

# FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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[www.fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk](http://www.fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk)

Volume 23/24~Issue 3



Next Week—Menu 3

## 13th October 2023

Dear Parents and Governors

### Governor Update

From time to time, we like to raise parents' awareness of who our Governors really are. They do a fantastic job in the background of school life and bring a wide variety of skills to the job of running the school. Below you can read all about Raj Bhandal.

*Hi, I'm Raj Bhandal and I was elected as a Parent Governor in 2022. I have 3 children at the school in Y6, Y4 and Reception.*

*I became a governor because I wanted to contribute to the improvement and development to ensure all children's experiences are as inclusive, diverse and developmentally challenging as possible. The older two have had a fantastic experience to date and I feel very passionately that the school continues to offer this to all of the children.*

*My career in finance has given me in-depth skills in analysis and attention to detail which is utilised as I am part of the Finance Committee where we need to ensure we spend the money in the right places for the children's education.*

*I am also the Maths lead governor and although the school achieves excellent results in Maths, my job is to ensure we can maintain these going forward.*

*Personally I enjoy travelling and learning about history and culture, as well as supporting the children in their extra curricular activities which include netball, football, gymnastics and swimming.*

### Harvest Festival

On Monday we held our Harvest Festival celebrations in school with Sally and Sharon from All Saints Parish Church, and what an amazing reaction we had from our school community to provide help and support to people less fortunate than ourselves. We couldn't get over how many tins and packets of food came into school, so I must say a huge thank you to our families across the school.



A representative from the Hope Foundation Food Bank came to school later in the day and was absolutely amazed at how much produce he was asked to take away.

### PTA NEWS - A Positive Impact for Every Child!



Our wonderful PTA have been very generous in transferring some funds that they have been raising with your support. These funds will contribute towards the buying of new practical Mathematics equipment, maps for classroom walls, and SATs revision books for our Year 6 pupils. They have also organised yet another Rags2Riches collection which raised a fantastic £240. Thank you for supporting them by taking part in the events and let's keep raising money for all children to benefit from in school!

At 8pm on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October the PTA Committee will be having their AGM at Streetly Tennis Club. Any parental volunteers who want to get involved in the PTA fun are welcome to attend.



### Y4 Swimming

Our Year 4 pupils will be starting their swimming unit of study by visiting Wyndley Swimming Baths next week. This activity will help us to support every child in school to hopefully be able to swim at least 25 metres and show some water safety skills by the time they leave Year 6.



The Year 4 teachers will communicate with parents as to which days the children will need their swimming kits. Due to the huge funding cuts that have been placed on us we are concentrating on ensuring all children who can't swim have the maximum amount of time in the pool with qualified instructors.

### Vicar's Installation

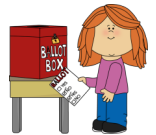
Next Monday I will attend the installation service for our new Parish vicar, Rev. Leanne Carr. This is a significant event as we have a very close relationship with All Saints Parish Church and they are an important part of school life. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing her the very best for her time in her new post, and we will look forward to her very first visit to Four Oaks Primary.

Another important event at All Saints will be their 'Messy Autumn' activities on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Just take a look at the flyer at the end of this newsletter to read further details and join in the fun!

### School Voting Day - British Values

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October we will be conducting our annual school voting day. This event is part of our pupils' work around the idea of democracy, within the bigger topic of British Values.

Leading up to this day the School Council will have championed different potential charitable bodies that Four Oaks Primary could support during this school year, and then every pupil will get the chance to cast their vote for whichever charity they think is the most worthy. We would appreciate it if parents could talk to their children at home about this process and help to explain how democracy in our country works. The charities that our children have chosen to cast their vote on are: Cancer Research, The RSPCA, Shelter and Make a Wish Foundation.



### Book Fayre



During the week beginning Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October the Book Fayre will be visiting school. For every book sold, we as a school get the chance to select a free title, so this is one of the most important ways in which we keep children's reading material up to date. We always tell the children that reading is the key to getting better at every aspect of school life, so we hope that everyone will try to visit, either before or after school. Children will also get the chance to visit to browse through the books during the school day at some point during the week.

### Nasal Flu Vaccine

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October all of the children in school will get their nasal flu vaccine. Hopefully this will help to protect the children throughout the Autumn and Winter and enable them to be healthy and learning here in school.

### Summer Reading Challenge

We had 104 children take part in the Summer Reading Challenge this year which is incredible. We are very proud to announce that, for the third year running, we have won the trophy for the most children competing the challenge in the whole of Sutton Coldfield. We told our children in assembly on Monday and the cheer of pride could potentially be heard from Mere Green library! The challenge is proven to help with the traditional 'dip' that children have over the Summer with their reading, so we are glad that many of you see the value in it that we do. Thank you so much for your support, we really appreciate it. A representative from the library will be coming to school in a few weeks to present us with the trophy. We will be in touch with an exact date for this so that the children who took part can bring their certificates and medals back in and have a group photo with the award.





### Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Loki
Ladybirds	Harmony
Owls	Cole
Hedgehogs	Kobe
Turtles	Jonah
Sharks	Finley
3E	Carys
3W	Adonis
4C	Aaryan
4R	Sam
5G	Charly C.
5M	Jamilla
6B	Toby
6S	Keirath



### Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Leo
Ladybirds	Ernest
Owls	Ellora
Hedgehogs	Mila
Turtles	Landi
Sharks	Amelia
3E	Alice
3W	Simran
4C	Mustafa
4R	Ryan
5G	Logan
5M	Zach
6B	Daisy
6S	Will P.

### Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Reception	Francesca / Ronnie
Year 1	Tommy / Mila
Year 2	Thea / Andrianna
Year 3	Amanda / Alex B.
Year 4	Ambika / Surbani
Year 5	Scarlett / Penny
Year 6	Daisy / James



Well done to all the winners!

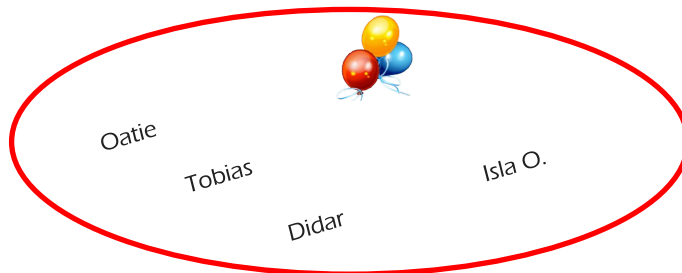
### Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Lily / Beau
Year 1	Hajara / Elias
Year 2	Saya / Edward
Year 3	Ria / Finley
Year 4	Olly / Vienna
Year 5	Amelia / Jovan
Year 6	Isabel



Well done to all the winners!

### Infant Birthdays



### Kindness Tree Award

Last Week Infants: Rowan (Turtles)  
 Last Week Juniors: Saffron (4C)  
 This Week Infants: Chloe (Ladybirds)  
 This Week Juniors: Zahra (4C)



### Dodgeball Competition

A huge well done to our Year 5 and 6 Dodgeball team who represented our school in Wednesday evening's tournament. As a school we take part in a range of competitive events for all levels of athletic ability. These categories are 'compete', 'engage', 'inspire' and SEND, meaning that we can give a greater number of children the opportunity to represent our school at varying levels of athletic competition.



## Don't buy your Christmas Cards just yet! My Art Project - Fund Raising Returns!



Too early for Christmas? Of course not! Our annual Christmas fund raiser has returned for another year! My Art Project is a great way for your child to feel proud about their artwork, allowing you to celebrate in their achievements, but it is also a great way to raise funds for our school.

Children will in school, decorate and create their very own unique piece of art, which will be packed, posted and scanned and then you will have the option for the artwork to be printed onto a variety of exciting Christmas goodies. These can be purchased, raising important funds for school. All monies will be invested to progressing the continuation of new and exciting art projects within school.

More details will follow soon, but as soon as work is completed, you will receive an order form in time for the Christmas season.

For more details, you can visit the website below:

<https://myartproject.co.uk/collections/christmas-the-online-card-project>



### Open Day

On Wednesday of this week, we had our annual Open Day and what a successful day it was! We had nearly 50 new families visit school and without fail they were really impressed with what they saw and how proud our Year 6 children are of their school. If any parents know of families who are looking to secure a place in Reception in September 2024, and who missed our Open Day, then please encourage them to contact us at school, and we will arrange a separate time where they can visit and talk to Miss Appleby and myself.

### Y1 All Saints Church

Our Year 1 pupils have now all walked up to All Saints church to look around and ask questions about a Christian place of worship, to support their RE knowledge. We would like to thank the volunteers at the church who answered the millions of questions that our inquisitive Year 1s had, and who made them feel very welcome in their local community.

### Parents' Evening

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October, we will be running our two Parents' Evenings between 3.40pm and 6pm. Within each year group the teachers will be in one classroom and the books will be set out in the other classroom. **Each appointment will be strictly kept to 10 minutes**, and staff will be able to relate to you how your children have settled into their new year groups. You will have received a letter recently asking you to pick a preferred time slot which must be returned by the end of today, so that staff can synchronize appointments for siblings and communicate time slots back to parents. If you have any concerns about your child or would ever like progress updates at any time then we always say we have an 'open door policy' where teachers will always be happy to schedule a meeting with you at a convenient time to discuss your child. If you know you want to discuss things that will take longer than your allocated 10 minutes then we suggest you e-mail the class teacher to book this appointment separately.



### Y1 Sandwell Valley

Yesterday our Year 1 pupils and staff had a great day visiting Sandwell Valley Country Park. The exciting experiences they had will help to consolidate their learning in class, so a big thank you to all parents who voluntarily contributed towards the cost of these visits. As a school we do not have the funds available to finance these extra-curricular trips throughout our 7 year groups, so we rely heavily upon our parental community.

