

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume ~ Issue 4 20/21

Infant Department: 0121-675-4040

Junior Department: 0121-675-2685

23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Governors



I write to you on the very last day of a very long half-term, which has been full of challenges and new imaginative ways of working for all of us, and to begin with I just want to say a huge thank you to all of the children, staff and parents for buying into our new model of Four Oaks Primary School during COVID times.

To make a success of this, as we have for the past 8 weeks, we needed everyone to do their bit and all pull in the same direction as I know our Four Oaks community has always done.

Obviously we have had to ask our Year 4 pupils and staff to self-isolate this week which no-one would have wanted, but it has been lovely to receive so many messages of support from parents and receive so many examples of the children's work by our new remote learning email system. It has also been gratifying to see how our new Microsoft Teams system has enabled staff and children to communicate and learn together whilst being apart. If you are one of our families who is having to self-isolate during half term I empathize with you as my own daughter has also been sent home from school as part of a bubble closure. Obviously here at Four Oaks we do not make the rules but we do have to follow the guidelines set down by the Government and Public Health England designed to keep us all safe.

Please make sure that you have downloaded our 'School Jotter' app so that you can receive instant messages to your mobile devices. This will always be the way in which we inform parents of any year group bubble closures. You can do this by going to the 'Latest News' section of our website and clicking on this icon.



If you can then please try to enjoy a well-earned rest over half-term and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 2nd November.

Positive Covid Results

Can I ask all parents that if they experience any positive test results in their families over the half-term break, could they please email school at: enquiry@fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk

Once we know any of this information, we can then plan effectively to keep our school families safe.

Many thanks.

Hallowe'en Celebrations

Our pupils really enjoyed our Hallowe'en celebrations today organized by our wonderful PTA Committee.

Thank you to our Year 4 pupils for taking part remotely and thank you to everyone for their donations which will all go into our PTA funds and ultimately improve the school lives of all of our pupils. Our Year 4 children will receive their Hallowe'en party bags on their first day back to school as we don't want any child to miss out. If Year 4 parents would still like to make a donation of £3.00 to the PTA then please bring the money on the first day back after the half-term break.



Lost Property



Thank you to those parents who took the opportunity to look through our lost property collections in the outdoor classrooms this week after school. Whatever is left will now be donated to charity and help towards some good causes. I am still amazed by how much lost property we collect and how much of it does not have any names in at all.

Can I please make a plea to all parents to make sure all of their children's clothes are named clearly once we return to school after half-term.





Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Ce-Ce
Ladybirds	Theo
Owls	Annie
Hedgehogs	Karter
Turtles	Isabella
Sharks	Lilliemay B.
3E	Erin
3R	Sonny / Maddison
4C	Sienna
4G	Harry H.
5B	Henry
5SB	Daya
6E	Aston
6W	Sophie



Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Alexa
Ladybirds	Ismaeel
Owls	Heidi
Hedgehogs	Hector
Turtles	The Whole Class
Sharks	The Whole Class
3E	Lily
3R	Mia
4C	Not awarded
4G	Not awarded
5B	Jessica
5SB	Jack H.
6E	Isabelle H.
6W	Oliver

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Reception	Ralph / Alexander
Year 1	Giaan /Poppy
Year 2	Alayna / Ezra
Year 3	Aarun / Christina
Year 4	Ted / Keirath
Year 5	Alexander T. / Poppy
Year 6	Lexie / William



Well done to all the winners!

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Kian / Finley L-J
Year 1	Thomas / Taran
Year 2	Rupert / Jovan
Year 3	Emily / Thea Card.
Year 4	Not awarded
Year 5	Amelia / Martha
Year 6	Kaya / Andreas

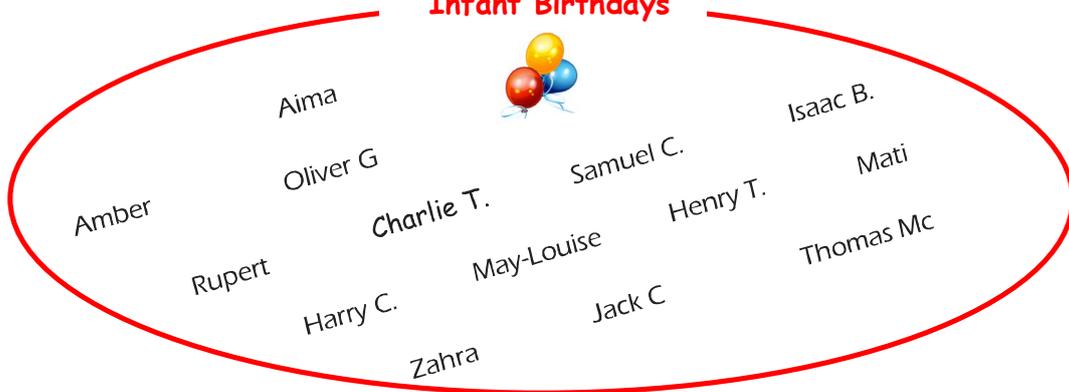


Well done to all the winners!

Alison Mander Award

We will be waiting until the first week after half term to give out the Alison Mander award due to the Year 4 pupils being absent from school this week. For our new parents this is an award that was created due to the kindness of a past pupil Alison Mander who sadly passed away in 2016. Her wish was to set up an award for children who showed natural, instinctive kindness and with the help of her family this award is now presented on a half termly basis.

Infant Birthdays



Dinner Money ~ Juniors

Could parents please check SchoolMoney for any outstanding payments for school dinners. If there are any problems logging into SchoolMoney then please contact Mrs Johnson in the Junior office.

Nasal Flu vaccine

We are still to hear back from the Immunization Team about when they will visit school to carry out the children's nasal Flu vaccines. Unfortunately, the nursing team was struck down with illness the day before they were due to come, but we will let you know the new date as soon as we do. Thank you for your patience.



Virtual Open Day Page

On 1st October the window for applying for a Reception school place for September 2021 opened and this will close on 15th January. Obviously, in non-COVID times, we would normally have an Open Day and invite new parents into school allowing our Year 6 children to take them on tour and sell our wonderful school. Unfortunately we can't do that this year but we thought why change a winning formula, so our new 'Virtual Open Day' page on our school website is now up and running. You can visit this page via our 'School Jotter' app or just go to the 'Our School' tab on our website. On this page you can watch as our Year 6 House Captains and our School Councillors take you on a virtual tour around school. You can also access a 'Frequently Asked Questions' document and read testimonials all about school from some current parents. There are also links to Birmingham City Council's official application pages. We hope you enjoy visiting this new page and please be aware it will stay live well into 2021. You can see the full timetable for the Reception application process below.

Stage of process	Date
Application period starts	1 October 2020
Closing date for applications	15 January 2021
National Offer Day	16 April 2021
Deadline for refusing the offer	30 April 2021
Deadline for submitting appeals	17 May 2021
Appeal hearings for appeals submitted on time should be heard by	19 July 2021
Round closes (applications need to be made using In-Year application directly to the school).	31 July 2021
Term starts	September 2021

Parents' Evening

You will have by now received a letter informing you of your Parents' Evening slot during the first two weeks back in school. These appointments will take place by telephone as we are not allowed to invite parents into school which is a huge pity. I would ask all parents to keep to the strict timings as this is the only way in which the system will work for everyone. If you find that you would like to discuss any issues further, then please make arrangements with the teaching staff to talk at another time.



Supporting Children's Learning

If you have received a letter recently detailing extra learning sessions taking place before or after school after half-term for your child, then can I say a big thank you to you for committing to this programme. We look forward to supporting our pupils in partnership with you during second half term as we try to help them on their learning journey.



Individual School Photographs

A reminder that the photographers are in school to take individual photographs on 10th November. The slip that was sent home with the children should only have been returned if you **DO NOT** want your child's photograph taken. If you have returned this in error please contact Mrs Underwood in the Infant office.

Year 6 Architectural Workshop

Year 6 had a great time a couple of weeks ago with their architectural workshop eventually building a very tall structure!!

Year 1—Animals in Hands

We are looking forward to welcoming the Animal Man into school on 3rd November for Year 1. They will be able to handle some animals who normally live in the rainforest to gain an understanding of these creatures and their ever dwindling habitat.



Year 3 & Year 4 Workshop

Professor McGinty will be visiting school on Thursday 12th November to provide an Egyptian Workshop for Year 3 and a Victorian Workshop for Year 4!

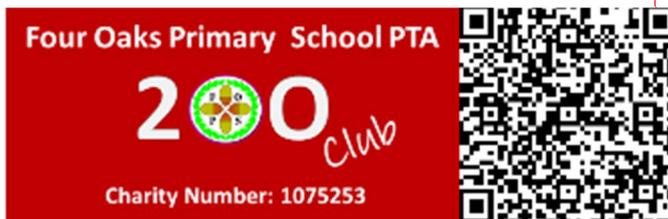
YMES—Music Lessons

YMES music lessons will be back in school after half term. Keyboards will still be available at school for these lessons but if your child is having a guitar or violin lesson can you please remember to send their instrument into school and can everyone please remember any music they may have. Lesson are as follows:
Guitar— Tuesdays—commencing 3rd November
Keyboard and Violin—Thursdays—commencing 5th November



.....PTA NEWS... PTA NEWS... PTA NEWS... PTA NEWS... PTA NEWS...

Have you been thinking about signing up to the 200 Club to raise funds for our school? If so, you can now register online! Please go onto School Jotter and follow the hyper link, or scan the QR code to find out more & register your details. You can then pay via PayPal, bank transfer, or even standing order, so that in future years you automatically keep your number going, without having to think about it again. Thank you in anticipation of your support & good luck!



PTA—Half Term Smarties Box Challenge

Another big thankyou to our PTA Committee for organizing their annual 'Smartie Challenge' which went home with the children on Tuesday this week. Hopefully when the children return they will bring in their Smartie tubes filled with coins to add to their class collections. The class who raises the most money for the PTA in the Infants and the Juniors will win a giant Smartie tube for each child in the class.....I wonder which classes will win this year ?



Obviously Year 4 will not receive their tube before half term but they will be waiting for them on their return to class!

ICT Tip of the Week

National Online Safety suggest that 5 to 15-year-olds now spend up to 15 hours a week online. That's more than two whole days at school!

Online Safety is paramount, so, check out all their free guides for parents & carers, providing top tips and advice >> <https://hubs.ly/H0xVgT60>

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

Yours sincerely

Mr M Benton
Head Teacher