would like to wish them 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. Any hoodies or reports left at school will be delivered week commencing 20th July 2020. Please remember to send a photograph of yourself wearing the hoodie to springvaleprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk to complete our 'Class of 2020' class photograph!

Staff News

Mr Marsh, who was previously a teaching assistant, will now be joining our teaching team in Year 4 in September.



Back to School September 2020

You should have received a 2020/21 academic year planner with your child's report. Children in Years 1 - 6 return to school on Thursday 3rd September. Older Nursery children return on Monday 14th September. New Reception and Nursery children have been given their start dates and times.

School Times



Please refer to return to school letters for drop off and collection times. To minimise numbers of adults on site at any one time, staggered start and end times are in place for September. Please be prompt in dropping and collecting children. Look out for reminder texts which will be sent on Friday 28th August. Please email us if you change your mobile number.

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.

Spring Vale school uniform is now being sold by 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.



School Dinners

Why not try our school dinners for a term? Dinner money in September 2020 will be £2.40 per day, £12.00 per week (£1.40 per day, £7.00 per week for children eligible for discounted meals) 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.



Cakes/food in school

It is always nice to celebrate a child's birthday in school but could we please ask parents **not** to send cakes or other food items, as we have a number of children with food allergies. We have always allowed sealed packets of sweets to be brought in for children to take home with them, and will continue to allow this as ingredients can be checked by parents - please be mindful of children with dietary requirements. Thank you for your continued co-operation.



Tips for keeping children safe online

- 🕒 **Explore:** Explore and understand the apps, games and sites your child uses and get to know your child's online world better
- 🗣️ **Talk:** Chat to your child about their online world, just as you'd ask about their day at School
- 👤 **Agree:** Set out the family rules to live well online. Discuss and agree ground rules and make sure you're a good role model
- 🔒 **Manage:** Make the technology work for you. Adapt privacy settings and use parental controls where necessary

100% attendance

Unfortunately, we have not been able to hold our attendance assemblies this year but all children who had 100% attendance for the spring term and for the year up to 20th March have received certificates in with their reports. We have given out 139 certificates for full attendance in the Spring term and 70 for full attendance this academic year up to 20th March. *Just to remind parents that children will **not** lose full attendance for hospital appointments but confirmation letters must be shown to the office.*



The end of an outstanding academic year and one we will never forget. Your unwavering support for the school is what make Spring Vale Primary unique in so many ways. We have had some of the highest attendance of any school in the country post lockdown. As a staff, we have worked extremely hard to make sure we are safe and ready for September where we look forward to welcoming all the children back to school. I have already written to you with the changes that must be adhered to in order to continue to stay safe and be successful. For us as adults, the school may appear to be very different but our hope and our ambition is that the children will notice very few changes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. B. C.' or similar, located in the bottom right corner of the page.