



Spring Vale Primary

Weekly News – 22nd October 2026

Assembly Theme week commencing 2nd November: Bonfire Night/Diwali



Reflections on My First Half Term at Spring Vale

As I come to the end of my first half term as Headteacher at Spring Vale, I wanted to reflect on what has been a truly wonderful few weeks. From my very first day, I have been made to feel incredibly welcome by children, staff and families, and I cannot believe how quickly the time has flown by!

First and foremost, I want to say how incredibly proud I am of our children. Their attitudes to learning, enthusiasm and approach to school life have been exceptional. They have quite simply been a delight, and I don't think a day has gone by when they haven't made me laugh! One of my favourite parts of the day has quickly become welcoming everyone at the school gate each morning and getting to know our families. Building strong relationships with parents is something I care deeply about, and I want everyone to feel welcomed, listened to and valued.

If I had to choose one thing that has stood out most, it would be the culture of Spring Vale. There is a genuine sense of community, with children, staff and parents all sharing the same commitment to wanting the very best for our children. This is something incredibly special and a real strength that I am determined to nurture.

Behind the scenes, our Senior Leadership Team has worked incredibly hard to ensure that the transition in headship has been as smooth as possible. I am also extremely grateful to Mr Blunt, who has continued to visit each week and work closely alongside me. His support and knowledge have been invaluable in helping me develop a much deeper understanding of the school and its processes in such a short space of time. I would also like to thank all our staff for their warmth, openness and continued dedication to our children.

Looking ahead, I am excited about what we can achieve together. My ambition is to build on everything that makes Spring Vale special, ensuring every child achieves highly whilst feeling happy, confident and valued. Next half term also brings the build-up to Christmas, which is always such a magical time in a primary school. I can't wait to experience my first Spring Vale Christmas! It is also the season of warm jumpers and hot chocolate!

Thank you to everyone for making my first half term so memorable. It really is a privilege to be Spring Vale's Headteacher.

I wish you all a wonderful and restful half-term break.

Together Everyone Acheving More



Important Dates this Term

- **Thursday 22nd October – children break up for half term**
- Friday 23rd October – school **closed** for children – staff will be training
- **Monday 2nd November – children return to school – non-uniform day**
- Monday 2nd November – Diwali drumming workshops in school
- **Tuesday 3rd November**
- **Thursday 5th November**

  Parents evenings – online booking is now closed.
- Friday 6th November – Non-uniform or traditional dress for Diwali
- **Friday 13th November – Non-uniform for Children in Need**
- Friday 20th November – Flu vaccines catch up for children who were absent and Y6 Foxes.

Year 6 Secondary Applications

A quick reminder to all our Year 6 parents and carers that the deadline for submitting secondary school applications is **Saturday 31st October**. Please make sure you have completed and submitted your application before the deadline. Applications received late may be considered after those submitted on time, which could mean your child is not offered a place at any of your preferred schools. If you haven't applied yet, please don't leave it until the last minute! Thank you for your support in ensuring this important deadline is met.

Flu Vaccines – Important Update

We would like to apologise on behalf of Vaccination UK to any parents and carers whose children had consent to receive the flu vaccination but were unfortunately not vaccinated during yesterday's session.

We understand this may have been disappointing and apologise for any inconvenience caused. Please be reassured that these children will be vaccinated during the next scheduled session on Friday 20th November.

If you would prefer not to wait until then, your GP surgery should be able to advise you about arranging a vaccination sooner. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Food Brought into School

Please be mindful that we have a number of children with severe nut allergies – for this reason we are a nut free school. Any food containing nuts of any kind, even Nutella/chocolate spread, should not be brought into school.

Although it is always nice to celebrate a child's birthday in school, could we please ask parents not to send in cakes or other food items due to the number of children with food allergies/diet requirements. 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. Thank you for your continued co-operation

DARK NIGHTS SAFETY ADVICE

With the clocks going back during half term, this means that it will soon be dark when children are walking home from school and playing out in the evening. Here are some safety tips for you to share with your children:-

- If possible, walk with a friend or group of friends.
- **Stay alert – keep an eye on everything that is happening around you.**
- Avoid wearing earphones or chatting on your mobile phone, as this will distract you from your surroundings.
- **Trust your instincts – if you have a 'funny feeling' about someone or something, don't ignore it, act on it straight away.**
- Take the route you know best and stick to busy, well-lit streets.
- **Walk in the middle of the pavement, facing oncoming traffic. This will avoid any cars driving up alongside you as you walk.**
- Think about your route home. Where would be a safe place to go if something went wrong? Safe places might be busy places like shops or garages, friends' houses or a police station.
- **Have your keys ready as you approach your home so you can get inside quickly.**

BONFIRE NIGHT/FIREWORKS SAFETY

Bonfire night is always an exciting event for children, whether you decide to attend an official display or choose to have your own display at home. If you are having your own display, here are some tips for keeping yourselves and your families safe:-

Fireworks

- Only adults should deal with setting up firework displays, the lighting of fireworks and the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used. Children should not be asked to help at any stage
- Children should watch displays from a safe distance – they should be well away from both the fireworks and any bonfires.
- Families should keep a torch, buckets of water, eye protection, gloves and a bucket of soft earth on hand. The bucket of sand can be used to place fireworks in ready to be lit.

