

# FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume ~Issue 9 20/21

Infant Department: 0121-675-4040

Junior Department: 0121-675-2685

## 29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Governors



### Thank You



A huge thank you to all of our parents for the effort they have been putting in with their children's home learning. We really do appreciate that trying to facilitate children's learning at home whilst also trying to work from home yourselves can be extremely difficult, but we can tell from both the quantity and quality of work coming back to us that you are putting every last ounce of energy into supporting your children. This is such an important part of the children's learning whilst we are in lockdown and it's the only way that staff can assess and then plan for next steps of learning. As our note on the school Twitter account says 'we really would be in a pickle without you', so a huge well done to you all! On another point, which I am sure is in every parent's mind, as soon as we know more about when we will be able to open to more children we will certainly communicate this to you without delay. This week the Prime Minister did announce that this would not be before at least the 8th of March. We are just as eager as you are to get every single child back into school where they belong, learning actively alongside their friends.



### Asymptomatic Covid Testing of Staff

Starting next week all staff in school will be offered the chance to take a 'Lateral Flow Test' twice a week at home. These tests have been supplied by the Government and are designed to show up anyone who is asymptomatic and yet positive in terms of Covid-19. If anyone produces a positive result with this testing system, they will then have to take a normal PCR Covid test and report the results to school. This system is obviously designed to cut down on the spread of the virus, but inevitably may result in further bubble closures. If this were to happen then we will communicate with parents via our 'School Jotter' mobile app, so please make sure you have this downloaded onto your smartphones.



### Results of Induction Questionnaires

At the start of the year our induction programme for our new Reception families was very different to normal due to the Coronavirus restrictions, but nevertheless we pushed on and arranged a safe way to invite both parents and children into school for their very first day, and even laid on a socially distanced parent and child meal opportunity. We always send out a questionnaire to ask our new parents what they thought of our induction process in order to try and improve things every year, so we thought all parents would like to see what the Reception parents thought of their first experience of being in the Four Oaks Family. I have attached a summary document of their views at the end of this newsletter for everyone to read. Many thanks to all those parents who sent back their questionnaires.



### February Half Term

Just so that all parents are clear about the February half-term week, school will be closed to all pupils. I have had some enquiries from parents as to whether the school will be open to key worker children during that week, but on Tuesday of this week the DfE announced:

*"Schools will close as usual over February half-term and are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during that week."*

*Schools do not need to provide lunch parcels or vouchers during the February half-term. There is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#)."*

### Free School Meals Funding

We are aware that we have some families who have decided not to apply for Free School Meals simply because their children are in the Infant Department and therefore get a free school dinner funded by the Government anyway. We would encourage these families still to apply as the extra funding that then comes into school can benefit their children in many ways, not just in terms of a free school meal, through something called Pupil Premium. To see if you would qualify for Free School Meals just go to our website, click on the parent tab at the top of the page, click on Meals & Uniform, choose 'School Meals' and then click on the blue icon on that page. This contains a link for you to apply. Please be assured that this process is all totally confidential.



### Lockdown Lunches and Meal Plans

Change4Life and the NHS have created recipes and shopping lists which may help some of our families to create lunch on a budget in these tricky times and they have asked us to share their ideas with you. You can access their 3 weeks plan at: <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/lunch/cheap-lockdown-lunch-ideas>



### Safer Internet Day 2021

In normal times we always celebrate Safer Internet Day and this year it will fall on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Keep your eyes peeled on Microsoft Teams and WordPress for on-line safety activities and learning opportunities on and around this date, as with pupils learning primarily in a digital way at the moment this subject is even more important than ever! If you would like to support this message at home then just visit <https://www.saferinternetday.org/> for lots of fun activities!



### Birmingham School Year 2021-2022

We can now give the dates for the next academic year 2021-2022. Please remember that an additional 5 training days still need to be allocated.

## School Year 2021 to 2022

### Autumn Term 2021

Term Starts: Thursday 2 September 2021  
Half Term: Monday 25 October 2021 to Friday 29 October 2021  
Term Ends: Friday 17 December 2021

### Spring Term 2022

Term Starts: Tuesday 4 January 2022  
Half Term: Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 25 February 2022  
Term Ends: Friday 8 April 2022

### Summer Term 2022

Term Starts: Monday 25 April 2022  
Half Term: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022  
Term Ends: Friday 22 July 2022

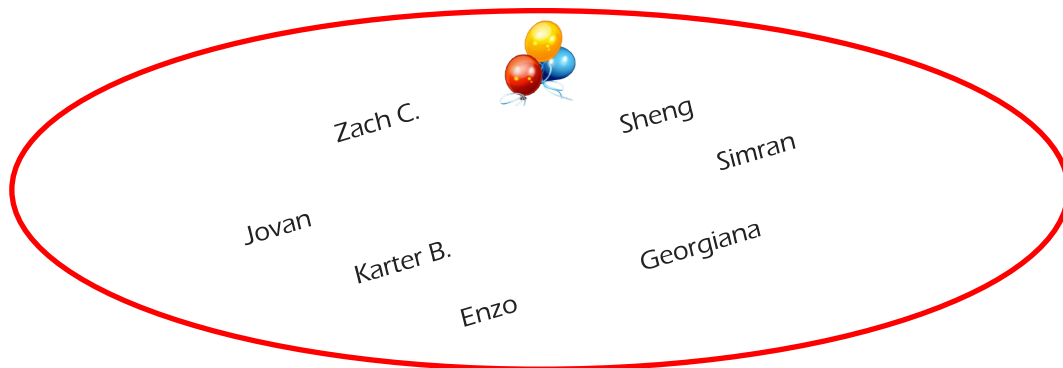


### Acorns And Superstars

This week and last week the Acorns and Superstars have been awarded to...  
Everyone!  
For their fabulous learning whether at home or at school.  
All the parents have been awarded one too!!!



### Infant Birthdays



### PTA 200 Club

Here are the results of our January 200 club draw. The draw took place with the help of Year 2. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone for your support.

The winners of the January draw are:

£50	No. 178	Mrs K Sherlock
£10	No. 74	Mrs J Samuel
£10	No. 72	Mrs R Newby



Congratulations!

Fast & Focused CV session or £150 coaching voucher with Clara at The Balance Collective - No. 34 Mrs J Griffin  
Manicure or Pedicure with Joanne at Simply Nails— No. 107 Mrs N Carpenter

### ICT Tip of the Week

1 in 6 children and young people have a diagnosable #mentalhealth condition. February 1<sup>st</sup>—7<sup>th</sup> is #ChildrensMentalHealthWeek, and we're supporting @Place2Be, raising awareness of the importance of children and young people's mental health. Learn more: [www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk](http://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk)

Some ideas for well being:

- stay connected with friends, family and colleagues. Keep talking, even if that means by on-line methods but take regular breaks from the screen and online world
- take a break from social media, switch off the news sometimes, give your brain a break from the information overload and the worry
- get some physical exercise, whatever that means for you
- make sure you're getting some fresh air, sit outside, get out the house if you can, open a door or window feel the outdoors on your face
- try and keep your diet healthy, with plenty of fresh fruit and veg
- step away from the screens and find a good book, play a family board game, go for a walk or play in the garden
- ask for help if you are struggling or finding things overwhelming

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

Mr M Benton  
Head Teacher



## Reception Induction Questionnaire Results 2020



	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Poor	N/A
Opportunities to view the school prior to completing our preference form.	28 (78%)	2 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (17%)
The contact made with parents to inform you about your child starting school.	32 (90%)	2 (5%)	2 (5%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
The contents of the Induction Pack supported the whole Induction Process.	31 (86%)	4 (11%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
The accessibility of the information in the Induction Pack.	30 (83%)	4 (11%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)
The information about our school on our school website was accessible and helpful.	29 (81%)	7 (19%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
The opportunity to visit the classroom and meet your teacher on your child's first day in September.	29 (80%)	5 (14%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)
The opportunity to contact the class teacher or school leadership if there were any queries about the induction process.	26 (72%)	5 (14%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)	4 (11%)
The opportunity to eat a school lunch with your child on their first day in school.	35 (97%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3%)
Your impression of the effectiveness of the staggered entry of pupils. (Where youngest children are admitted to school first, when the groups are small.)	30 (84%)	3 (8%)	3 (8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Our school's level of care for your child.	29 (80%)	7 (20%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
The quality of contact between teachers and parents since starting school.	25 (69%)	10 (28%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Your overall impression of our Induction Process.	34 (94%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Answered by 36 parents.

### Positives:

- I have been very impressed with my son's introduction to school, particularly the warm and friendly approach.
- Being able to have lunch on the first day was just so special.
- Communication with teachers has been excellent. I think the school has handled the COVID situation extremely well.
- Love the family feel of the school.
- The way the school has kept going in these testing times has been amazing.
- Good idea to stagger days.
- Good idea not to have half days.
- Home learning has been excellent so far.
- Plenty of information provided beforehand.
- We were so pleased to be offered the transition day with parents involved.
- Great atmosphere despite the COVID restrictions.
- The teachers know my child on a first name basis and that reassures me she is part of a family.
- Communication all the way along has been excellent.
- We could not have asked for a better introduction to school life.
- During these testing times the school has been brilliant.
- Teachers go above and beyond to deal with any issues.
- The staggered start gave the youngest children a little more time to become familiar with their surroundings without feeling overwhelmed.
- My child grew so much in confidence during the transition day.
- Considering the amount of additional challenges this year, along with the ever-changing situation in the rest of the school, I think the way the induction process was run was absolutely amazing!

### Things to improve:

- My eldest child struggled slightly with coming in last as he felt everyone else had made friends.
- An introduction to 'WordPress' could have been a little clearer.
- Induction pack was a little overwhelming in terms of volume of information.
- The induction video was lovely – could it be done every year?
- I didn't feel a few hours of induction was enough for the children – they were thrown in the deep end and expected to swim straight away.
- WordPress can seem a little overwhelming.