



FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Edge Hill Road, Sutton Coldfield, B74 4PA

"A Four Oaks Learning Trust for Excellence School"

"A Four Oaks Cluster School"

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Newsletter - Summer 2

Hello everyone.

Even in week 7 of lockdown, it is so important that we continue to follow the rules of social distancing outlined by the government and continue to sacrifice time with loved ones from outside of our own home, in the battle against this virus. This is so difficult - I know everyone will be missing special people who usually have a much more prominent role in their lives.

It has been wonderful to hear from staff with regards to their phone calls home to pupils. I know they are really enjoying hearing about the home learning taking place and generally chatting with pupils and families and checking that everyone is ok. Working in education is a labour of love, often driven by daily contact with our amazing pupils. To be working in isolation from home – without any pupils – is very strange for everyone. We hope that you are finding the phone calls supportive. Please remember that we are on hand for any help you may need.

Obviously the Government have now set out their ambition to have the pupils from Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 back in school in some form from the 1st June, and for the rest of our children to return in some form before the end of the year. Here at school we are in the process of absorbing the new guidelines which were sent to us on Tuesday morning, and from that point trying to work out a plan for how we can safely accommodate any sizeable amount of children back on site. As you can probably imagine this is not a small task and requires the most careful planning if we are to safeguard both the children and my staff.

Rest assured that we will be in touch with parents very soon in order to communicate with you the systems that will be put in place to enable all of this to happen and also to get your feedback. We appreciate that although we as leaders in school now have difficult decisions to take, we

are not the only ones, and that the ultimate decision as to whether to send the children back to school lies with you the parents. Keep your eyes peeled on our website and on our School Jotter App for more communications very soon.

On to other news

Key Workers

Whilst the government recommendation is still for children to stay at home wherever possible, we are able to provide limited places for children whose parents are both key workers, or those in single parent homes where that parent is a key worker and they cannot safely stay at home. If you require keyworker provision, please complete the booking form that appears on our school website each week.



Deep Cleaning

I am really pleased to report that Dean and his dedicated cleaning team have been in school over the last three weeks applying a deep clean to every single area of the school. Starting in Caterpillar Corner and the Reception Classrooms they have worked tirelessly to clean all corridors, classrooms and communal areas so that when we can finally welcome our children back into school they will have a spotlessly clean school to enjoy. A huge thank you to them for all their efforts.

Grammar School Tests

Registration for the optional entrance test for admission to the eight Grammar Schools in Birmingham in September 2021 is now open. The deadline for registering for the test is **4pm on Friday 26 June 2020**.

Parents can find more information about the test and can register their child for the test by visiting www.birminghamgrammarschools.org

Children only need to sit one entrance test to be considered for any of the grammar schools in Birmingham. The entrance test for September 2021 entry will be held on Saturday 12 September 2020 (this may be subject to change depending on the COVID-19 situation).

Distance Learning



We are so glad to hear from the many parents and children during their phone calls who are really enjoying their distance learning tasks put onto WordPress every day by the teaching staff. Please remember though, that if you don't get through every task it really doesn't matter, they are there to help with your daily structure whenever you can access them. Following the Easter break, two fantastic resources went live: OAK NATIONAL ACADEMY and BBC BITESIZE. Both sites offer learning that incorporates video tuition before children complete independent learning tasks. This can be particularly useful if your child needs concepts explaining before beginning their work. The lesson structures on Oak National Academy are very similar to lesson structures we use across school so these may be particularly useful. Some of these may be incorporated into the daily tasks on WordPress by staff, but please feel free to use them whenever you want.

Classes 20/21

As we head towards the Summer half-term I know that lots of parents' minds will be turning towards which class their child will be going into in September, and I have had a few parents already asking if their children can start the new academic year with their present teacher. I totally understand the premise of this suggestion but having spoken to the governing body about this it is clear that it would not work on a whole school basis. Please rest assured that as a school the process of planning for next year's classes is always one of the most important things we do. An incredible amount of thought and planning is put into the process and only the best interest of the children are considered in terms of teacher skills and teacher / pupil relationships. Once we are nearer to the end of term we will inform parents and children of the arrangements for next year as usual. As I said in my last newsletter, the most important thing when our children return to school will be their well-being and happiness, as without this they will not learn effectively.

Twitter



Please keep up your engagement with our Twitter page. We love hearing from you and especially enjoy seeing the home learning happening during school closures. It is a true testament to our sense of community that our "Four Oaks Family" can still support each other in this way !

Follow us on twitter @fouroaksprimary

Contact

You can contact school during the national lockdown via the email address below. We will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible to answer any queries. enquiry@fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk



Stay Safe Everyone !

Mark Benton & Louisa Appleby