

# FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume ~Issue 17 20/21

Infant Department: 0121-675-4040

Junior Department: 0121-675-2685

## 18th June 2021



### Dear Parents and Governors

I really hope that everyone has enjoyed the lovely weather that we have had for the last two weeks. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that we get more of it so that lots of our lovely Summer Term activities with our pupils in the last four and a half weeks can still go on in our lovely grounds!

Obviously you all know by now that we were hoping to triumphantly come out of our bubbles in school from June 21<sup>st</sup>, but that date has now been postponed to the 19<sup>th</sup> July, just two days before we break up. That will mean that we will have spent our whole academic year under 'bubble' restrictions and this has only worked because everyone, that's pupils, parents, staff and governors have committed to this, so a big thank you to our parent community for supporting us so well. In light of the postponement of that June 21<sup>st</sup> date we have had further guidance from the DFE and I refer to this in different parts of the newsletter. I do hope that all parents will realize that if events in the next few weeks do not look like they do traditionally, this is not of our making here at school, but is as of a result of the national situation we all find ourselves in.

Can I also remind all parents that we still require all adults to wear a face mask when picking up children at the end of the day. Many thanks for your co-operation.

### Staffing News

It is inevitable that from time to time we have changes in staffing at school and the end of this academic year sees us having to say goodbye to some well-known faces at Four Oaks.

After 22 years of service to the children of Four Oaks one of our teaching assistants, Mrs Penn, has decided the time has come to retire from the profession she loves. She has given her time tirelessly and passionately, for many of your children and she will miss them just as much as we will miss her and we understand how difficult it will be for her to say goodbye. We know she is looking forward to making more memories with her own children and grandchildren. We wish her the very best for the future and look forward to seeing her again at our ongoing community events.



Also moving on after 8 years of very hard work at Four Oaks is another of our teaching assistants, Mrs Bradshaw. She has decided to take her career in another direction, but is staying in education, as in September she will begin training to become a teacher, something she has been thinking about for quite a while. We wish her all the very best on her new exciting adventure and hope to see her back at Four Oaks at some point.

Six years ago Mrs Bansal came to work at Four Oaks and for that time she has been part of the fluid system of staffing in school that has enabled our staff planning and preparation time (PPA) to happen effectively. At the drop of a hat she has been able to walk into any classroom in school ranging from Reception to Year 6 and teach them at their appropriate curriculum level. She has now decided that it is time to spread her wings and find a career opportunity elsewhere and we wish her the very best of luck!

Lastly, but not leastly, in January we lost Mrs Puzey to the wonderful world of Australia and we turned to Miss Spencer to join our team. Even though she has been with us for only two terms she has done a sterling job. With the return of Miss Fowkes, Miss Spencer will move on in September to further her young career at another Sutton primary school. We wish her the very best of luck, and as a former pupil of Four Oaks I'm sure she will return at some point when we have community events.

Of course, we are not just saying goodbye to people....

We are very happy to announce that September will see the return of Miss Fowkes who left us a year ago to go on maternity leave. She can't wait to come back and be part of our team and we can't wait to welcome her! We also welcome two new members of staff in terms of teaching assistants. In Reception we will be having Mrs Barton join us, (to add to the confusion she will be our second Mrs Barton on the staff team!), and in Year 2 we will have Mrs Haslam joining us. Both of these ladies are very excited about joining our great staff team and I hope you will give them a very warm welcome in September!



### Classes for 2021-22

It is traditional at this time of the year for minds, both yours and ours, to wander onto the subject of which children will be with which teacher and teaching assistant next year.....so we are going to stop you wondering and let you know right now.

Year Group		Classes for the Year 2021-22	
Reception		Miss Glynn Bumblebees	Miss Fowkes (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ days) and Miss Appleby (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ days) Ladybirds
	TA	Mrs Goldspink and Mrs E.Barton	
Year 1		Mrs Glover (Ladybirds become Owls)	Mrs Westlake (Bumblebees become Hedgehogs)
	TA	Mrs Bissett	Mrs Finister
Year 2		Miss Wykes (Hedgehogs become Turtles)	Mrs Morris (3 days) and Mrs Jones (2 days) (Owls become Sharks)
	TA	Mrs Todd & Mrs Haslam	
Year 3		Mrs Elvins (Turtles become 3E)	Mr Boughton (Sharks become 3B)
	TA	Mrs Brown	
Year 4		Mrs Bambury (3R become 4B)	Miss Reilly (3E become 4R)
	TA	Mrs Atherton	
Year 5		Mr Cope (4C become 5C)	Mrs Smith and Mrs Tilley (4G become 5ST)
	TA	Mrs Upton and Mrs Squires	
Year 6		Miss Everitt (5SB become 6E)	Mrs Boughton (5B become 6B)
	TA	Mrs Litwinowicz and Mrs Loizou	
		Mrs L.Barton (Maths set)	

### A New Telephone System

Last Monday we had a new up to date telephone system installed at school. To make things simpler for everyone trying to contact our school we will now only have one contact number which will be 0121 675 4040. When you call this number you will be welcomed by two of our lovely school pupils who will run you through the different options there are for contacting different people. If no-one is available at school, you will have the option to leave a voice message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. I must let all parents know that all calls are recorded for safeguarding purposes. I hope this makes contacting school far more streamlined and effective.



