

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume ~Issue 7 20/21

Infant Department: 0121-675-4040

Junior Department: 0121-675-2685

11th December 2020

Dear Parents and Governors



Merry Christmas !

As I write the last newsletter of 2020 I would like to thank all the pupils, parents, Governors and staff for their continuing hard work and support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. A reminder that school closes next Friday, 18th December, and that Monday 4th January is a Staff Training day. We will therefore look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

We obviously can't celebrate Christmas in the same way that we normally do by inviting parents either into school or to join us at All Saints Church this year, but next week you will get the chance to enjoy the children's Christmas celebrations by watching our festive film on the school website... keep an eye on our School Jotter app for an announcement early next week. We hope it really puts you in the Christmas mood and gets you looking forward to your festive break!



Friday 18th December

Some of you may have seen in the press this week that the DFE have given schools permission to move around one of their published staff training days and take it on Friday 18th December. Head Teachers and Deputy Head Teachers have been told that they need to be available for contact with the Track and Trace authorities for 6 days after the last day of term and this move is designed to not allow this to interfere with Christmas breaks. However, we have already organized our staff training for January 4th and so will not be moving any training days. This means that the children's last day in school will still be Friday 18th December 2020 and the children's first day back will still be Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Covid Symptoms and Possible Testing

Just a reminder to all families that if any pupils suffer from any COVID symptoms they are still encouraged to get a COVID test over the Christmas break. We would ask all families to let us know at school if any child has a test, and whether they prove negative or positive, up until the end of Monday 21st December by sending an email to enquiry@fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk. This is because this news could affect other pupils and their families who may end up having to isolate over Christmas.

Similarly, if the same thing happens in the run up to the return to school in January we would ask that families follow the same system to keep in touch. Many thanks.

Year 1 Staffing

I wrote to you a few weeks ago about the fact that sadly Mrs Puzey will be re-locating to Australia after the Christmas break, and now I am keeping to my promise of updating you about plans to fill her shoes. We have been busy behind the scenes interviewing prospective candidates and we are happy to say that we have been successful and have appointed a new member of staff. We are very pleased to announce that the new teacher for the Hedgehog Class after Christmas will be Miss Spencer. She will be in school next Tuesday afternoon to spend time with the pupils, work alongside Mrs Puzey and Mrs Upton, and be on the door at the end of the day. I would like to thank Mrs Puzey for all her hard work and dedication during her time with us and I hope that you, alongside my staff, will make Miss Spencer feel very welcome in school. I'm sure our Year 1 team will move from strength to strength.



Reception Parents Induction Questionnaire

A plea please to any parents of our Reception children to complete and hand in any outstanding Induction questionnaire forms. Your opinions are very valuable to us and we are happy to receive them right up until the end of next week!



Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Millie
Ladybirds	Finley W.
Owls	Olivia
Hedgehogs	Ollie
Turtles	Salahuddin
Sharks	Subhaan
3E	Emily
3R	Nicole
4C	Isla
4G	Harry S.
5B	Lily V.
5SB	Guhan
6E	Maxwell
6W	Laci



Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Hans
Ladybirds	Isaac B.
Owls	Emilie
Hedgehogs	Amber
Turtles	Ben
Sharks	Lily
3E	Ava
3R	Lily-Mae
4C	Holly
4G	Frazer
5B	Hannah G.
5SB	Kira
6E	Hadyn
6W	Zara

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Thea / Harry
Year 1	Florence / Saffron
Year 2	Jessica / Lillymay B.
Year 3	Annabel / Jack
Year 4	Maya / Frazer
Year 5	Callum / Lewis
Year 6	Thomas P.



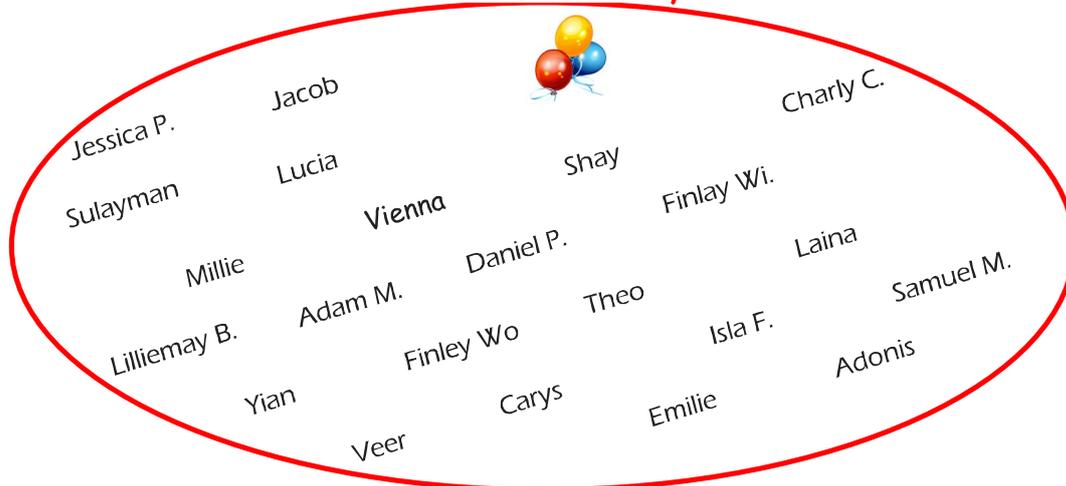
Well done to all the winners!

Reception	Anaya / Madeleine
Year 1	Poppy / Carter M.
Year 2	Amiee / Charlotte
Year 3	Taran / Bella
Year 4	Samuel / Isaac
Year 5	Dylan / Rishi
Year 6	Annie / Jack G.



Well done to all the winners!

Infant Birthdays



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 be found on our school website under the 'Our School' tab at the top of the homepage. Deadline for online applications for September 2021 is 15th January 2021.

Data Sheets Years 1-6

If you have not already returned your data sheet could I ask you to return this to school as soon as possible, please remember we need this sent back regardless of whether any amendments are needed. It is obviously more important than ever that contact details are up to date in the present situation. Thank you

Diary Dates

I have attached a list of all known diary dates for the rest of the school year to this newsletter for your information.



The Last Week before the Christmas Break



In these tough Covid times we feel it is really important to give our pupils a really enjoyable last week as we head towards the Christmas break. Here is a reminder of the activities in the last week.

Monday 14th:

Christmas Video Launch Day. Children to donate £1.00 to wear a Christmas jumper for the day and get to watch our Four Oaks Primary Christmas video. **Please pay via SchoolMoney.**



Wednesday 16th:

Christmas Dinner Day - Pupils to make Christmas hats and wear them to eat their delicious Christmas dinner cooked by Debbie and the ladies in the kitchen.

Thursday 17th:

Pupils to wear onesies, pyjamas or non-uniform and have a 'Christmas Film afternoon' in their classrooms. The PTA will provide a free Cadburys selection box for the pupils to have in the afternoon. There will be no nuts in the contents of the selection box but the chocolate will have been made in a factory where nuts may have been present. If you do not want your child to eat this chocolate, please contact your child's class teacher and we will talk to the PTA and arrange an alternative.



Friday 18th:

Christmas Party Buffet in the hall in normal bubbles and afternoon parties in classrooms. Children can wear party clothes as is tradition but please remember they will be going outside to play.

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 for any clarification.

Christmas Baubles

Many, many thanks to everyone for the time and effort put into creating the children's Christmas baubles. During last week and especially this Monday we had an amazing response as hundreds of decorations came into school. The children had a lovely time visiting the hall in their class groups and hanging their baubles on the tree, either in the Infant or Junior hall. On Monday we posted many pictures all over our school Twitter account, which can be accessed from the school website, and the children really enjoyed playing a part in making the school feel very festive. I think we may have started a new tradition for Four Oaks Primary!



School Dinners & SchoolMoney

As we have now used SchoolMoney for all payments in school for just over a year, I hope that you will agree this system is a lot easier and more convenient for everyone and is working well.

However, some parents are still not putting money into their accounts in advance, which is the only way the system can work successfully without running up individual debts.

Reminders are then sent out for each week owed and so some parents are receiving a succession of texts which are not being acted upon. Therefore, from January onwards we will now be running a system where any debts will not be allowed to go over £20. If this limit is reached, then your child will have to come to school with a packed lunch until the debt is cleared.

