

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume ~ Issue 5 20/21

Infant Department: 0121-675-4040

Junior Department: 0121-675-2685

13th November 2020

Dear Parents and Governors



COVID Bubble Closure Update

We have now reached the end of the first week of isolation for our Year 5 bubble, and the end of the first day of isolation for our Year 2 bubble and Infant FOSBACS bubble, so can I say a big thank you to my staff, the children and all of the parents involved for making our remote learning model work successfully. The staff have been using WordPress to organize new activities for the children each day so that they can continue learning through this difficult time. The staff and children have and will be using Microsoft Teams to stay in contact and keep up to date with work tasks and feedback. Many thanks in particular to the parents for supporting us with this and making this new style of learning work.

You will have seen that we have now put our **Home Learning Policy** on our website. We have to have this document in place, as it is now law that schools have to put a mixed package of home learning in place for all pupils who get isolated from school during this COVID period. At Four Oaks we have been doing this since March when we first encountered a partial school closure. It is also the case that parents are required to engage in this process to facilitate the children's learning. Alongside this policy there is a single page **flowchart** which gives parents guidance as to how to access our home learning packages if their child has to self-isolate either on their own or part of a bubble of children, and a **COVID Home Learning Parental Agreement** which needs to be **sent back into school**. This agreement states that there will always be an adult in the room at home when your child takes the opportunity to communicate in a live situation with a member of staff using Microsoft TEAMS in order to safeguard both the children and staff.

We would ask all parents to sign this agreement and return it to school in preparation for if and when their year group bubble may have to isolate at home. Many thanks to all of our parents for supporting us in this new way of teaching and learning!

FOSBACS

Yesterday we had to close FOSBACS after being informed of a positive case within the Infant FOSBACS bubble. At present we do not have enough staff to run FOSBACS and neither Amanda nor Pary can be in school as they are both self-isolating. This is a situation beyond our control but I really do understand that this puts some families under tremendous pressure so I do apologize for the situation. However, Pary will be back in school next Friday so FOSBACS will re-open for all Junior children from the morning of Friday 20th November in the normal FOSBACS building. FOSBACS for Infant children will re-open from the morning of Thursday 26th November. As parents of Infant children who have been in FOSBACS this week you should have received a telephone call today informing you of when your child can return to school safely, dependent on when they were last in FOSBACS.

Confirmation of Return to School Dates

Listed below are the return dates for the various isolating bubbles:

Year 5—Return on Friday 20th November

Year 2—Return on Friday 27th November

Infant FOSBACS children—Individual dates have been communicated to parents.

Flu Vaccines - Thursday 10th December

At long last we now have a new date for the Immunisation Team to come into school and administer the Nasal Flu Vaccine to all the children. The date of their visit is **Thursday 10th December**. Please contact the school office on 0121 675 4040 if you have changed your mind about your child having this important inoculation.





Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Sulayman
Ladybirds	Dylan
Owls	Ruhani
Hedgehogs	Isabella
Turtles	James
Sharks	Charly
3E	Sahaya
3R	Isabel
4C	Louis
4G	Olive
5B	Joseph
5SB	Louis
6E	Leighton
6W	Auryn



Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Beatrix
Ladybirds	Adonis
Owls	Samuel
Hedgehogs	Katie
Turtles	Ned
Sharks	Scarlett
3E	Leo
3R	Gabriella
4C	Mila
4G	Gabriel
5B	Not awarded
5SB	Not awarded
6E	Freddie
6W	Alex W.

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Reception	James /Veer
Year 1	Stella / Daya
Year 2	Lucy / Harry C.
Year 3	James C./ Joshua
Year 4	Harry St. / Luca
Year 5	Alex W. / Isabella
Year 6	Kian / Daniel W



Well done to all the winners!

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Oliver S. / Isabel
Year 1	Sheng / Freddie
Year 2	Aarya / May Louise
Year 3	Nicole / Noah
Year 4	Oliver G. / Kimran
Year 5	Not awarded
Year 6	Benjamin L. / Sophia



Well done to all the winners!



Alison Mander—Kindness Award

This half term it is awarded to:

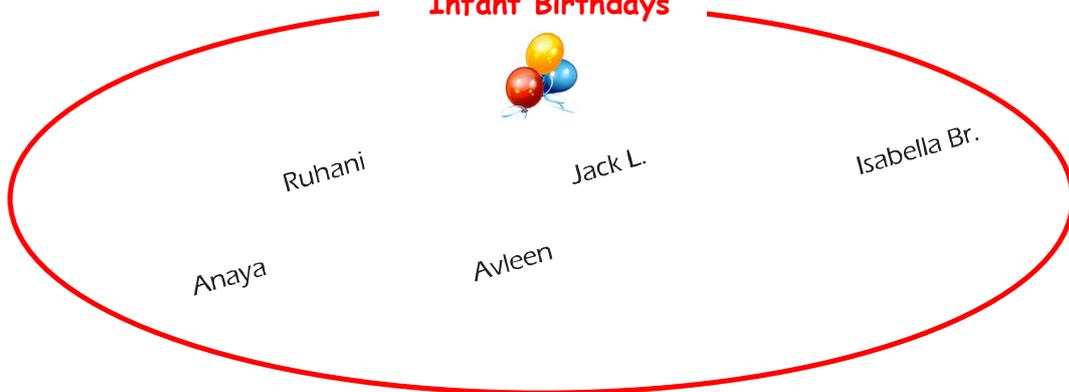
Infants— Laina (Year 2)

Juniors— Keirath (Year 4)



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.

Some Sad News -Mrs Puzey

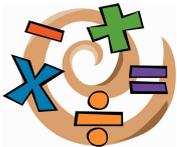
It is my sad responsibility to let our Hedgehog parents know that at Christmas we are going to have to wave goodbye to one of our very valuable members of staff. Mrs Puzey has thought long and hard, but along with her family, she has taken the decision to move to Australia in January. Her husband has been offered a job in his home-town and it is the chance of a lifetime for her and her family. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her well as she embarks upon this very exciting new adventure, and we hope to keep in contact with her and swap news from quite literally the other side of the world!



Rest assured that plans are already under way to find a skilled replacement for Mrs. Puzey, and I'm convinced that Mrs. Upton will make sure that we choose someone who will do a fantastic job for our Year 1 children!

I will keep parents informed of our search for a worthy replacement.

Mathletics November Numeracy Challenge—Years 4,5 & 6



In the week between 16th November and 22nd November it is our Mathletics Numeracy Challenge where every child can try to master mathematical activities and earn points. They can earn 10 points per correct answer within their curriculum activities and 20 points per correct answer within a topic test. Mrs. Bambury has attached an information sheet all about this exciting challenge so please read that for more details!



Children in Need

Many thanks to all of our pupils who took part in our non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need today. Now, more than ever, the mental health of young people across the UK is being challenged like never before. For those already facing issues in their lives, feelings of uncertainty and anxiety around the Coronavirus pandemic have only made things more difficult. Children in Need aim to support children who need our help most. This includes children who are vulnerable, have underlying health conditions, are lonely because of isolation, or have challenges with their mental health. It is fantastic to see so many of our children and parents supporting such a worthwhile cause!



Christmas Dinner & Last Day Christmas Party Food

Looking forward in time to the end of the term it will be really important to maintain as many elements as possible of Christmas for the children in school. With this in mind can I inform all parents that on Wednesday 16th December Debbie will be serving a delicious Christmas roast dinner to the children and on Friday 18th December (our last day in school) the children will be having a buffet party lunch. If parents of sandwich children wish for their child to partake in either of these meals, then they can pay for them on SchoolMoney. Please contact Mrs. Johnson in the Junior office on 0121 675 2685 for any clarification.



Christmas Cards

Another aspect of Christmas fun that we would like to keep going in school this year is the giving and receiving of Christmas Cards. Obviously this is a little trickier this year with restrictions on passing items between households but we have found a way round things. If your child would like to bring in Christmas cards for their friends, they will be able to do so between Monday 30th November and Friday 11th December. Please do not seal the envelopes by licking them but fold in the envelope tab. All of these cards will go into a box in each classroom and 72 hours later on Tuesday 15th December, they will be sorted into class groups and distributed to the children...probably by me wearing a Christmas elf hat !!



Individual Photographs—Year 5 only

As Year 5 were isolating when the photographers came we have arranged for them to return on 20th November to take the Year 5 's photographs.



Admission Arrangements

Just a reminder to all present and new parents that our admission arrangements, including the set criteria for gaining a place at Four Oaks Primary School, can always be found on our school website under the 'Our School' tab at the top of the homepage.

Year 1—Animals in Hands

Year 1 had a great time with the Animal Man who brought in some great exotic animals for the children to handle. Please access our Twitter account for some fantastic photographs!



Year 3 & Year 4 Workshop

Professor McGinty was in school on Thursday with an Egyptian Workshop for Year 3 and a Victorian Workshop for Year 4. The children had lots of fun learning more about their subjects and Professor McGinty is an expert at bringing historical learning to life. Many thanks to our parents for funding this great experience.

PTA—Smarties Challenge

Thank you to everyone who participated in the half term smarties challenge. The filled boxes have been collected by the PTA and an announcement will be made soon as to who the winning classes will be and the grand total of money raised.



ICT Tip of the Week

Over half of internet usage in the UK is via a smartphone, with the laptop in second place at about 20%. The advice some years ago was to locate your computer in a family space, but that's not applicable to phones and other very portable devices. Tools like Google Family Link for Android devices, or Screen Time for Apple iOS devices can help: you can set up controls around screen time limits, bed time, and restrict installation of apps.

<https://families.google.com/familylink/>

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

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

Yours sincerely

Mr M Benton
Head Teacher



November Numeracy Challenge



16th - 22nd November 2020

We are excited to announce that we have entered Year 4,5 & 6 in the November Numeracy Challenge. This is a UK, Europe, Middle East and Asia maths challenge focused on students mastering curriculum activities and practising their mental maths skills. Prizes are awarded for the top performing schools.

Please see your password sheet for your Login.

There is also a free Mathletics app for tablet devices that students can use to access Mathletics from anywhere. All of their activities are recorded and will be synced with their main Mathletics account.

The app is available for iPad and Android tablets.






List of prizes:

-  The first placed school will receive £500 towards their subscription or other 3P learning resources
-  The second placed school will receive £250.00
-  The third placed school will receive £100

A Hall of Fame leaderboard will be published at the end of the event.

Visit the challenge webpage:

www.mathletics.com/uk/fsc/november-numeracy-challenge

The November Numeracy Challenge will run from Monday 16th November until Sunday 22nd November (1 week). We are challenging you to earn as many participation points as you can. The first placed school will be the highest average total of participation points. This will be calculated by taking the total number of participation points divided by the total number of registered students in the school.

Rules:

Only students can complete the activities and earn points.

Only points and activities mastered within the dates of the competition will be calculated.

Work completed on tablets in off line mode may not be calculated.

**Come on Four Oaks -
Get those thinking caps on we can do this!!!**