

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Next Week—Menu 1

27th October 2023

Dear Parents and Governors

Happy Half Term

We break up for half-term today and I would like to wish all of our families a well-earned rest from the hustle and bustle of school life. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 6th November.

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 Tony Briggs.

Hi I am Anthony (Tony) Briggs, I had two boys who attended our school between 2006 and 2015, Jonathan (21) who recently graduated from Warwick (Maths), and David (19) who is in his second year at BCU studying Professional Policing. I joined the PTA after their induction talk (by my wife who put me forward). Our Children loved their time at Four Oaks which gave them a great educational foundation on which they have built. My limited teaching experience was during my time with the armed forces in an advanced training role. I was elected on to the governing body shortly afterwards. I have served as Chair of Governors, Safeguarding Chair, and am now Vice Chair of Governors and have recently taken the Chair of Resources Committee. I sit on the town council and currently I am serving as mayor of our Royal Town. I also volunteer at Sutton Coldfield Rugby Club. Going forward there will be some changes to the school site, and I am hoping in my current role, to help this move forward as smoothly as possible. I feel passionately about children's education and well-being; our future is in their hands...

Odd Socks Day & Anti-Bullying Week



On Monday 13th November, we would like the children to come to school wearing odd socks!!

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. It is a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique and help raise awareness of bullying. The theme for Anti-Bullying week



this year is 'Make a Noise About Bullying' and our SMSC assemblies in school on this week will focus on this. This of course ties in well with our 'No Outsiders' curriculum!

Applying for Secondary School Places

The deadline to apply for secondary school places is 11:59pm on Tuesday 31st October 2023. If parents miss this deadline, applications are likely to be considered after those who have applied on time. Applications should be made online through your local authority website wherever possible. Parents will need proof of address, and for a faith school, parents may also be asked to fill out a supplementary application form. It is strongly recommended that parents use all school preference options. Parents won't be penalised by a school for not putting them as top choice. In fact, the school will not know the order schools were listed in – the schools consider all applications on the same basis. A child will only be offered a place at a school that parents have not listed if they don't have sufficient priority for any preferred schools.

Parents will be told the places for their children on 1st March 2024.

On the 13th October, the DfE blogsite published: Secondary school applications deadline 2023: How and where to apply. This can be accessed by following this link: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/10/13/secondary-school-applications-deadline-2023-how-where-apply/>

Data Sheets

Data sheets were handed to parents at Parents' Evening. Could we ask you to take particular care in checking these this year as we had a new management computer system in September and it appears to be throwing up one or two anomalies. We are obviously keen to rectify these sooner rather than later and would ask for your help in bringing them to our attention. Can I remind all parents to return the forms initialled at the bottom **even if there are no amendments to make**. Thank you.

Parents' Evenings

We hope that all parents found our Parents' Evening sessions this week really useful. You will have found out how your child or children have settled into this new academic year, and what targets they need to focus on to move forwards. Here at Four Oaks, we have always prided ourselves on working in partnership with parents to provide our pupils with the opportunity to reach their potential, and I hope this will continue this year.

British Values - Voting Day Result

This week in school we have had our annual voting day as part of our work around British Values. The children have done some class-based work around democracy and have had the opportunity to cast their vote and choose which charity we are going to raise money for in school this year. I have great pleasure in letting all parents know that after counting all the votes the school community has chosen 'Make a Wish' as our adopted charity for the year.



Poetry Recital



This week we have had our first poetry recital of the year, and it was wonderful. Each half-term we get each year group to focus on a particular poem to perform to the rest of the school. All the children in each department get together in the hall, and year group by year group they stand up and perform their chosen poem with actions. The children love doing this and they are all very impressive. Later in the year our Year 6 pupils will get a chance to take part in a public speaking event and all of this practice will serve them well!

Alison Mander Kindness Award

As we have come to the end of our first half-term of the year, we have given out our first two 'Alison Mander Kindness Awards'. For any new parents to school, Alison Mander was an ex-pupil who attended Four Oaks, but has sadly since passed away. As part of her legacy, she left a sum of money to school to be used to buy awards to give out to children who are just innately kind and show it in their everyday school lives. Each time we give out these awards, Alison's parents come along to our school assemblies to see Alison's wishes carried out. Our two wonderful winners this half-term are Ellora P (Owls) and Jai S (6S).

Y5/6 Bikeability



Our intrepid cyclists in Year 5 and Year 6 have now completed their Bikeability training. This has been an annual event for many years here at Four Oaks as part of our road safety work embedded across the curriculum and helps to ensure that any children who already know how to ride a bike are safe enough to ride on the local roads. The trainers from Aspire were yet again very complimentary about our children's listening skills, and their ability to apply advice learnt on the playground to the very different context of a road with traffic on it.

Our New Vicar

Last Monday I was able to attend the installation service of our new vicar, the Reverend Leanne Carr. She is now officially the new vicar of both the All Saints parish and the parish of St. James' Mere Green, and I had the pleasure at speaking at her very special service to welcome her to the parish and to the Four Oaks Family. I have extended a welcome to her and an invitation to pop into school at some point soon, so the staff and children can meet her. Parents will obviously be able to meet her when we visit All Saints for our Christmas service in December.



