

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume ~Issue 12 20/21

Infant Department: 0121-675-4040

Junior Department: 0121-675-2685

19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Governors



Two Weeks and Counting!

Believe it or not we are now two weeks on from the wider re-opening of school and it has been wonderful to have all of our children back where they belong, the atmosphere in school has been lovely and bubbly. Many thanks to all of the parents who have wished us well in school, and have passed on their thanks for how smoothly the return to a full school has been. As ever, many hours of preparation went into school being fully open again on March 8th and it is a testament to my staff how successful it has been. A big well done to the children for coming back to school with such a positive attitude!

School Closed to Pupils – 5th Staff Training Day and Elections Closure.

As you are aware we have now been informed of an unavoidable closure of school as it will be used as a polling station for the election of the West Midlands Police Commissioner & Mayor of Birmingham on Thursday 6th May 2021. We have tried to contest the use of the school as a polling station in order to stay open, but have been informed by the Local Authority that they only have a limited number of venues, and so must make use of the school. We will be using the day in school to make changes to our curriculum delivery, and we will also take the opportunity to invite our new Reception parents for 2021-22 to come and see the Reception classrooms and playground, as there was no Open Day opportunity for them in October 2020.

In addition the date of our final Staff Training day has now also been locked in place on Friday 21st May, so can I take this opportunity to remind you that the four days left in this academic year when school will be closed to pupils are:

Monday 19th April – School closed for Staff Training Day

Thursday 6th May – School closed for Elections

Friday 21st May – School closed for Staff Training Day

Friday 28th May – School closed for Staff Training Day



Parents in Cars at Lunchtime

Could I ask parents not to park up on Edge Hill Road during lunchtimes. In the last couple of weeks, we have had some incidents where children have been communicating with parents or grandparents through the fence at the front of the junior playground. If you need to get a message to your children, then please telephone school and we will work with you to sort out any issues.

Parents' Evening

By now all parents should have received an email invitation to attend a Microsoft Teams meeting for the Spring Term Parents' Evening in the week beginning Monday 29th March. This invitation will have been via your child's email account so please make sure you check the account, and please contact school if you have not yet received this. A reminder that these meetings will be 8 minutes in duration.



Teams & Assignments

A reminder to all parents that homework and any remote learning will now take place through Teams and Assignments on Teams, we will no longer be using Wordpress.

Return to School Letter from the Local Authority

We have attached to this newsletter a letter we have received from Birmingham City Council about the return to school. Please take some time to read through this as it contains lots of information, including the availability of lateral flow tests and resources on supporting children's wellbeing.

Moving Off After School

Can I remind families that once children have come out of their classrooms at the end of the day, we are still working under guidelines that ask for everyone to move off site as soon as possible and not stand around in groups. If children could also keep to the paths around school as they leave, then that will help to maintain our lovely grounds.

Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust—School Clothing Grant



Every year Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust run a scheme whereby any parents who reside within the Sutton Coldfield boundaries can apply for a grant of up to £100 per child to help purchase school uniform. This is dependant upon whether the parents are in receipt of Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit. If you think you may be eligible for this scheme then please contact Mrs Johnson in the Junior Office (Tel: 674 2685) and she will be able to provide you with a form to fill in. Please note the deadline for completed applications is **Monday 22nd March**.

Extra-Curricular Activities—Summer Term

After the Easter break we have some extra-curricular activities starting up again:

- **Dance for Y1 and Y2** with Premier Sport on Friday lunchtimes - these sessions can be booked via the link in the 'Latest News' section of our school website.
- **Netball for Y5 and Y6** will resume with Mrs Goldspink on a Thursday. She will be giving out letters to the children in the next week or so.
- **Musical Instrument lessons with YMES** - if you were having lessons before lockdown then YMES will contact you personally, but if you would like to start lessons then you can contact YMES through their details on the 'Latest News' section of the school website, all the information about lessons including cost is available there. If you would like to enroll could you please do so by 31st March, if possible, so that timetables can be organized.
- **Le Club Francais** French lessons should resume after the Whitsun half-term break.



Juniors—Payment for School Dinners on SchoolMoney



A reminder that your SchoolMoney account should always be in credit when paying for school meals. Please deposit a sum to cover your child's meals in advance either weekly or monthly. If your account is more than a week in arrears (ie £12.50) your child will be asked to bring in sandwiches until the debt is cleared. If you have a child in Juniors who wishes to switch their choice from Sandwiches or School Dinners for next term could you please let Mrs Johnson, in the Junior office, know **before** the Easter break. Thank you.

Infants—Milk

Milk money is now due for the remainder of this half term. Please check your SchoolMoney account and make prompt payment. Please note that if you no longer wish your child to have milk next term can you please ensure that you contact Mrs Underwood in the Infant office **before** we break up for the Easter holidays. Thank you.





Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Individual Superstar to all pupils
Ladybirds	Individual Superstar to all pupils
Owls	Charlie
Hedgehogs	Isabella B.
Turtles	The Whole Class
Sharks	The Whole Class
3E	Darcey
3R	Daniel
4C	Edward
4G	Maisie
5B	The Whole Class
5SB	The Whole Class
6E	The Whole Class
6W	The Whole Class



Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Maya
Ladybirds	Milo
Owls	Aima
Hedgehogs	Joseph
Turtles	Charlie
Sharks	Esme
3E	Zachary
3R	Max
4C	Thomas
4G	Isla
5B	Eliza
5SB	Joshua
6E	Aston & The Whole Class
6W	Alfie N. & The Whole Class

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Reception	Everyone in both classes
Year 1	Emilie / Vienna
Year 2	Adam / Esme
Year 3	Erin / William T
Year 4	Daniel / Rosie
Year 5	Jane / Sarben
Year 6	Rhoan / 6E not awarded



Well done to all the winners!

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Ralph / Isaac E.
Year 1	Elena / Seren-Rae
Year 2	Jamilla / Olivia
Year 3	Gabriella / Amira
Year 4	Maelynn / Sienna
Year 5	Dylan / Callum
Year 6	Akarl / Bonnie



Well done to all the winners!

Infant Birthdays

Eden
Oliver J.
James
Taran G.
Giaan G.

ICT Tip of the Week

As of 28th February 2021 the number of scam reports received by National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) stood at more than 5,000,000 with the removal of more than 36,000 scams and 71,000 URLs. If you receive scam texts or email messages you can report them by forwarding the message to the NCSC suspicious reporting service. Text 7726, or email Report@phishing.gov.uk. You're helping to protect others by reporting it and alerting NCSC. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/>

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

Mr M Benton
Head Teacher



16 March 2021

Returning to School Safely

Letter to families, parents and carers from Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health

It has been good to see children and young people returning to the classroom and I would like to thank you for your support to your children and their schools over the past year.

I know this has not been easy for anyone, some families have been directly impacted through the loss of loved ones, or through the loss of employment or income, and for many families it has been especially hard juggling work and school on limited bandwidth or devices.

These factors and the impact of having to remain at home for such a long period away from school has undoubtedly had an impact on the health and wellbeing of children and young people so I wanted to write to you to encourage you to support your children to return to school where their learning and development can be taught safely, reconnect with friends and classmates and they can start to work through some of these experiences with other children in a supported environment.

My team and I have been working closely with schools to make sure they are following the evidence and guidance on how to control coronavirus and keep everyone safe. Throughout the pandemic we have met regularly as guidelines and evidence has changed and we have worked to support teachers and students to remain safe in education settings and families and communities to keep them safe at home.

The main safety measures in education settings include social distancing, regular cleaning and handwashing, good ventilation, face coverings and where appropriate for close contact support access to personal protection equipment (PPE), suitable infection control procedures to ensure symptomatic children and/or staff are supported safely and quickly and now the additional measure of regular rapid testing using lateral flow devices for staff, students, families and their childcare bubbles.

Regular rapid testing is a key safety measure to support children's return to school by helping us to identify people with coronavirus infection and may not have symptoms. By everyone testing regularly we can identify cases more quickly and act faster to reduce the spread of the virus in education settings. We now know that about 1 in 3 people who have the infection do not have any symptoms, this isn't something we knew this time last year, and now we have access to lots more testing kits, testing regularly is our best way of stopping infections spreading in our schools and the wider community. It will also help to protect our most vulnerable family members, pupils and staff. The rapid testing for coronavirus is often called Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing and is now available for free to staff in primary schools and early year settings, students and staff in secondary schools, and households of children who are in any schools, including their childcare bubbles.

Your school will have been in touch about how these tests will take place, as there are some small but important differences between primary and secondary schools and higher education settings.

If you have children in secondary school, please provide consent for them to be tested and support your school by testing yourselves and encouraging children to continue testing regularly at home, as this is going to be a key part of the road map of relaxation of lockdown moving forward alongside vaccine uptake.

There are two ways for households to get LFD home testing kits:

- 1. Collect boxes of LFD home testing kits from several locations around the city.**
 - a. Collection locations can be found on the site finder tool here: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>.
 - b. Details of opening times for LFD kits collection at each location are on the site finder tool. **LFD home test kit collection times are in the afternoons.** Please note that the locations operate in the mornings as symptomatic PCR test sites.
 - c. Parents and family members of pupils who attend Birmingham schools, and staff who provide support services to schools (catering staff, school transport drivers, etc) can visit any of these locations, without an appointment and collect up to a maximum of 4 boxes of test kits for their household members.
 - d. Each box contains 7 LFD home tests that should last one person about a month based on them testing themselves twice a week.

- 2. Order test kits online here:** <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

If as a parent you are testing regularly through work twice a week then you don't need to do additional testing and as more workplaces re-open, we expect businesses to be ensuring that staff returning to the workplace are regularly testing as part of their Covid-19 safety measures.

The results of your test need to be registered on-line or by calling 119:
<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> or by calling 119.

If anyone in your household tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, you should:

- Self-isolate immediately.
- Get a PCR test to confirm the result <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or call 119.
- Follow the stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection.
- Tell the school or college of the positive test result so they can get the right advice and support from our local public health team.
- Reporting every result to NHS Test and Trace on the same day you take the test.

Please remember: a negative result with the rapid testing kits means the test did not find signs of coronavirus on the day of the test and does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, as the rapid tests are most effective at identifying when people are infectious and have lots of virus present so may miss early infection. So you should keep following all coronavirus advice including regular handwashing, social distancing and wearing a face covering where recommended.

Symptoms of coronavirus are a new and continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Although we know that some people have other symptoms, these remain the most common ones and people often have at least one of these three. You can find more information about symptoms of coronavirus in children at: www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/coronavirus-in-children/.

Our teams work with all schools to help to understand and follow the most current national guidance. The guidance may often change, and I appreciate that changes can cause confusion. Please continue to work with your school and our dedicated local teams for any enquiries or advice.

We have set up the [COVID-19 Champions](#) as a way of getting more information directly to citizens and there are now almost 800 champions across the city, we recently launched Covid Youth champions as well, so if you would like more on-going information about Covid, vaccination and changes in policy then do sign up and join the network.

We are also working with schools to support children and young people's wellbeing, as well as that of staff, as we recognise how hard this last year has been on them. A few resources which might be helpful are available on this video https://youtu.be/Kl_xyNB598M and more links are below:

- Young Minds - <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/>
- MindEd - <https://mindedforfamilies.org.uk/young-people>
- Beat (specialist charity focused on eating disorders) - <https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/>
- Birmingham Children's Partnership - <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/bcp>
- Pause Birmingham <https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/services/13-pause>
- Kooth <https://www.kooth.com/>
- Birmingham Education Partnership - <https://bep.education/>
- FRIENDS for Life programme - <https://friendsresilience.org/friendsforlife>
- Birmingham Education Support Services - <https://birminghameducationsupportservices.co.uk/>
- Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Trust - <https://bwc.nhs.uk/youve-been-missed/>

Thank you again to you and your families for all you are doing to play your part in protecting your children, our city as we all work together to stop the spread of coronavirus and hopefully build a better future for all of our children and young people in Birmingham.

Yours sincerely



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