### Playgroup Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our community Playgroup will be holding their Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Infant Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October between 9am and 10.30am. It would be great if parents could come along and help Playgroup raise as much money as possible for this very worthy cause.



### Readathon

We are excited to announce that we are holding our Biannual Readathon on Thursday 26th October. Please see the attached flyer for all the information.

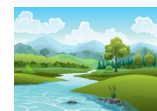
### Geography Fieldwork Fortnight

Next week, the children will be taking part in 'Fieldwork Fortnight'. Fieldwork is when you go outside and find out things about a place. The children will carry out fieldwork activities to support their geography learning. We would love it if you could continue with Fieldwork Fortnight during half term. There are ideas on the poster attached to this newsletter. It would be lovely to see what you get up to! Please tweet photos to @fouroaksprimary with the hashtag #fopsfieldworkfortnight.

Please do not include your child's name. Alternatively, you can email the photos to myself on:

geography@fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk .

Enjoy! Miss Cooper



### Naming School Uniform

We are once again finding we have a large amount of lost property. Can I please make a plea to parents to name ALL pieces of school uniform. It is impossible for us to return uniform if it is unnamed as it all looks the same! We are unable to keep unnamed items at school for a long period and we will continue to adopt the policy of leaving items where they have been left so please remind your children to return to where they left the item to find it. We will then look at the clothing at the end of the week and return any named items. If they have not been claimed by the end of 2 weeks we will be sending them to the charity shop. Thank you for your co-operation.



### Bonfire Night Fireworks Display

We have attached a flyer with details of the annual Four Oaks Cricket Club firework display. Early bird discounts are available .

### ICT Tip of the Week

*For young people social media use can have a positive impact for accessing access support, receiving reassurance, feeling connected with peers or help with social anxiety.*

*But for others, using social media can become compulsive and fuel unhealthy comparisons. It can expose them to bullying, harmful or inappropriate content and using social media late at night can impact on sleep, these factors may see them become more isolated, which can lead to their mental health deteriorating.*

*This week was #worldmentalhealthday so now is a good time to consider the impact on mental health that children's use of technology and social media has.*

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

Yours sincerely

Mr M Benton  
Head Teacher





We are holding our biannual Four Oaks Readathon on the Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October. As a school, we aim to enthuse all children about reading and aspire to create lifelong readers. Reading gives us somewhere to go when we have to stay where we are. Reading enables the journey of a lifetime every time a page is turned, and we want to start that journey now!

On the lead-up to the day, we would like you to do two things: think about what books, magazines, comics you would like to bring on the day, whatever you want to read you can bring, so get thinking. In addition, we would like you to collect as many sponsors as possible to sponsor you per half an hour of reading time. Please bring the sponsorship forms in between 19<sup>th</sup> October-8<sup>th</sup> November and pay via the PTA link - <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/four-oaks-primary/> by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November and we will total what we have raised. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code below which will take you to the same payment page. All of the money will be spent purchasing resources and books for our new writing structure 'I am a Clever Writer'. The class that raises the most money will win the Four Oaks Readathon trophy 2023 for their class.

On the day, children may come in pyjamas or lounge wear, and they may bring a bean bag or cushion to make them comfortable. They can also bring a cuddly toy in to sit with them whilst they read if they wish. We will turn the classrooms in to reading hubs that create a buzz about reading. The children can bring a healthy snack to enjoy whilst they read.

I hope that you can assist us in making this an event that the children will always remember, that will create an excitement about reading and that will raise money to support our English curriculum.

Many thanks,

Mrs Glover



FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL

# FIELDWORK FORTNIGHT

16th October

**This will be an opportunity for children to investigate, observe, discover, challenge, test our ideas and gain a deeper and wider understanding of the world around them.**

IDEAS:

1. Play eye spy to identify some landscape features such as mountains, fields, ponds, rivers, lakes etc.
2. Ask your child to take pictures of these features. They can experiment with the zoom, close-ups and filters.
3. Choose a toy and go on an adventure. Take photographs and talk about where they are.
4. On an OS map, you could ask your child to find a bridge, wooded areas, watercourses etc.
5. Your child could draw a map of their local park, your house and even a room of the house such as their bedroom.
6. If you go on a walk with your child, they could take the lead with the map.
7. Make a journey stick and pick up items on your walk - stick and string are required.
8. Go on an observation walk, focusing on just one colour.
9. They could collect stones and pebbles to recreate the geology of the place you've visited.
10. Your child could also do some land art with materials they've found on your outing.



## Four Oaks Saints CC

Clarence Road (behind the shops) B74 4LT

# Bonfire Night

Spectacular Fireworks Display & Kiddies Funfair



**SATURDAY 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER**

Licensed Bar & Hot Food Available

Early Bird tickets available from

<https://fouroakssaints.co.uk/bonfire/>

Adults £9.00, Children (up to 12) £4.50

Pay on the gate tickets subject to availability

Adults £10.00, Children (up to 12) £5.00

Under 5s Free.

**Bonfire lit at 6.30pm**

**Fireworks at 7.30pm & 8.15pm**