

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Telephone Number: 0121-675-4040

www.fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk

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Next Week—Menu 3

15th December 2023

Dear Parents and Governors

Happy Christmas

Although life in school is very busy at this time of year, and staff can appear a little frazzled when rehearsals don't quite go to plan, Christmas in school is always a magical time. We absolutely love hearing the festive songs echoing down corridors matched with the tangible excitement of children trying on costumes, enjoying Christmas crafts and decorating classrooms.

Staff and parents have been busy helping our children learn their lines with practices both at school and at home, and however many times we witness it, the sight of young children speaking, dancing and acting never fails to enchant.

Each year as Christmas approaches, we find that no one retells the Christmas story in quite the way that primary aged children can. At Four Oaks we provide a positive environment where children's talents are nurtured and celebrated, and allowing the children to perform on stage or at another venue can help them to grow in confidence and develop their speaking and listening skills. School productions can provide something special, whether it be being a narrator, playing an instrument, acting, singing, dancing or simply being a back-stage helper. It is a unique experience that is integral to a good quality education and wonderful preparation for future life.

For parents and grandparents who joined us for this week's end of term events, I'm sure you all felt very proud and uplifted by all of the different performances, and many of our EYFS parents will no doubt have been moved by their child's very first school performance. I'm sure there were tears of joy and laughter as you saw the children simply being children at their very best, even if lines were forgotten, we all love seeing the children perform. I do hope that if you were part of our school Christmas then it put some festive joy in your hearts. Do enjoy your own preparations for Christmas as we move on to next week and Christmas parties, and we look forward to seeing all of the children safely back in school on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Happy Christmas!

Party Food on 22nd December.



This is always an exciting day for the children in school. Next Friday will be party day and the children are invited to come to school in their party clothes to celebrate Christmas before we break up for the festive holidays. Our Catering Manager Debbie would like to let the parents of all pupils who normally bring a packed lunch to school, know that they can take part by ordering a party buffet lunch via their SchoolMoney accounts if they want to.

Make A Wish—Fundraiser 20th December.

On Wednesday 20th December, we are going to have our first fundraising event for Make a Wish, the charity we are supporting as a school this year. We would love everyone to donate £1 via our SchoolMoney App and dress in something sparkly to represent the magic created when a wish is granted. This could be a sparkly top or dress, something with magical stars on, a Christmas jumper with a sparkle or non-uniform with a sparkly accessory eg. tinsel or a Christmas hat/headband.



LTE Deep Dive

The Learning Trust for Excellence (LTE) is the group of schools that Four Oaks Primary is in a collaborative relationship with, for the benefit of all of the schools and all of the children. As part of our on-going work with the LTE we visit each other's schools on a regular basis to do 'deep dives' in different areas of the curriculum to assess what we do, and then measure the impact on the children. In the last two years we have carried out deep dives in Reading and Mathematics, but this year we have put the focus on Geography. Just over two weeks ago, Head Teachers and Curriculum Leaders from three other LTE schools visited Four Oaks and carried out this mini-inspection of Geography. I am happy to say that our visitors were very impressed by what they saw as they spoke with staff and observed our children. Here are just a few of the things that they said:

The quality of the curriculum that has been provided by staff is a real strength.

High quality displays/working walls were seen in all classrooms & in the school hall. This clearly helps children understand the learning journey.

It was clear that the staff were committed to ensuring that Geography was taught well within the school.

The enthusiasm & hard work of the curriculum leader & subject co-ordinator was very clear for all to see.

This kind of experience, working with other supportive schools, enables us to reflect on our everyday practice and to be open to a variety of curriculum ideas used in other successful schools, and we will continue to engage with our co-operative trust as we head towards the Spring term.

Staffing News

Sadly, we will have some staff moving on to pastures new at the end of this term. Mrs Arnett has been our Bursar working in our Infant office for the past 16 years, but she has decided to move onto a new chapter. She has kept us all on the straight and narrow in terms of finance for all of those long years and it will be strange to not see her behind the office window. Her role will be taken up by Mrs Humphreys, a new member of staff, but someone who knows both our school and the world of education finance very well.

