



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 3

Hello Everyone.

Now that we are in week 11 of lockdown, I hope the relaxation of some of the rules has enabled you all to feel a little better about our enforced isolation. Here at school we are looking forward to seeing some children very soon that we have not seen for a long time. All we have to do is make sure all our plans are in place to still follow the rules of social distancing outlined by the government so that everyone, you, your children and my staff are all kept safe.

Again many thanks to those parents who have given us such positive feedback about our phone calls home and about how much the children are still enjoying their tasks from WordPress. We hope that everyone is finding the phone calls supportive, and please remember that we are on hand for any help you may need. You can always telephone school or email us at: enquiry@fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk and we will try to help in any way we can.

Like most schools we are incredibly busy completing risk assessments and organizing a new infrastructure within our school buildings to facilitate the return of our Reception pupils on Monday 8th June, and only once we can see how things run in real time will we and the Governing Body be able to judge how we can move forward safely in the next few weeks.

We have already been in contact with our Reception parents since the weekend but we felt it was important to keep the whole of our school community up to speed.

On to other news



Key Workers



Even though we are opening up school to more pupils now, we are still able to provide places for children who have any parent who is a key worker.

This week the Government has confirmed that children with at least one parent or carer who is a critical worker can now attend school.

If you require keyworker provision, please complete the booking form that appears on our school website each week. This week the rules around how this childcare provision will work have changed so please read the letter that accompanies the booking form very carefully before confirming your place. The numbers of these key worker children is steadily rising so we will not be able to accommodate these children unless they are booked in before coming. From now on the online booking form will be open on Mondays and close by the end of Wednesday each week as we have to plan for the appropriate staffing.

Parents of Returning Reception Pupils

It is lovely to see that so many of our pupils in Reception want to come back to school and parents of those children will get a personal phone call from a member of staff this week to talk through the details of how next week will operate. Can I ask again that our Reception parents adhere to their child's specific start and finish time for each day as it is the only way in which we can keep everyone safe at the school gates in the morning and afternoon.

Many thanks !

Deep Cleaning & Health and Hygiene

I am really pleased to report that Dean and his dedicated cleaning team have completed an entire deep clean of all three school buildings and we have managed to source fresh supplies of cleaning materials and medical supplies to enable any children who do come back to school to be safe and sound whilst here.

Grammar School Tests

A reminder that 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.

Over the next few weeks as we welcome back some children to school these distance learning tasks will be prepared and uploaded to WordPress by many different staff. To enable us to keep the returning Reception children safe in school many staff who do not normally teach Reception will be spending all of their time in being with these children, so please forgive us if the format of the distance learning across all year groups does not necessarily look the same.

Over the past few weeks the government has announced that schools can now apply for funding via the DfE to enable all pupils to get an Office 365 account in order that we can offer some face to face time with pupils via Microsoft TEAMS whilst they are at home. They have been working hard behind the scenes to enable appropriate safeguarding measures to be put in place to protect all children and staff using this technology. Two weeks ago we at Four Oaks applied for this funding and we are waiting for a reply from the DfE. This means that hopefully, not in the too distant future, we will be able to change the way that distance learning happens.

Please remember though, that if you don't get through every task at home it really doesn't matter, they are there to help with your daily structure whenever you can access them. Remember that apart from tasks on WordPress there are many other great resources out there on the Internet such as 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.

Secondary Transition

We have been in touch with all of feeder secondary schools over the past week to try clarify their plans for any transition activities for our Year 6 children heading off to a brand new adventure in September. Some have replied saying that they have contacted pupils' families with details, but at present we are still waiting for any details from some other settings. For those parents of children due to go to Arthur Terry I have had confirmation today that you should receive an information pack via the post next week and that there will be a 'transition' section on their school website by the end of the week also. As soon as we have any details passed to us from other schools, obviously we will alert our Year 6 parents to them straight away.

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

Stay Safe Everyone !

Mark Benton & Louisa Appleby