



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 4

Hello Everyone.

Now that we are in week 13 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 have really enjoyed seeing some children that we have not seen for a long time and keeping in touch with everyone else. We have been making 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.



On to other news

Parents of Returning Key Worker & Reception Pupils

It has been lovely to have some of our Key Worker and Reception pupils back in school over the past three weeks and can I say a big thank you to our parents who have been sticking to their particular drop off and pick up times so that our system has worked without a hitch.



Key Workers

Even though we have opened up school to the maximum number of pupils that we can now, any other Key Worker parents can put their children's names on our Key Worker Waiting list via our school website. If any places become available then a member of staff will contact parents in order.

Face to Face Sessions



We hope that everyone who has so far taken part in our pupil/staff face to face sessions have really found them worthwhile. This was an opportunity that we developed after listening to many parents who said that the children have really missed contact with their present teachers. The staff have really enjoyed them as they have missed the children a lot over the last three months.

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.

Now that we have welcomed back some children to school these distance learning tasks are being 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.

During the last two weeks of term we will be changing our distance learning content slightly. As these are usually the weeks when we have sports days, house competitions, talent shows and transition activities our distance learning will try to reflect this with lots of PE challenges, transition activities where children can reflect on this year and prepare for next year, and a power project where children can choose from a variety of activities.

End of Year Reports

Today you will have received an email with a link to Classroom Monitor where you will be able to access your child's end of year report. Please be aware that the report will be a reflection of where they got to in their studies in March before we had to partially close due to the COVID-19 situation. If you read a 'T' against a learning objective that means that it has not been covered and is still a target in terms of learning. If you wish to discuss your child's report with their teacher please read the email which details how you can do that. You will also have a parents' reply slip which we would appreciate you completing and sending back to school, or you could alternatively email your thoughts on your child's report to: enquiry@fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk

Staffing 2020-21

At this point I have some sad news to convey as some of our highly valued staff members have decided to move on. Mr and Mrs Hill have been teaching assistants at Four Oaks for a very long time, Mr Hill for 14 years and Mrs Hill for 21 years, but now they have decided to retire and enjoy some adventures outside of school life. Mrs Lee is also one of our longest serving members of staff and she started teaching at Four Oaks in 2000. I know it has been a very difficult decision for her to take but she has also decided to move on. Mr Clarke and Mrs Greening have also decided to complete their time at Four Oaks and look for new opportunities elsewhere. Finally, we are also going to be losing our longest serving member of staff who has been with us for over 30 years! Martin Smith, one of our stalwart cleaners, has decided to take this moment to retire. He has quite literally devoted his life to Four Oaks and I know he will find it a real wrench to leave us and we will really miss him. I must say a huge thank you to each and every one of them as they have worked incredibly hard to give your children the very best opportunities, and Four Oaks Primary School is only as good as its staff. I wish them all the very best as they start new adventures elsewhere and we hope to see them at some point in the future when they drop in to say hello.

Following on from this news we are now in the position to let parents and children know about the arrangements for new classes for next year.

We have tried to keep as many members of staff in the same year groups as possible in order to keep some stability within the structure of school after this year's extraordinary events. Also some teaching assistants are moving up a year with their present classes. We have three new members of staff. In Year 5 we are joined by Mrs Boughton, in our Year 2 Shark Class we are joined by Mrs Jones who will work alongside Mrs Morris, and in Reception we are joined by Mrs Todd. All three new staff members come to Four Oaks with a wealth of experience and I hope you will show them a warm welcome in September.

Ladybirds: Mrs Bambury, Mrs Bissett & Mrs Todd

Bumblebees: Miss Glynn, Mrs Goldspink & Mrs Todd

Owls: Miss Appleby, Mrs Barton & Mrs Finister - (Last year's Bumblebees)

Hedgehogs: Mrs Puzey & Mrs Upton- (Last year's Ladybirds)

Turtles: Mrs Westlake & Mrs Litwinowicz- (Last year's Hedgehogs)

Sharks: Mrs Morris, Mrs Jones & Mrs Litwinowicz- (Last year's Owls)

3R: Miss Reilly & Mrs Penn- (Last year's Sharks)

3E: Mrs Elvins & Mrs Penn- (Last year's Turtles)

4C: Mr Cope & Mrs Brown- (Last year's 3R)

4G: Mrs Glover & Mrs Brown- (Last year's 3E)

5SB: Mrs Smith, Mr Boughton, Mrs Atherton & Mrs Loizou- (Last year's 4G)

5B: Mrs Boughton, Mrs Atherton & Mrs Loizou- (Last year's 4C)

6W: Miss Wykes & Mrs Bradshaw- (Last year's 5C)

6E: Miss Everitt & Mrs Bradshaw- (Last year's 5G)



Secondary Transition

Hopefully all of our Year 6 parents have now heard from their children's new secondary schools about the transition arrangements that they have put in place for their new Year 7 pupils. For those parents of children due to go to Arthur Terry there should now be new material on the 'transition' section on their school website detailing information about how the children will begin their new Year 7 adventure.

Reception Induction

We have been talking to our new Reception parents for 2020-21 this week and they and their children are super excited to be joining our Four Oaks Family in September. Hopefully we will all hear from the Government very soon about what school will look like in September so that we can plan how to start the new academic year in a really positive way!

Staff Training Days 2020-21

Our staff training days for the next academic year are listed below. We did have a day planned in October for all of the LTE schools to get together for a training day but this has been postponed due to Government restrictions involving social distancing. As soon as we know a date for this 5th training day we will let parents know:

- Tuesday 1st September 2020
- Monday 4th January 2021
- Monday 19th April 2021
- Friday 28th May 2021
- Plus 1 further day TBC.

Site Developments

Over the last three months we have taken the opportunity to continue with our quest to continually improve the school site for the benefit of the children and have completed two projects:

- **Year 5/6 Corridor**

We have redesigned the Year 5/6 corridor so that the old cloakrooms that had been in place since 1957 have now gone. This has opened up the area by the Year 5 classrooms to a huge extent. We have removed old heating pipes and laid down new carpet. The finishing touch to this project has been the installation of new lockers for both year groups to use. This has created a corridor which is much safer for the children in terms of health & safety, and has created a very roomy work area just outside the Year 5 classrooms. This means that every year group in the Junior Department now has a work area outside their classrooms. It also means that the Year 5/6 corridor now has a very grown up feel to it and should be a contributing factor to supporting our Year 6 pupils to the next stage of their education adventure. When they move on to secondary school.



- **Infant Play Area**

The Infant Play Area at the rear of the Infant playground has had a make-over. The small wooden posts that surround it had begun to rot, having been in place for longer than I have been at Four Oaks. They have now been taken out and replaced by composite rubber posts which will do a superb job of holding the land back around the play area for many years to come.



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