Mrs Barton, one of our talented band of EYFS teaching assistants has decided to move on to another role in the education world, and she has been with us at Four Oaks for just over 2 years. This move will give her the opportunity to spend a lot more time with her young family. Her role will be taken up by a new member of staff whose name is Mrs Simpson, and I'm sure the children will get to know her really quickly.

Mrs Roux, who came to us in September to teach Year 4 for a term always had plans to go travelling abroad, and she has now come to the end of her time with us. We wish her the very best as she heads off into the wide blue yonder. Her role in Year 4 will be taken by Mrs Mehat who has lots of primary teaching experience and is really looking forward to hitting the ground running in January.

In addition to these individuals, we will also be welcoming Miss Platt, a new teaching assistant in Year 1, as well as Mrs Cerrone who will be a new face in the Infant office for two days a week. I'm sure that parents and children alike will soon get to know them very well.

All of these valued staff members who are moving on have given freely of their time and energy for the benefit of our school and will be very sadly missed by pupils, parents, and staff alike. I would like to thank them for their total dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work during their time with us and wish them the very best of luck in their new adventures ...they will always be part of our Four Oaks Family and will be welcome back at any point!





Super Stars and Acorns



The following children received Stars (Infants) and Acorns (Juniors) in Assembly last week. Well done to them all!!

Bumblebees	Lucia
Ladybirds	Ella-Mae
Owls	Adam
Hedgehogs	Arjun
Turtles	Oliver
Sharks	Adam
3E	Avyan
3W	Zac C.
4C	Charlie
4R	Harry
5G	Charlie L-M
5M	Charlotte
6B	Libby
6S	Oliver



Super Stars and Acorns



The following children received Stars (Infants) and Acorns (Juniors) in Assembly This week. Well done to them all!!

Bumblebees	The Whole of Reception
Ladybirds	The Whole of Reception
Owls	The Whole Class
Hedgehogs	The Whole Class
Turtles	Jonah / The Wole Class
Sharks	Avni / The Whole Class
3E	Carys
3W	Caesar
4C	Joseph
4R	Florence / Annie
5G	Aarya / The Whole of KS2
5M	Jayan
6B	Bella
6S	Maddy

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Reception	Ansel / Alex M.
Year 1	Ranvir C. / Aizah
Year 2	Martha / Alfie G.
Year 3	Aisha / Martha
Year 4	Amber / Reuben
Year 5	Logan / Jack
Year 6	Christina / (6S not awarded)



Well done to all the winners!

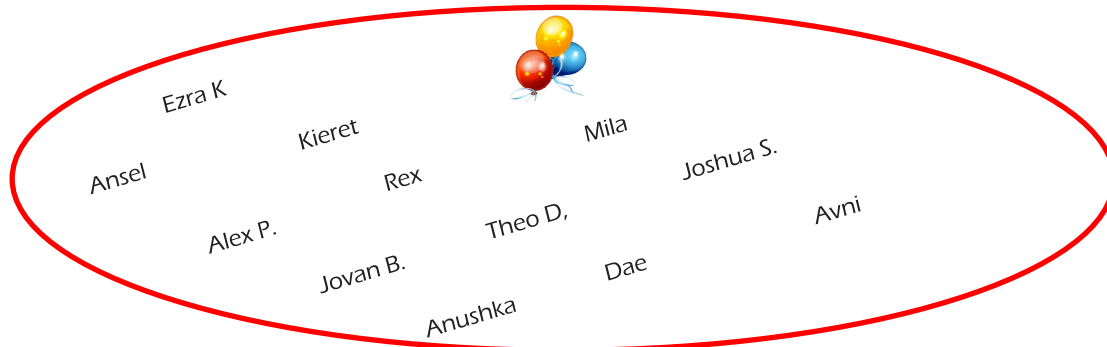
Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Orla S. / Elliot S.
Year 1	Poppy S./ Tamara
Year 2	Ranvir / Poppy Mc.
Year 3	Rayan / William
Year 4	Surbani / Sophia
Year 5	Reeva/ Ava / Elsie
Year 6	Zachary / William P./ Milo



Well done to all the winners!

Infant Birthdays



Kindness Tree Award

Last Week Infants: Dimitri (Ladybirds)
 Last Week Juniors: Isabel (6S)
 This Week Infants: Tommy (Owls)
 This Week Juniors: Dylan & Jivan (3E)



Year 1 Fundraiser

We would like to say a HUGE well done to Isla in the Owl class who has been raising money for charity. Isla is walking 1 mile every day from the 1st to 25th December. We are sure you will agree that this is a long way for such little legs! All money raised is going to the Lily Mae Foundation which provides invaluable support for families following the loss of a baby. Well done Isla we are extremely proud of you.

All Saints Tree Festival

Mrs Smith and I took our school choir up to All Saints Church today to sing at their Christmas Tree festival. They had a great time and yet again represented our school beautifully, so a big well done to them all, and a thank you to Mrs Smith and Mrs Westlake for working so positively alongside All Saints this term. Thank you so much to all the children who made a festive bauble to hang on our tree in the church.

In addition please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter telling you all about the Christmas Tree Festival, where you can meet Father Christmas, follow the Reindeer trail, have some refreshments and vote for your favourite tree (hopefully the Four Oaks Primary School one!).



Professor McGinty

Once again, we will be welcoming Professor McGinty into school next week to entertain the children. The time travelling professor will be working with Year 3 and Year 4 next Tuesday to transport them back to the time of the Ancient Egyptians and the Victorians. We are sure they will have a fantastic time and that his visit will help to cement their History work this year in their long term memories.

School Attendance and Holiday in Term-Time Requests—Local Authority Fines

Here at school, we are still receiving requests from parents for holiday leave in term-time. As I stated in one of my Summer Term newsletters, the Local Authority are now taking a much firmer stance with these kinds of requests, and I have been asked to publicise the fact that we have now had 2 further fines of £60 per parent per child sent out to families from Four Oaks. The Local Authority will continue to do this, as holiday requests during time when children should be in school, will always be unauthorised. This is part of a concerted partnership between all Birmingham schools and the City Council to maximize children's life chances by trying to improve attendance rates, and therefore opportunities to learn, and fulfil their potential.

Absence from School

We are still having issues with some parents not phoning into school when their child is going to be absent from school either through illness, medical appointments or other appointments. If your child is absent please **telephone the school office**. Please **do not** email enquiry or teachers for this purpose as emails cannot always be picked up in time for the register to be completed. As parents should be aware we now have a dedicated line for absences (option 3 on the telephone menu) which means that the call can be made even before school opens if this is more convenient. Please remember to call every day of an absence unless advised otherwise by the office team. In addition if you are filling in a 'Pupil Term Time Leave' request form this should be submitted **as soon as you are aware of the event** not just a day or two before as these need to be processed. Thank you for your co-operation.

Christmas Dinners in School

A BIG THANK YOU to Debbie and her team who cooked over 430 Christmas dinners for all of the pupils and staff this Thursday. It is a mammoth task and something that does not go unappreciated by both the children and staff here at school.



Milk—Infants



A reminder that if you no longer wish your child to have milk after Christmas could you please contact Mrs Underwood before the end of term. We are finding that we have some spare milk left over so please speak to your child to check if they do still want their milk. Thank you.

Poppy Appeal Total

We have received a thank you from the Poppy Appeal—the total raised across the Infant and Junior departments was an amazing £171.42. Thank you to everyone who contributed by buying a poppy or other merchandise.



Newsletter—Change of Day

As we move into January we will be changing the day that the newsletter is published. We will still be producing this fortnightly but it will now come out on a Wednesday. Keep your eyes peeled!!



Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Fayre, the atmosphere was amazing and we hope you all had a great time. I cannot thank the PTFA members enough for the hours of work that went into making the evening such a success. Thank you also to the many parent helpers and members of staff who gave up part or all of their evening to help out.

We are pleased to announce that we raised a grand total of £3,796.00, which beats our total for last year. We are also pleased to announce the cake competition winners, well done to them all.

Infant winners:

Child category: Ernie S (Ladybirds)

Family category: Joshua and Orla S (Owls & Bumblebees)

Junior winners

Child category: Oliver M (6S) & Alex and Joseph B (joint prize) (3W & 4C)

Family category: Florence and William H (4R & 6B)

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Dates for your Diary - Upcoming Events:

Friday 19th January Film & PJ Party: Straight from school so parents don't need to pick up children attending this event until later. Tickets online <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/four-oaks-primary/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=70560>



Tuesday 6th February Rags2Riches bag drop day: Bring in bags of clean unwanted clothing. Our school gets 50p per kilo so start having that clear out soon!

February Half Term Smartie Challenge: All children receive a tube of Smarties. After they've been eaten, children help around the house and get paid in coins to fill up the empty tube to bring back in to school (or donate online). Each child in the winning class gets a giant tube of Smarties as a prize.



Friday 23rd February Live Stand-up Comedy: - Adults only. - provided by The Comedy Junction (tickets online, use link above)

Very Important Announcement



A reminder that our Chair, Treasurer and 2 other key PTFA members are leaving at the end of this academic year so please get in touch via fopspta@gmail.com if you'd like to help this fundraising to continue in the future. The PTFA need people to jump on board now so that new recruits can be shown the ropes and develop their own new ideas to take us forward.

ICT Tip of the Week

Beware of fake delivery texts & emails, particularly at Christmas, when many of us are sent parcels. Criminals use those messages to steal your personal or login details. Don't click the links or open attachments. Forward fake emails to report@phishing.gov.uk & fake texts to 7726 or visit the Action Fraud website <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

If you have any queries regarding any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.
Yours sincerely

Mr M Benton
Head Teacher





ALL SAINTS'
FOUR OAKS
**CHRISTMAS TREE
FESTIVAL**

15TH - 17TH DECEMBER 2023

FRI 10-3PM SAT 10-4PM SUN 11-4PM

HO HO HO

COME ALONG AND JOIN THE FESTIVITIES.
VISIT FATHER CHRISTMAS IN HIS GROTTO
AND ENJOY LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCES.

GROTTO OPENING TIMES: FRI 12-2 SAT 10.30-3.30

CAN YOU FOLLOW
THE REINDEER TRAIL
TO WIN A PRIZE?

VOTE FOR YOUR
FAVOURITE TREE

DELICIOUS FESTIVE
REFRESHMENTS
SERVED ALL DAY

NO NEED TO BOOK TICKETS - JUST TURN UP ON THE DAY









DIARY DATES—2023-24

All of these term and event dates can also be found on our website by clicking on the 'News' tab at the top of the homepage and selecting 'Diary Dates'

Monday 11 th September	M and M Productions for Yrs 4/5/6—The Hobbit
Tuesday 12 th September	9am Y2 Parent 6pm Reception Teams—How we use TEAMS
Wednesday 13 th September	
Thursday 14 th September	Y6 Parent workshop
Friday 15 th September	

Monday 18 th September	9am—Y4 Parent workshop/8pm PTA Committee Meeting Streetly Tennis Club
Tuesday 19 th September	9am—Y1 Parent workshop
Wednesday 20 th September	9am—Y5 Parent workshop
Thursday 21 st September	9am—Y3 Parent workshop
Friday 22 nd September	World No Car Day!

Monday 25 th September	9am-10.30am—Reception Parent workshop
Tuesday 26 th September	Y3 Trip to Gurdwara
Wednesday 27 th September	
Thursday 28 th September	Arthur Terry Open Evening
Friday 29 th September	PTA Disco

Monday 2 nd October	Y1 to All Saints Church
Tuesday 3 rd October	Rags2Riches Drop Off
Wednesday 4 th October	Staff Training Day 2
Thursday 5 th October	
Friday 6 th October	PTA Murder Mystery Evening

Monday 9 th October	Harvest Festival in School / Y1 All Saints Church
Tuesday 10 th October	
Wednesday 11 th October	Open Day for prospective Reception children
Thursday 12 th October	
Friday 13 th October	

Monday 16 th October	Y4 Swimming / PTA AGM Streetly Tennis Club 8pm
Tuesday 17 th October	Y4 Swimming
Wednesday 18 th October	Y4 Swimming
Thursday 19 th October	Y4 Swimming
Friday 20 th October	Y4 Swimming

Monday 23 rd October	Book Fayre in School Y4 Swimming
Tuesday 24 th October	Y4 Swimming
Wednesday 25 th October	Y4 Swimming Parents` Evening 3.40-6pm
Thursday 26 th October	Y4 Swimming Parents` Evening– 3.40pm-6pm
Friday 27 th October	Y4 Swimming Nasal Flu Vaccine for all pupils

HALF TERM



DIARY DATES — 2023-24

Monday 6 th November	Pupils return
Tuesday 7 th November	Individual and Sibling Photographs
Wednesday 8 th November	
Thursday 9 th November	
Friday 10 th November	

Monday 13 th November	Anti—bullying week
Tuesday 14 th November	
Wednesday 15 th November	
Thursday 16 th November	Y6 SATs Workshop
Friday 17 th November	

Monday 20 th November	
Tuesday 21 st November	Four Oaks Cluster Lichfield Cathedral Carol Concert
Wednesday 22 nd November	School Show—Matinee Performance
Thursday 23 rd November	School Show—Evening Performance
Friday 24 th November	School Show—Evening performance

Monday 27 th November	
Tuesday 28 th November	
Wednesday 29 th November	
Thursday 30 th November	
Friday 1 st December	PTA Christmas Fayre

Monday 4 th December	
Tuesday 5 th December	
Wednesday 6 th December	
Thursday 7 th December	
Friday 8 th December	

Monday 11 th December	
Tuesday 12 th December	am—Infant Christmas Show for Reception Parents
Wednesday 13 th December	am—Infant Christmas Show for Yr1 Parents pm—Juniors at All Saints Church—Christmas Service
Thursday 14 th December	am - Infant Christmas Show for Y2 Parents
Friday 15 th December	

Monday 18 th December	
Tuesday 19 th December	Y3/Y4 Professor McGinty
Wednesday 20 th December	
Thursday 21 st December	
Friday 22 nd December	Christmas Party afternoon—Party Clothes 3.30pm School Closes for Christmas





DIARY DATES CONTINUED—2023-24

Monday 8 th January	Staff Training Day 3
Tuesday 9 th January	Pupils return to School
Wednesday 10 th January	
Thursday 11 th January	
Friday 12 th January	

Monday 15 th January	1pm—Reception Parent Workshop
Tuesday 16 th January	
Wednesday 17 th January	Y6—Trip to Holdenby House—TBC
Thursday 18 th January	
Friday 19 th January	PTA Film Night

Monday 22 nd January	
Tuesday 23 rd January	
Wednesday 24 th January	
Thursday 25 th January	
Friday 26 th January	

Monday 29 th January	
Tuesday 30 th January	
Wednesday 31 st January	
Thursday 1 st February	
Friday 2 nd February	

Monday 5 th February	
Tuesday 6 th February	Y3 Parent Assembly and Lunch
Wednesday 7 th February	Parents Evening 3.40pm—6pm
Thursday 8 th February	Parents Evening 3.40pm—6pm
Friday 9 th February	3.30pm School closes for half term

HALF TERM



DIARY DATES CONTINUED—2023-24

Monday 19 th February	School Opens
Tuesday 20 th February	
Wednesday 21 st February	
Thursday 22 nd February	
Friday 23 rd February	

Monday 26 th February	
Tuesday 27 th February	
Wednesday 28 th February	
Thursday 29 th February	
Friday 1 st March	

Monday 4 th March	
Tuesday 5 th March	
Wednesday 6 th March	
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
Friday 8 th March	

Monday 11 th March	Science Week
Tuesday 12 th March	
Wednesday 13 th March	
Thursday 14 th March	
Friday 15 th March	

Monday 18 th March	
Tuesday 19 th March	
Wednesday 20 th March	
Thursday 21 st March	
Friday 22 nd March	School Closes for Easter

EASTER HOLIDAYS





DIARY DATES CONTINUED—2023 -24

Monday 8 th April	Pupils return to school
Tuesday 9 th April	
Wednesday 10 th April	
Thursday 11 th April	
Friday 12 th April	

Monday 15 th April	
Tuesday 16 th April	
Wednesday 17 th April	
Thursday 18 th April	
Friday 19 th April	

Monday 22 nd April	
Tuesday 23 rd April	
Wednesday 24 th April	
Thursday 25 th April	
Friday 26 th April	

Monday 29 th April	
Tuesday 30 th April	
Wednesday 1 st May	
Thursday 2 nd May	School Closed—Police Commissioner Elections
Friday 3 rd May	

Monday 6 th May	School Closed—Bank Holiday
Tuesday 7 th May	
Wednesday 8 th May	
Thursday 9 th May	Reception—Parent Assembly and Lunch
Friday 10 th May	

Monday 13 th May	KS2 SATs Week—Y6
Tuesday 14 th May	KS2 SATs Week—Y6
Wednesday 15 th May	KS2 SATs Week—Y6
Thursday 16 th May	KS2 SATs Week—Y6
Friday 17 th May	KS2 SATs Week—Y6 PTA Ball—TBC

Monday 20 th May	
Tuesday 21 st May	Y5 Parent Assembly and Lunch
Wednesday 22 nd May	Staff Training Day 4
Thursday 23 rd May	
Friday 24 th May	3.30 pm school closes for half term

HALF TERM



DIARY DATES CONTINUED—2023-24

Monday 3rd June	Pupils return Y4 Multiplication Tables Check Begins
Tuesday 4 th June	
Wednesday 5 th June	
Thursday 6 th June	
Friday 7 th June	

Monday 10 th June	Y1 Phonics Screening Begins
Tuesday 11 th June	
Wednesday 12 th June	New Reception Parents Induction Evening
Thursday 13 th June	Y4 Parent Assembly and Lunch
Friday 14 th June	

Monday 17 th June	Sports Day—Infants 9.15am / 1.45pm
Tuesday 18 th June	Y1 Visit Black Country Museum
Wednesday 19 th June	6pm Boreatton Park Parents Meeting
Thursday 20 th June	Y2 Parent Assembly and Lunch
Friday 21 st June	

Monday 24 th June	
Tuesday 25 th June	
Wednesday 26 th June	
Thursday 27 th June	Y1 Parent Assembly and Lunch
Friday 28 th June	

Monday 1 st July	
Tuesday 2 nd July	
Wednesday 3 rd July	
Thursday 4 th July	Y5 Boreatton Park
Friday 5 th July / Saturday 6 th / Sunday 7 th July	Y5 Boreatton Park

Monday 8 th July	Y5 Boreatton Park
Tuesday 9 th July	
Wednesday 10 th July	
Thursday 11 th July	
Friday 12 th July	

Monday 15 th July	
Tuesday 16 th July	
Wednesday 17 th July	
Thursday 18 th July	Y6 Leavers Assembly /Lunch/BBO and Disco
Friday 19 st July	Pupils break up for Summer Holidays

Monday 22 nd July	Staff Training Day 5
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