Bonfires

- The area around the fire should be cordoned off and any children nearby should be supervised at all times.
- The fire should be lit away from wooden fences, sheds and any places where children will be playing.
- Petrol, paraffin or sprits should never be poured directly onto a fire. Families should use fire lighters to prevent sudden flare-ups.

Sparklers

- It is recommended that sparklers are not given to under-5s
- Make sure everyone handling sparklers wears gloves
- Hold sparklers at arm's length while being lit and light them one at a time
- Don't wave sparklers about close to other people
- Never hold a baby in your arms while you are holding a sparkler
- When the sparkler has finished put it in a bucket of cold water.



Outdoor Clothing

Please send children to school with suitable coats, hats, scarves, gloves etc. Even when the weather is cold, we still go outside at playtimes and lunchtimes as long as it is safe to do so.

Please ensure your child's name is on all clothing brought in to school – it is very difficult for us to find lost items of clothing if there is no name in them!

Coats for Kids also accept donations of other clothing, furniture etc. Contact Gillian on:- coatsforkidswolves@outlook.com

Coats for Kids

Does your child need a coat for the winter season, or do you know a family in need of coats?
We are a FREE service.
We are urgently seeking families with children or services working directly with families who may benefit from our project.
Whatever the need, all are welcome to receive free donated kid's coats. No referral or voucher is needed. Anyone can email Gillian on: coatsforkidswolves@outlook.com
There is no reason a child should ever be cold.



And Finally...

🍅 Another Budding Gardener! 🌱

Our school gardening craze continues, and this time we have another proud gardener, Savannah-Rose, showing off her homegrown tomatoes! It seems we have some serious, green-fingered talent in our school community. Who needs the supermarket when you have your very own mini allotment at home? We're loving seeing everyone's growing adventures – although at this rate, we might need to open a Spring Vale farm shop! 😂

Well done on your fantastic tomato-growing efforts Savannah-Rose!





Spring Vale Primary School

Every Day Counts

THRIVE

SMALL STEPS SHAPE BIG FUTURES.

Every school day helps your child grow in confidence, independence and opportunity.



2 EXTRA WEEKS IN SCHOOL = 30% GREATER CHANCE OF SUCCESS AT KS2

DfE research found that attending school for 2 extra weeks a year is linked to a significantly better chance of reaching the expected standard.

Be here. Thrive every day.

If attendance is difficult, please talk to us. We are here to help.

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Illegal and dangerous parking outside of schools

We are becoming increasingly concerned about dangerous and illegal parking outside of school.

A reminder that it is illegal to park your car:

- within 10 metres of a junction
- in front of an entrance of a property
- on Zig-Zag lines
- on Double Yellow lines
- if it causing any other obstruction

If you are caught parking dangerously, or illegally, outside of the school you will receive a fine and potentially points on your licence.

Inconsiderate parking can create congestion, delays, and damage to grass verges. Obstructions in the road can also hinder emergency service vehicles and increase traffic collisions. Most importantly, dangerously parked vehicles can block the view of children trying to cross the road. We don't want to see anyone get hit or injured by traffic.

Pedestrians have priority at crossings and junctions – that is the Highway Code. It is everyone's responsibility to keep pupils, staff, and families safe. To avoid parking dangerously, leave enough time to find a legal parking space and walk your children to the school gates.

You can also opt to walk, cycle, or use public transport instead of driving. Organise a pre-arranged car share to reduce the number of cars outside of the school. It's also important to find a safe parking spot to collect your children from school. Remember to use pedestrian crossings and put phones away while crossing the road.

Officers will be working closely with the school to act against those parking dangerously and illegal. If you have any questions feel free to ask one of our officers or your school safeguarding team.

Many thanks,

West Midlands Police.

For up-to-date information from your local officers sign up free to WMNOW
www.wmnow.co.uk

We also recommend you register your CCTV system on WMNow which may help the police with any of their investigations.

stay updated
get involved



THIS WEEKS "IN THE NEWS" TOPIC

TAKEHOME

19th - 25th October



In the news this week

Eleven-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan from London has become the youngest person ever to earn the woman grandmaster title in chess. She achieved this while playing for England at an international competition in Uzbekistan. Bodhana said she was happy with her achievement and wanted to keep making history.

Things to talk about at home ...

- How do you think adults might feel competing against someone much younger than them?
- What could you teach someone older than you?
- Should age decide what we're allowed to do?
- When might an age limit be fair?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments