

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume ~Issue 1 20/21

Infant Department: 0121-675-4040

Junior Department: 0121-675-2685

11th September 2020

Next week



Dear Parents and Governors

Welcome back to the start of a new school year and a particularly warm welcome to our new families who have joined us now that all children have settled back into school. We hope that you have all had a very enjoyable summer holiday and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead.

Pick Up & Drop Off

Can I take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of our parents for abiding by our new safety guidelines for pick up and drop off of pupils at the start and end of the school day. Many hours of planning and preparation have gone into the organisation of our new school day in COVID times so I hope that you all feel that both you and your children are safe when moving around the site. **Can I remind parents that if you wish to speak to a member of staff then at present can you telephone school and make an appointment. If you have made an appointment to come inside the building then we will be asking parents to wear a mask or visor.**



I would also ask our Junior parents to please abide by our one way system in moving around the site. Can I finally ask all parents not to park on the zig zags by either entrance in order to maintain the safety of all pupils.

Clarification of Quarantine Details

On the very first newsletter of the year we sent out details of how long individuals will have to quarantine if they have a positive Covid test themselves or from a family member. These details have now changed in that any individual testing positive must isolate for 10 days from when they first felt ill (not 7 days as we said last week). Other family members must still isolate for 14 days from when the person first fell ill. We would ask all families to abide by this guidance. If your child has a high temperature, persistent cough or any other COVID symptoms we would ask that you keep them off school and book a test. Until we have seen **written proof** of the test results being negative we are not allowed to let children back into school. We do understand that tests can be difficult to book so please inform us if you are having difficulty.

Curriculum Notes and Spellings

Curriculum Notes and Spellings will continue to be available via Wordpress. If you are unable to access the Internet or Wordpress please inform your class teacher so that we can ensure you receive a paper copy. Also on Wordpress soon will be revised are our "Curriculum Overviews" showing you the entirety of your child's curriculum targets and activities in Reading, Writing, Maths and their Creative Curriculum topics. We hope that this will give parents even more clarity about what the children are learning in school, and enable you to have really constructive and fun learning conversations with your children!



The Return of Debbie's School Dinners

I hope that your children have told you how great it is to have hot dinners back in school. This week we have served 375 hot lunches out of a school population of 423, which is a record for us and a great reflection on the quality and variety of our lunchtime menu. Just a reminder that we now have staggered lunchtimes and Perspex screens at the serving hatch, so that children only enter the serving area in their year group bubble and are as safe as possible. To begin with we thought lunchtime may last from 10am until 2pm but all of the children are already settling well into routines and we are getting children through the dining hall pretty smoothly so a big well done to them and to our great catering team! Menu's are subject to slight changes at the moment due to food supplier restrictions



Parking and Edge Hill Road

Obviously at the moment, every single child is arriving and leaving via Edge Hill Road so it is bound to be extremely busy. Could I ask all parents who drive to school to be very careful and considerate in where they park, remembering that no-one is allowed to park on the zig zags near each gate. Could I also ask parents to drive at a reduced speed if possible as lots of families will be crossing the road just outside school. Many thanks for your co-operation!



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 Class
Ladybirds	The Whole Class
Owls	The Whole Class / Ronnie Heath
Hedgehogs	The Whole Class
Turtles	The Whole Class
Sharks	The Whole Class
3E	Kiera
3R	Georgina
4C	Maryam
4G	The Whole Class
5B	The Whole Class
5SB	Arkal
6E	Joshua
6W	

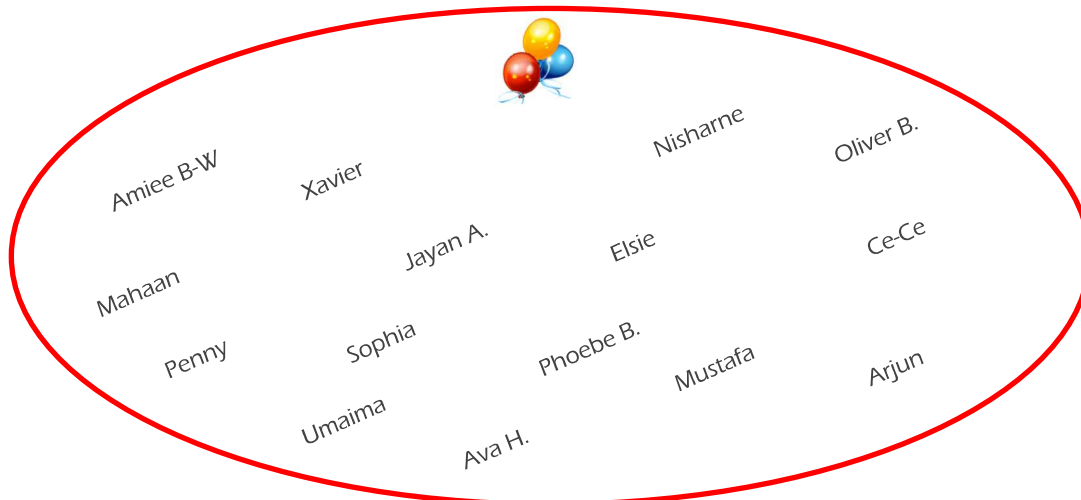
Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Elliott J / Gian B.
Year 1	Arjun / Zahra
Year 2	Daisy / Charly C.
Year 3	Ben B. / Zach S.
Year 4	Sapphire / Alayna A.
Year 5	Freya B. / Finn
Year 6	Gracie / Isabel A.



Well done to all the winners!

Infant Birthdays



Dinner Money ~ Juniors

Can we please remind parents to pay for their school dinners weekly or in advance. If there are any problems logging on or other issues please contact Mrs Johnson in the Junior department on 675 2685. Thank you.

Milk

Notification with regards to payment for milk will be coming out on SchoolMoney next week. Any problems logging onto SchoolMoney please contact Mrs Johnson in the Junior Department.



Year 5 and Year 6

If your child is in Year 5 or 6 and you are allowing them to walk to and from school on their own, please inform us in writing, and we will know it is safe to release them at the end of the day.

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

On Tuesday 13th October all children from Year 1 to Year 6 will have the chance to have the annual nasal Flu vaccination when the NHS Immunisation Team will visit school. Forms will be sent out shortly. Please return these indicating whether you wish your child to have the vaccination. Many thanks!



Parent Workshops & Parents Evenings

I would ask parents to bear with us in waiting for news of our normal "Meet the Teachers" and Parents' Evenings meetings. Under present Government restrictions it will be almost impossible to run them in the normal way where we invite parents into school 'en masse' as we have done in the past, but we are working on different plans which we will communicate with parents in the very near future. Remember, if you do need to get a message to your child's teacher please tell the member of staff on the gate in the morning or telephone or email school. In this way staff will endeavour to solve any problems.



Copies of Newsletters

This newsletter can always be accessed through our school website or by using our School Jotter app. We will only distribute paper newsletters to parents who request one, in an aim to save paper. If you received a paper copy last year we will assume that you still want a paper copy. If you no longer require a paper copy please let us know and similarly if you wish to receive a paper copy please contact the school office.

Attendance and Holidays

I'm delighted to say that we have almost 100% attendance at the start of this new Autumn Term and, as you would expect, as a school we are constantly monitoring the attendance of each pupil. We are delighted to announce that the overall attendance last year was a fantastic 97%, many congratulations to all our pupils. (16 pupils fell below the 90% level.) We are trying to ensure that all pupils achieve 95% attendance and if your child's attendance falls below this level, without medical reason, you will receive a letter informing you of their level of attendance and asking you to try to rectify the situation.

Attendance over the year	Number of days absent	Number of weeks	Hours of lessons missed
95%	9.5 days	Almost 2 weeks	57 hours
90%	19 days	Nearly 4 weeks	114 hours
85%	28.5 days	5 weeks 3.5 days	143 hours

Similarly if your child is constantly late for school you will also receive a letter. Between the ages of 5 and 14 only 14.91% of a child's time is spent in school, so it is very important that their attendance is excellent. A reminder that the Government now dictates that Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence for holidays during term time unless there are highly exceptional circumstances.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

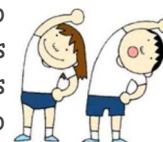
The Wizard of Oz



On Monday 14th September, Years 4, 5 and 6 will have the opportunity to watch a production of the "The Wizard of Oz" by M & M Productions in school, this will be organised with social distancing in mind using a fully interactive screen in the hall and just one actor. Thank you to the PTA who have funded this activity for many years now.

PE Lessons and PE Kits

Just a reminder that on a day when your child has a PE lesson we would ask that they come to school dressed in their PE kit. This will lessen the need for staff to help our younger pupils change clothes and thus help to maintain any social distancing between adults and pupils. This new arrangement has worked perfectly so far so thank you to all parents for being so organized. Please look on WordPress weekly so you are aware of the days your child is doing PE and what they need to wear.



PTA 200 Club

Letters will be coming out shortly regarding the 200 club with full details about how to participate. This is an easy way to try and raise funds for the PTA so please sign up!



Secondary Transfer September 2020

On our school website now is a letter to all Year 6 parents from Birmingham City Council detailing how to apply for a secondary school place for their children. It is vital that all applications are made at the latest by 31st October 2020. Please contact school if you feel we can help you with answering any questions about this process.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES ARE NOW COMPLETED ON LINE.

Timetable for the secondary school admissions process

Timetable for the secondary school admissions 2020 to 2021

Stage of process	Date
Application period starts	1 September 2020
Grammar school test	12 September 2020
Results of grammar school test	Prior to 31 October 2020
Closing date for applications	31 October 2020
National Offer Day	1 March 2021
Deadline for accepting the offer	15 March 2021
Deadline for submitting appeals	29 March 2021
Appeal hearings for appeals submitted on time	May and June 2021
Induction day at secondary school	7 July 2021
Term starts	2 September 2021

Please see individual school websites for admission arrangements to be sure that you complete the form correctly.

Well-Being

Another reminder to all parents that in these tough times there are still lots of places to turn to if you need support with well-being. If you visit our school website, hover over the PARENTS tab at the top of the Home Page, and then select the WELL-BEING option from the drop down menu then there are links to many services that can offer help free of charge and on a totally confidential basis.



Musical Instrument Lessons 2020-21

YMES are the company that we use at Four Oaks to teach children how to play musical instruments. To learn more about how their service operates, and how to book lessons for next year beginning in September, just visit the Home Page of our school website and follow the link with the YMES logo. You will then be able to view a PDF containing details of lessons and prices and then access a registration form. YMES will be offering lessons in keyboard, violin and guitar.



Premier Sports Extra-Curricular Clubs 2019-20

Once again Premier Sport will be offering pupils a chance to get involved with a sporting extra-curricular club this year. The list of activities are as follows:

Monday 3.30pm–4.30pm—Junior Gymnastics (Y3 - Y6) - Infant Hall (Full)

Tuesday 3.30pm–4.30pm—Infant Gymnastics (Y1-Y2) - Infant Hall (Full)

Tuesday 4.45pm - 5.45pm - Infant Gymnastics (Y1 - Y2) - Infant Hall (Spaces)

Friday 12.30–1.10—Infant Dance (Rec—Y2) - Infant Hall (Spaces)

To view charges and book a place for your child in any of these activities just click on the Premier Sports logo on the Latest News section of the homepage of our school website.



Other Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have another dance club which will be run by 'Dance 'n' Beats' and this will be open to Y1 - Y5 and will run in the Infant Hall on a Wednesday evening from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. The children have brought home flyers with details on and I know that this was a popular activity last year which a lot of the children enjoyed. (Now Full)



We also have Mr Boughton's football club for Y6 running on a Monday between 3.30 and 4.30pm, as well as Netball for Y6 on a Thursday with Mrs Goldspink between 3.30 and 4.30pm.



PTA Investment in School - Building Work

The work to install our brand new teaching and eating area outside our dining hall in the Juniors is now complete and a huge thank you to our wonderful PTA for generating the funding and organising the work. The old area which was covered in old paving slabs and a small area of grass has now been replaced by a weatherproof resin area which will enable twice as many children to use the space. 12 brand new benches have also been ordered to fit into the area and these will be of great use for PTA social events as well as for the children in school time. We have posted photographs of the work on our TWITTER account but we have also put a few just here in case you missed them.



A big thank you to Sean and his team from 1st Choice Home and Garden Maintenance who are approved SureSet installers. They were fantastic when they were installing our new surface and can be contacted on 0796777787.

ICT Tip of the Week

If you receive an email that you're not quite sure about, if it's asking you to login to your account, or maybe to "confirm" your payment details it may not be legit! If you are suspicious, you can report it by forwarding the email to: Report@phishing.gov.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