I hope that you all appreciate the situation that we find ourselves in and agree that this is a positive move as it is not sustainable for school to keep subsidising these cumulative debts. If you do get text reminders about your account levels, then we would really appreciate it if you could act upon them in a timely manner. However, if there are problems with settling any accounts then please contact myself or Mrs Johnson and we will see what we can do to help.

Many thanks for your understanding with this issue.

Ventilation and Warm Clothing

As part of our Local Authority risk assessment we have to make sure that all of our communal spaces, including each classroom, are well ventilated and have the windows and doors open to the flow of fresh air. Obviously as we head into December, January and February this means that children and staff will begin to feel the chilly winter air a little more. Can I ask that all parents make sure that their children are appropriately dressed, with layers of clothing including long trousers, vests and jumpers if they are apt to feel the cold. Many thanks for your support!





Parking and Safe Driving



A plea yet again to all parents who drive to and from school. If I could ask you to be very mindful that there are many pedestrians around the school at both drop off and pick up time, and we want this time of the school day to be a safe one. We have had reports of dangerous parking, dropping off on the zig zags, and young children not being secured in child car seats, so can I ask all parents to take great care.

Attendance

This term 'attendance' at school has taken on a whole new context with whole year groups of children self-isolating for weeks at a time, and other individual pupils missing in order to protect family members. We have decided not to give out individual attendance certificates this term as we feel it would not be fair to all children. We have actively told parents that if their children have any illness symptoms at all to keep them off school for obvious reasons, so we do not want to penalize anyone for following the new rules. Instead I want to say a huge CONGRATULATIONS to everyone because if we took out our absences that are COVID related, then our school attendance would actually be 98.4% which is our highest attendance ever.....so WELL DONE EVERYONE !

Donations of Small World Figures



After Christmas we will be on the look-out for any donations of what we call Small World play figures to add to our lunchtime play equipment. By that we mean small model animals, small model vehicles or small action figures. If you have anything like this that needs a good home, then we would be happy to assist. If you could sanitize them and place them in a carrier bag, we will quarantine them before letting the children play with them. Many thanks.



PTA Christmas Window Trail

A huge thanks to our fantastic PTA Committee and their friends for setting up the PTA Christmas Window Trail. Amazingly we had 210 children sign up to decorate their windows and sold getting on for 250 maps raising an incredible profit of over £500! This of course will all go towards enhancing the children's time in school after the new year. Thank you very much to all of our families who have taken part and we really hope you have either enjoyed your walk around the festive windows this week or are looking forward to a stroll this weekend.

PTA-200 Club

Time to announce the results of the first 200 Club draw of the year! Thank you to everyone who purchased a number. Reception pupils drew the balls on Friday 27th November. Next draw is the double prize December draw!

The winners of the November draw are:

£50	No. 165	Mrs N Pole
£10	No. 116	Mrs S. Egan
£10	No. 75	Mrs J Samuel
£15 gift voucher - Peony & Mint	No. 32	Mrs N Bennett
Prize - Biberty-Boberty-Bow	No. 80	Miss A Whitehouse



ICT Tip of the Week

Are you or Santa giving your child any tech during the festive period? We know that lots of families give children devices at this time of year. Whether it's a laptop, phone, tablet, games console or another device that connects to the online world, there is a lot you can do to make sure it's set up safely for your child. Visit Net-Aware for help and guidance. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/new-devices/>

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

Yours sincerely

Mr M Benton
Head Teacher





DIARY DATES –2020-21

	Please note some events may not go ahead if Covid restrictions prevent these. There is also one further teacher training date to be set.
Monday 14th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 15th December	
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Dinner day
Thursday 17th December	Christmas Film afternoon
Friday 18th December	Christmas Party afternoon 3.30 pm School closes for Christmas
	 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS 
Monday 4th January 2020	Staff Training Day – School Closed
Tuesday 5th January	School re-opens
Wednesday 6th January	
Thursday 7th January	
Friday 8th January	
Monday 11th January	
Tuesday 12th January	
Wednesday 13th January	
Thursday 14th January	
Friday 15th January	
Monday 18th January 2020	
Tuesday 19th January	
Wednesday 20th January	
Thursday 21st January	
Friday 22nd January	
Monday 25th January 2020	
Tuesday 26th January	
Wednesday 27th January	
Thursday 28th January	
Friday 29th January	
Monday 1st February	
Tuesday 2nd February	
Wednesday 3rd February	
Thursday 4th February	
Friday 5th February	NSPCC Number Day
Monday 8th February	Parents Evening Week—Arrangements still to be confirmed
Tuesday 9th February	Safer Internet Day
Wednesday 10th February	
Thursday 11th February	
Friday 12th February	3.30pm School closes for half term