Super Stars and Acorns



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

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

Bumblebees	Alex P.
Ladybirds	Teddy M.
Owls	Joshua
Hedgehogs	Sara
Turtles	Rowan
Sharks	Benjamin
3E	James
3W	Lucia
4C	Thomas
4R	Jack
5G	Harry R.
5M	Faith
6B	Nicole
6S	Ava

Bumblebees	The Whole Class
Ladybirds	The Whole Class
Owls	The Whole Class
Hedgehogs	The Whole Class
Turtles	Emily
Sharks	Alfie C.
3E	Gian
3W	Oliver B.
4C	Carter M.
4R	Heidi
5G	Jacob
5M	Nikki
6B	Etta
6S	Annabel

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Reception	Kai H-L / Iyla
Year 1	Sophie / Reggie
Year 2	Daisy / Mia
Year 3	Elliot / Beatrix
Year 4	Hugo / Callum
Year 5	Reeva / Daisy
Year 6	Pippa / Mia



Well done to all the winners!

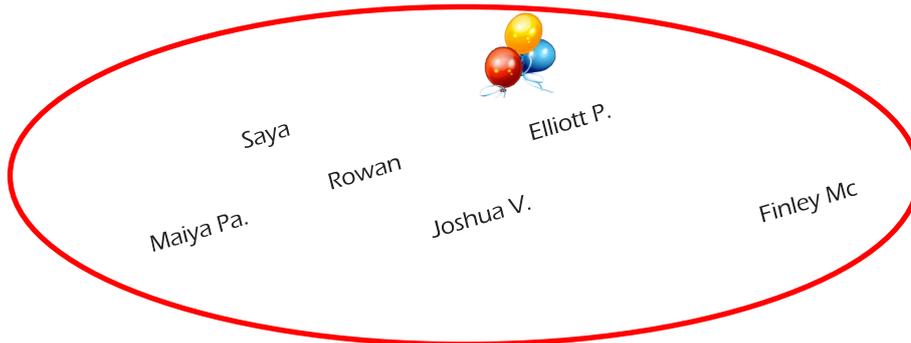
Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Alex P. / Ezra
Year 1	Tommy / Kobe
Year 2	Poppy Mc / Ariya
Year 3	Harry / Aryaan
Year 4	Freya / Vienna
Year 5	Laina / Lilly-Mae
Year 6	Sahaya / Sonny



Well done to all the winners!

Infant Birthdays



Kindness Tree Award

Last Week Infants: Orla M (Bumblebees)
 Last Week Juniors: Surbani (4R)
 Not awarded this week due to Alison Mander Award



Readathon

Thank you very much to all of the families who have supported us with this year's Readathon. The children had a wonderful day reading in a variety of ways and enjoying many different genres. They have also performed their year group poems to other year groups in the school. All in all it was a wonderful day! The money that we have raised will be going towards funding our new writing programme in school, 'I am a Clever Writer' which the children are thoroughly enjoying, and we are already seeing the benefits of this. The class that has raised the most money will receive the Readathon 2023/24 trophy and that will be announced shortly.

Many thanks again for your support,
Mrs Glover



Book Fayre



Many thanks to all parents who have visited the Book Fayre this week. It has been heartening to see so many children and adults visit, and so many happy children leave the Science Lab in the infant building grasping a shiny new book. Every time someone buys a book from the fayre, school gets money towards free books as well. Thankyou everyone!

Year 6 Netball Tournament 19th October

The Four Oaks Netball team took part in a competition at The Nechells Wellbeing Centre on Thursday 19th October. This competition would confirm as to whether the girls will participate in the established or developing league of the Sutton Coldfield Primary Schools Netball leagues, which starts in January 2024. All the girls participated in match play which contributed to them winning the competition! Their opening game was against Little Sutton Primary School which Four Oaks won convincingly 12 - 3. This spurred them on for their second match against Holy Cross which they won 14 - 0. The girls confidence grew with each match and they finished their group as leaders after beating Maney Hill 9-0. This then put us through to the semi-final which was played against Wylde Green. The girls fought hard and won 12 - 0. The final was played against a strong Boldmere Junior School. The girls played with patience, resilience and skill. Our defence consistently and successfully broke the Boldmere attack down allowing us then to counter attack, which enabled the attacking players to play the ball down court into the shooting circle and score goals. Four Oaks won the game 8 - 3. Our superb captains for the tournament were Etta and Annabelle who lead the team well.



Mrs Goldspink

Indoor Athletics



A huge well done to our Y5/6 Indoor Athletics team who competed at Bishop Vesey last week. They showcased their athletic abilities in different track and field events such as the vertical high jump, speed bounce and 4x1 relay. They all performed amazingly against seven other schools. Although we only came away with certificates as we were not in the top three to achieve medals, they showed fantastic determination and proudly represented our school.

Miss Everitt

Football Results



This week we have had our first football match of the season and both our girls and boys teams put in a fantastic effort against Maney Hill. The girls match was part of the Cup tournament where the girls won 3-1, so will go through to the next round. The boys played their socks off and did their school proud but narrowly lost this time with a score of 2-6.



Dodgeball

A massive well done to our Year 5 and 6 dodgeball team who played extremely well at Bishop Vesey Grammar School. The children played with passion and determination against nine other schools! They worked well as a team, under pressure and all have a powerful aim on them!



Year 6 SATs Assessment Parents' Workshop

On Thursday 16th November between 9am and 11 am in the Junior Hall, we would like to invite all of our Year 6 parents to a workshop where we will explain exactly what kind of challenge our Year 6 pupils will face this year in their Key Stage 2 SATs tasks. I would like to stress that there will be no testing of any kind during this workshop, and so no-one needs to be nervous or put off. The morning will be all about supporting parents and children alike, and it is important for every child to have an adult with them if possible! The Year 6 staff will soon be sending out letters to individual children for parents to return saying who will be attending this important event.

Individual Pupil Photographs

Pupils' individual school photographs will be taken on Tuesday 7th November. **A photograph of every child will be taken this year for use within our management system, unless we have a specific request from parents not to do so.**

Library Award

Once again you have done us all proud by encouraging your children to partake in the Summer Reading challenge. We now have the trophy in school as it was presented by one of our local librarians to the children in Wednesday's celebration assembly. A massive well done to all of our children.

Parking

I am happy to say that there seems to have been a marked improvement in parking and driving in a safe manner during drop off and pick-up times recently. Over the school years when Miss Appleby, Mr Meyer or I stand at the school gates, we have witnessed some driving and parking behaviour which could put many of our pupils in danger, such as parking on the zigzags, stopping in the middle of the road to let children out of cars, and parking inconsiderately, blocking people's drives.

We have recently had traffic enforcement officers attend school for one morning, and they have commented on a real improvement in safety for our children. Having said that they did state that they will still give out penalty notices if needs be.

I am sure that every single parent would agree with me in saying that this is an important issue and that the more families we have walking to school rather than driving, the safer our children will be. Many thanks for your support!



Four Oaks News

Every half-term the children of Four Oaks Primary write a newspaper full of their own articles for all the pupils of Four Oaks to read. This year we have pupils selected as 'Journalists' spread throughout the school who are helping their friends to come up with exciting ideas for content. This was published on Monday of this week so why not follow the link in the 'Latest News' section of our website and click on the attachment to read the first edition for 2023-24!

Scoot or Cycle to School Scheme



This week you will have noticed a letter go out on the School Jotter app from Miss Appleby informing all parents that our new scooter and bike storage facilities have finally been delivered to school and put in place. There was a rota attached to that letter showing which week each class would be encouraged to scoot or cycle to school and store their vehicles. In conjunction with this Miss Appleby will hold a bike or scooter club every Friday lunchtime with any child who wishes to take part if it is their classes week. There is no need to sign up to this club it will simply be a choice that the children take on that day whether they wish to attend on their chosen week. Hopefully this will encourage more families to use drop off and collection as a time to make healthy choices and do a bit of exercise.



Y4 Swimming

We have now completed our two weeks of swimming sessions at Wyndley Swimming Baths for our Year 4 pupils. The National Curriculum states that all schools must provide swimming instruction to try to give children the chance to swim competently, confidently, and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres, and to demonstrate that they can use a range of strokes effectively. Thank you to the Year 4 parents in supporting us with this.



Poppies For Sale



We are selling poppies in both the Infant and Junior offices prior to Remembrance Sunday. We would ask for a silver coin for the purchase of these. In addition there are other novelty items such as pencils, zip pulls etc., in the Junior office for the Junior children to purchase. The price list for these items will be in the office.

Exciting News!!

Four Oaks PTA Spring Ball 2024 - Tickets Released Soon.

The popular Spring Ball will be returning on Friday 17th May 2024 and this year we have a new venue—the lovely Aston Wood Golf Club. Tickets will be released on Sunday 19th November. Space is more limited this year, so now is the time to come together to form a table of 10 friends. Enjoy a 3-course meal, music, surprise entertainment and more for £48.00 per person. A deposit of £120.00 per table is required on booking with the balance due end of February 2024. If you have any queries, contact the organisers on springball@fopspta.onmicrosoft.com or call Carol (Year 5 mom) on 07909 193844.



Save the Date!!

A reminder that our annual Christmas Fayre will be held on 1st December 5.30pm 'til 8pm. More details will be sent out soon.

Year 2 Lunchtime Tennis Club

Coach Dan will be running a lunchtime tennis club for Year 2 (ltd spaces), we hope that you can join him. It will take place in the infant hall, all equipment will be provided and newcomers are welcome. Start date Monday 6th November. For further details about how to sign up please see School Jotter.



ICT Tip of the Week

Young people are growing up in an increasingly digital world, exposing them to both the opportunities and risks of the internet. CyberSprinters empowers them to make smart decisions about staying secure online. It's a collection of online security resources for 7-11 year olds. Visit the following link for more details:- <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/cybersprinters>

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

Mark Benton

Mr M Benton
Head Teacher