



Newsletter 10

This is such a challenging time for us all and I know that the recent government announcement of pushing back the date of the full reopening of schools to 8th March at the earliest will have been a real blow to many. We have to continue to support each other and respect that we are all trying to do the best that we can in very difficult circumstances.

As both a teacher and a parent, I know how important it is for the children to be back in full-time school as soon as it is safe to do so. Children want and need to be with their friends and to have their lessons in their classroom. Parents want and need to be able to get on with their jobs without also having to supervise and support remote learning. School staff want and need to be able to have the children physically in front of them and teach and support them in the way we know is best for their emotional and academic development. We all want and need to be able to live our lives with the freedom to go where we want and do what we wish. This time will come and we have to remember this when things feel very tough. In the meantime, it is crucial that we all follow the rules and stay home and stay safe. Key workers should only be sending children in to school if there is no-one else at home to look after them. Households should not be mixing and play dates should not be happening. As hard as it is, and as tempted as we can be, please, please, please do not mix and do not go out unless for essential business and chores.

Acts of Kindness

Nursery children have been responding to a Kindness Challenge given to them by the Nursery team. On their Google Classroom page they are sharing examples of their kind acts. I know how pleased their families are with them. Well done Nursery. Keep up the kindness!

- ❖ **Starla** used some of her Christmas money and bought a toy that she then shared with her older brother.
- ❖ **Zara** has been helping her mummy set the dinner table.
- ❖ **Houda** is very helpful and tidies up and cooks.
- ❖ **Vir** is helping put the groceries away and is doing a lot of tidying.
- ❖ **Yanika** helps her mummy wash the dishes up.
- ❖ **Anabelle** helps prepare the table for dinner and always tidies away her toys after playing with them.
- ❖ **Pritesh** puts his own clothes in the washing machine and always helps his mummy tidy away his toys.

Remote Learning

We are always looking to refine our remote learning offer and to adapt it so that children can access it easily and engage with it well. We are appreciative of the many positive and supportive comments that we have received from our families. Do raise with us anything that is of concern and we will try and solve the problem. All we ask is that staff are spoken to respectfully and patiently – we are navigating our way through this too!

Children's Mental Health Week - 1st-7th February 2021

As part of Place2Be's annual mental health campaign, we will be participating in a number of activities next week. We emailed you a letter from Mrs Chohan outlining details of the week and ways in which you can all get involved. Please look out for her letter!



<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/>

COVID19 Update

If your child is showing COVID symptoms or isolating after being in contact with someone who is positive, please remember to let the school office know.

Please email office@springgrove.hounslow.sch.uk or call 020 8560 0965.

Lateral Flow Testing for School Staff

We will begin Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing of staff next week. It will be reassuring to you and all of our community to know that asymptomatic cases in staff will be picked up by these tests.

We anticipate that this may be disruptive to on-site provision because in the event of any one year group member of staff receiving a positive test result, the bubble will close. Can I please stress that the LFD testing is in addition to ongoing adherence to hands-face-space preventative measures.

During this time we may experience further staffing shortages or changes to the staff or provision you have got used to. We would appreciate your support and cooperation, patience and understanding at this time should this occur. If there is a bubble closure – all children in the bubble will be moved onto Google Classroom. This will include all critical worker and vulnerable learners who have been in school since 6/1/2021.

From Monday, staff will self-administer tests early in the morning every Monday and Thursday for full time staff, and on relevant days for part time staff. If they have a positive test, even without symptoms, they will be required to self-isolate and book a further PCR test. At this point, they will inform school and we will close the relevant bubble (and inform PHE). Once the results of the PCR tests are known, we would of course advise you to isolate for the full ten days if positive, or to return to school if the test result was negative. Parent Mail will be used to notify you of any bubble closures so it would be sensible for you to check for Parent Mails every morning and on Monday and Thursday mornings in particular. Equally, if a member of staff or a child within a bubble developed symptoms, irrelevant of the new LFD tests, both the member of staff and their bubble would still be required to isolate. This could happen at any time and we would, again, notify you via Parent Mail.



Reading

We received some lovely messages this week from families who have shared with us the books that they enjoy together.

Mrs Taylor enjoys reading with her young granddaughter Ruby. Their favourite one at the moment is *One of Those Days* by Jill Murphy. Mrs Taylor is also in a Book Group for grown-ups and has really enjoyed ***Where the Crawdads Sing*** by Delia Owens and ***The Girl with the Louding Voice*** by Abi Dare.

Ayaan in Year 4 Horowitz has shared a video of him reading in his den at home – it is the most wonderful den! He is reading ***Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban*** at the moment.

Anahat (Year Horowitz) and his family enjoy reading together. He reads a story to his sister every night before going to bed from ***100 Classic Stories***. He is also reading *Stories for Boys Who Dare to Be Different*.

Mrs Tahir and Zakariya in Year 3 have shared their family experiences of reading:

Zakariya has been enjoying reading about Roz the robot and her epic adventures with the animals on a remote island in ***The Wild Robot*** by Peter Brown. Not only has it been a wonderful way for us to bond as a family but reading fiction books like this one, has exposed Zakariya to a wealth of new vocabulary and ideas that he loves to use in his writing. However, the most rewarding part of reading regularly with Zakariya is that he now loves to read!

If you have a reluctant reader, I highly recommend the ***Project X Alien Adventures*** series! After reading just one book about aliens and regular kids saving the world, Zakariya was hooked!

