



# SPRINGHEAD C.P SCHOOL

“Working together to achieve our best”

Springhead C.P School  
Kingsley Road, Talke Pits, Stoke-On-Trent  
Staffordshire, ST7 1RA  
Tel: 01782 296835  
Fax: 01782 296838  
Email: [Headteacher@springhead.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:Headteacher@springhead.staffs.sch.uk)



Headteacher: Mr B Anderson  
BEd (Hons) N.P.Q.H.

22/01/21

Dear Parent/Carers,

Can I start this letter by thanking you for everything you are doing at this challenging time and engaging with your children's learning at home. Staff have been working hard to ensure that the remote learning provision is up and running – we appreciate your understanding and patience as we have made this provision available.

## **Nursery**

The school nursery remains open every day for the children and are enjoying doing work on the story of Goldilocks!

## **Critical workers**

The school remains open for the children of critical workers but only where this is absolutely necessary. We have got more than four times the number of children in school compared with the number we had last year. This means that there is a larger number of people in the school building and in bubbles. The children are coming into school really well and trying hard at their work. They are doing the same learning as those that are doing the home learning. If your children are coming into school part time it is important that they access the home learning on the days that they are not in.

## **Children learning at home**

Firstly, can I say well done to everyone that is managing to do the learning at home with their children – we do realise how difficult this can be. You all have additional pressures and this is a massive challenge. We can only ask for everyone to try their best.

As you will be aware, the expectations of what the children are learning is now very different to last school year. The government have stated that children in the reception class and key stage 1 should be doing 3 hours work a day and children in key stage 2, 4 hours.

We are also required to regularly monitor that children are doing their work. For children that are using Google Classroom, we can see their completed work. For other children, please take a photo of the work and email it in. Staff will respond. We do need the work emailed in at least two to three times a week so that we can monitor it and give feedback. It is important that the children keep doing their learning daily.

We are required to contact parents where there has not been any contact made during the week. Please do not be offended if we contact you – safeguarding is paramount.

Please email your children's class teachers for support or if you need anything.

We have not been delivering live lessons as it became clear from our survey earlier in the year that many families did not have the devices available for children to access these. We are therefore using recorded resources so that you have some control about when you access them during the day. For children who do not have the digital devices, we have been producing photocopied packs. These do need returning to be marked. If you can, please try to access the videos on your mobile phones as these provide the teaching for the activities.

## **Zoom catch-up meetings**

We care very much about our Springhead family and miss seeing you all and I am sure the children miss their friends and teachers; a number of parents have requested a live video session for the children to get together with their teacher. We are therefore going to trial a short weekly Zoom wellbeing session. The teachers will email out the details of how to join and the time next week. Children of critical workers will not join these sessions as they will be in school with other children and staff.

## **Expectations for using Zoom video sessions**

If you allow your child to join the session you agree to abide by the following rules:

### **Before the session:**

- All those at the meeting should wear suitable clothes, as should anyone else in the household.
- Computers / tablets should be in appropriate areas, not bedrooms. You should consider what can be seen in the background.
- Parents / carers should make the children and other members of the household aware of the meeting so that they do not disturb it.
- Reduce background noises e.g. music, T.V.
- Children and teachers will not interact on a 1:1, children will only be able to join the session when there is more than one child waiting.
- Please be on time to the meeting.

### **During the session:**

- Parents / carers will be expected to appear on the screen at the start of the session to confirm that they give consent for their child to be part of the session.
- The sessions will not be recorded.
- Avoid any distractions during the meeting including eating, drinking and siblings.
- Children should stay on mute until they are invited to speak by their teacher.
- Cameras should remain on.
- Other family members including siblings, should stay away from the meeting.
- Language should be respectful and appropriate – including anyone in the background.
- Follow the rules and instructions of the meeting as set by the teacher.
- We expect the same levels of respect, kindness and manners as we would in the classroom.

If these expectations are not kept, the teacher can, at their discretion, remove any child from the meeting.

### **E-Safety and time on the computer**

The children will be on computers much more than normal. To reduce time on the devices you can:

- Give the children breaks from the computer
- Where possible break their online learning up with other tasks such as reading and using books
- Give them physical activities
- Stop them using digital devices at least an hour before bedtime

Please regularly talk to your children about keeping safe online. Here are some useful links for parents and carers:

Thinkuknow: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

ParentZone: <https://parentinfo.org/>

Childnet: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carer-toolkit>

Government advice on staying safe online: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-staying-safe-online>

### **Half Term Holiday**

For those children in school, a reminder that school finishes on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February. The children return to school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

If your child experiencing low mood or low level anxiety, we may be able to help. Call us on:

**07813 401572\***

**9AM—5PM**

**Every Tuesday**

Leave your name and number and one of our practitioners will call you back to see what support we could offer.



We can help with:

- Anxiety
- Exam stress
- Low mood
- Low level behaviour difficulties
- Panic
- Sleep difficulties



Follow us on Twitter @mhstnorth



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\*Please note this contact number is not to be used in an emergency. Contact the Crisis Care Centre 0300 123 0907.

Finally, a big THANK YOU to our parents and carers for the work you are doing at home and to those of you who have sent kind words to my staff, it is very much appreciated. Once again, thank you for your patience and understanding.

Kind regards,

Brian Anderson  
Headteacher