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Headteacher: Mrs Samaira Nasim

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware at Springfield, we maintain a register of the pupils who are particularly able in different subject areas using the data from their performance at SATs, results from the Early Years Foundation Stage and Teacher recommendation.

We are pleased to inform you that _____ has been identified as one of our Able, Gifted & Talented (AGT) students and appears on the register. Below are the subjects your child has been recognised as AGT in currently;

As all children develop and progress at different rates, the register will be reviewed regularly and updated accordingly. Further details of how you can support your child, can be found on the reverse of this letter titled '7 top tips for parents/carers to support more able pupils at home.'

If you require any other information on how the school is supporting your child, please do not hesitate to contact myself or their teacher.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs K Brown
AGT Lead



7 top tips for parents/carers to support more able pupils at home.

1. **Resources to succeed** - Ensure your child has everything they need to develop their skills - whether it's a library card, internet access, a keyboard or somewhere to paint or draw away from other siblings. You don't have to spend a fortune; second-hand books and equipment are perfectly fine. You can also support their learning at home to expand their knowledge of subjects taught in school.
2. **Emotional support** - What emotional support do more able children need? The same as any other child. "Love without strings, praise for effort and a family structure so that they know what is expected of them and how to treat others with respect," says psychologist Professor Joan Freeman, who specialises in more able children. "More able children tend to be very hard on themselves, so you may need to provide an extra morale boost and offer your support if they are trying very difficult things."
3. **Be understanding** - "Able children can be misunderstood - they often learn differently, interact differently and don't quite conform to normal behaviour," says Julie Taplin, Deputy Chief Executive of the National Association for Gifted Children. "Discuss your child's qualities and characteristics with family members, friends, other parents, teachers and club leaders so that they can try to understand your child and what is normal for them. It should help your child feel more accepted and at ease."
4. **Social time** - Allow your child to have some unstructured time each day just to think, play and daydream. It is important for creativity and having some downtime could prevent your child becoming stressed.
5. **Allow for failure** - "Able children need to be allowed to fail at things," says Julie Taplin. "If they succeed all the time it can lead to them placing too much pressure on themselves." Encourage them to take risks and attempt things that will be difficult both intellectually and physically (as long as they are in a safe environment) but help them to understand that failure helps them learn and develop their skills.
6. **Get help** - Your child's abilities may quickly outstrip your own, which can be upsetting if you feel you aren't able to help them. Reading up and researching subjects can help - but most parents only have so much time. Extra tuition can help, as can making the most of the experts on hand at places you visit such as museums.
7. **Support a range of friendships** - Able children can sometimes struggle to identify with children of their own age who don't have their abilities - but don't assume that this will be the case with your child. Allow them time to play with all sorts of children, and give them the opportunity to meet like-minded peers'