We now cannot wait to find out how Roz makes her way back to the island in ***The Wild Robot Escapes!***

Family Maths Challenge

Thank you to those of you who had a go at the pocket money maths challenge. I loved reading your work and seeing the strategies you used to solve this. A special well done goes to Ayaan Juneaj and Iris Robalo-Sewell. You both used a really good systematic approach to solve this.

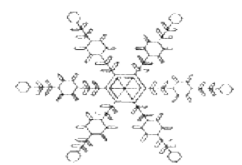
Wow! What an amazing weekend we had with all of that snow. I went out with my children and made a snowman. It was lovely to hear so much laughter from us and other families. While making the snowman I started to tell my children some mathematical facts about snowflakes and then thought I should use this for this week's family maths challenge.

I would like you to make snowflakes as described below. You can decorate them with glitter or whatever you want to. Please post your photos.

Making Maths: Snowflakes

One of the marvels of nature is that the tiny ice crystals in snowflakes form a shape with six lines of symmetry. It is actually quite hard to cut out a paper snowflake with six perfect lines of symmetry, but it's a lot of fun to try!

Here's one way to make a snowflake ...

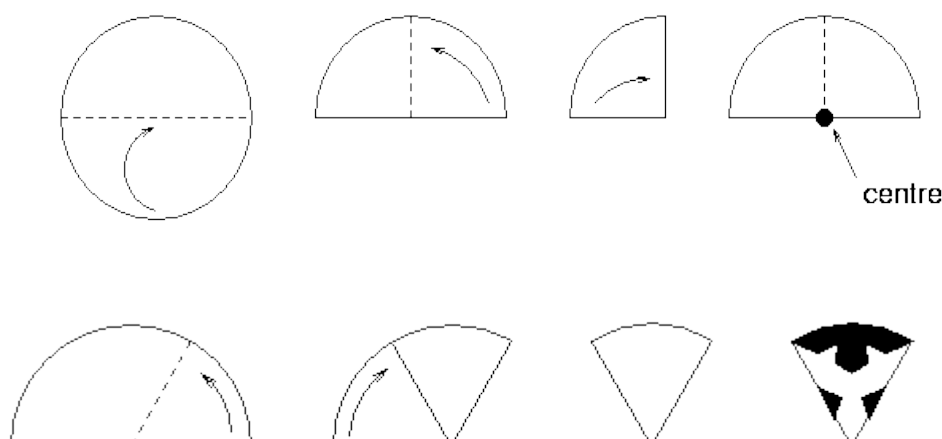


You will need:

- A sheet of paper (you could start with scrap paper until you create the kind of snowflake you want)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glitter (optional)

What to do:

1. Start with a circle of paper (trace around a lid or a bowl). Fold the circle in half, then half again - just to find the centre of the circle. Then open it back out to a half-circle.



2. Now you have to fold the half-circle into three parts, with a point at the centre of the circle.

It's a little bit tricky to get the three parts the same size, so take care.

3. Now cut away pieces from the folded sides, and from the curved edge as well. Open it out - and there's a snowflake. Maybe you could add some glitter to make them sparkle. Have fun !

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Celebration Awards

We have much to celebrate this week. The amazing Spring Grove children have continued to demonstrate their positive and resilient characteristics and have produced some excellent pieces of work ranging from the creation of their own reading dens to poetry recitals and model making. There is also another video showcasing their work – many thanks to Mrs Gratton who puts this together for us all to enjoy. Look out for this as it will be placed on Google Classroom over the next couple of days.

Appreciation Awards – Friday 29th January 2021

Class	Name	Reason
Nursery - Inkpen	Sanchez	For sharing great videos and photographs of work completed at home. Always completes the assignments and more!
	Raza	For trying so hard with the phonics work. Well done!
Reception - Mckee	Beatrice	For her amazing work on phonics.
	Jainish	For confidently being on his first Google Meet and smiling so much.
Year 1 - Donaldson	Leon	For all of his hard work during reading sessions.
	Milly	For showing a great attitude with everything she does.
Year 2 - Grey	Adarsh	For his amazing model that he has worked so hard on.
	Ananya	For her wonderful work and attitude towards everything that she does.
Year 3 - Zephaniah	Nanak	Produces lovely pieces of work and attends all of his Google Meets.
	Iris	For engaging so well and persevering. Well done!
Year 4 - Horowitz	Abhinavi	For presenting a variety of interesting and creative pieces of work.
	Tanvi	Always keen to contribute on Google Classroom and often presents wonderful work of a high quality.
	Kieran	For contributing and working hard in a variety of activities on Google Classroom. He has created a wonderful reading den.
Year 4 - Rauf	Hadi	For building his brilliant reading den.
	Avyakth	for presenting all his work with consideration and flair.
	Stanis	for great work in maths, especially Monday's maths challenge.
	Charis	for her interesting and thoughtful contributions during Google Meet sessions.
Year 5 - Rundell	Joodi	For being kind and helpful to others on Google classroom.
	Anam	For working hard to improve her work and taking on challenges enthusiastically
Year 6 - Tan	Geetanshu	Superb diary entry. For showing full writing potential on Google Classroom.
	Simran	For her excellent reading of a poem – fantastic expression and great intonation. Well done!
	Zain	For asking questions to clarify his understanding of assignments. Keep up the fabulous effort Zain!