HALF TERM



DIARY DATES CONTINUED—2020-21

Monday 22nd February	School Opens
Tuesday 23rd February	
Wednesday 24th February	
Thursday 25th February	
Friday 26th February	
Monday 1st March	
Tuesday 2nd March	
Wednesday 3rd March	World Maths Day
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day
Friday 5th March	
Monday 8th March	Science Week
Tuesday 9th March	Year 4 Swimming
Wednesday 10th March	Year 4 Swimming
Thursday 11th March	Year 4 Swimming
Friday 12th March	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 15th March	
Tuesday 16th March	Year 4 Swimming
Wednesday 17th March	Year 4 Swimming
Thursday 18th March	Year 4 Swimming
Friday 19th March	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 22nd March	
Tuesday 23rd March	Year 4 Swimming
Wednesday 24th March	Year 4 Swimming
Thursday 25th March	Year 4 Swimming 1st Aid Training for Y5 & Y6 Pupils
Friday 26th March	Year 4 Swimming
Monday 29th March	
Tuesday 30th March	Year 4 Swimming
Wednesday 31st March	Year 4 Swimming
Thursday 1st April	Year 4 Swimming School Closes for Easter
Friday 2nd April	Good Friday

EASTER HOLIDAYS





DIARY DATES CONTINUED—2020 -21

Monday 19th April	Staff Training Day—School closed to pupils
Tuesday 20th April	Pupils return
Wednesday 21st April	
Thursday 22nd April	
Friday 23rd April	
Monday 26th April	
Tuesday 27th April	
Wednesday 28th April	
Thursday 29th April	
Friday 30th April	
Monday 3rd May	Bank Holiday KS1 SATs Month begins
Tuesday 4th May	
Wednesday 5th May	
Thursday 6th May	
Friday 7th May	
Monday 10th May	KS2 SATs Week
Tuesday 11th May	
Wednesday 12th May	
Thursday 13th May	
Friday 14th May	
Monday 17th May	
Tuesday 18th May	
Wednesday 19th May	
Thursday 20th May	
Friday 21st May	
Monday 24th May	
Tuesday 25th May	
Wednesday 26th May	
Thursday 27th May	3.30pm School Closes for Half Term
Friday 28th May	Staff Training Day

HALF TERM



DIARY DATES CONTINUED—2020-21

Monday 7th June	School opens to pupils Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
Tuesday 8th June	Provisional Reception Induction Evening
Wednesday 9th June	
Thursday 10th June	
Friday 11th June	
Monday 14th June	Year 5 & 6 Bikeability—details to follow
Tuesday 15th June	Boreatton Park Meeting for Y5 Parents
Wednesday 16th June	
Thursday 17th June	
Friday 18th June	
Monday 21st June	
Tuesday 22nd June	
Wednesday 23rd June	
Thursday 24th June	
Friday 25th June	
Monday 28th June	Aspire Paralympic Sports in School
Tuesday 29th June	Aspire Paralympic Sports in School
Wednesday 30th June	
Thursday 1st July	Reports go out to Parents
Friday 2nd July	Boreatton Park Residential Trip—Y5
Saturday 3rd July / Sunday 4th July	Boreatton Park Residential Trip—Y5
Monday 5th July	Boreatton Park Residential Trip—Y5
Tuesday 6th July	
Wednesday 7th July	
Thursday 8th July	
Friday 9th July	
Monday 12th July	1.45pm—Infant Sports Day & Walkabout
Tuesday 13th July	1.45—Junior Sports Day
Wednesday 14th July	
Thursday 15th July	
Friday 16th July	
Monday 19th July	Y6 Leavers' Celebrations / BBQ
Tuesday 20th July	
Wednesday 21st July	School Closes for Summer Holidays



SUMMER HOLIDAYS