### PTA Readathon

Today you will receive a letter about a 'PTA Read-a-thon' day that will happen on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July. This letter will give you all the details of how your children can be sponsored for taking pleasure in reading during that day in school. Here is a link that you can use to donate via PayPal: <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8AoWV9M1Te>. This will help us to finance our 'shared reading' curriculum for next year which is looking very exciting!





### Super Stars and Acorns



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



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

Bumblebees	The Whole Class
Ladybirds	The Whole Class
Owls	Giaan
Hedgehogs	Jai
Turtles	Reeva
Sharks	Ava
3E	Pippa
3R	Sonny
4C	Maya
4G	Martha
5B	Evaleen
5SB	Mykola
6E	Jack G.
6W	Gracie

Bumblebees	Noah
Ladybirds	Oliver B.
Owls	Florence
Hedgehogs	Freya
Turtles	Jack
Sharks	Charlotte
3E	Daisy
3R	Thea
4C	Oliver D
4G	Joshua
5B	Anita
5SB	Jack H
6E	Rachel
6W	Bonnie

### Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Reception	Nisharne / Milo
Year 1	Aima / Isabella
Year 2	Isabella / Penny
Year 3	James / Jayden
Year 4	Isla C. / Will
Year 5	Amreet / Leo
Year 6	Laci / Jack R.



Well done to all the winners!

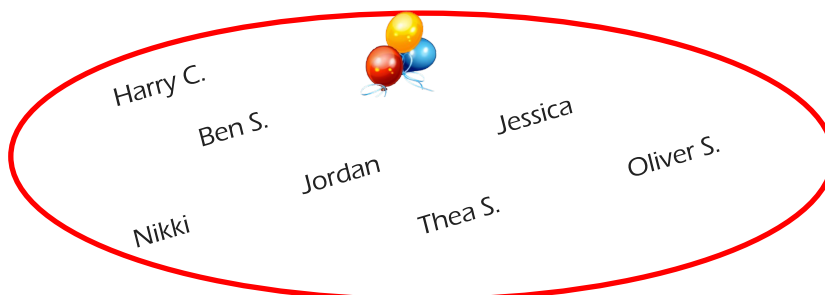
### Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Kian / Adonis
Year 1	Heidi / Danny
Year 2	Athier / Samuel
Year 3	Lily / Jai
Year 4	Connor / Kiran
Year 5	Oscar T. / Martha
Year 6	Ellen / Sophie



Well done to all the winners!

### Infant Birthdays



### Mobile Phones

A reminder to parents of our children who walk to and from school on their own, that they are allowed to bring mobile phones to school, but only for use in emergencies. I have had a couple of concerned parents saying that they have witnessed some pupils playing with them on the street and attempting to take photos of other people with them. This is obviously not the kind of behaviour we would expect and I ask all parents to reiterate this message with their own children.

### Boreatton Park - Year 5

A big thank you to all of the Year 5 parents who attended two meetings this week under COVID friendly restrictions to listen to details about the organization of our upcoming visit to PGL Boreatton Park. If any parents have any further questions about this trip please do not hesitate to get in touch with us here at school during the next two weeks. A big thank you to Mrs Elvins for running the information sessions.

## French Day - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June

Next Thursday, we are holding a French Day across the whole school. Children can come to school dressed in the French colours (blue, white, red). During the day, children will take part in a variety of French activities and they will even experience some French cuisine at dinner time! (If your child normally brings in sandwiches they can have a school meal for this one day, but it must be booked by contacting Mrs Johnson in the Junior office and paying through your school money account.)



This is a great opportunity to raise the profile of French in school and fire up children's passion for language learning and their curiosity about the French language and culture. If your child is in Reception or Year 1, they will have the opportunity to take part in their own 'Tour de France' around the school site! Children can



bring in anything to ride or scoot (whatever they have that they feel comfortable using), for example pedal bikes, balance bikes or scooters **but they must have a helmet with them, which must be worn at all times when they are on their bike or scooter.**

We are very much looking forward to this! Your class teacher will provide you with any additional information you should need.

## Sports Day News

We have our Sports Days planned for the afternoons of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July for our Junior children and Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July for our Infant children, and we will carry on with these plans. Unfortunately, in line with new guidance from the DFE that came into school on Tuesday, we will not be able to invite parents to spectate. We are really sorry about this but the rules clearly state that spectators cannot gather in groups of more than 30 - the legal gathering limit. The silver lining to this cloud is that at least the children can have their normal competitions as we have always done sports days in class groups or 'bubbles' at Four Oaks, and this does not break any rules. On these days your child will need to come to school appropriately dressed with a shirt in their house colour, a sun hat and a drink. I wonder which house will end up triumphant this year?



## Year 6 Leavers' Celebrations

Due to the extension of the current Covid regulations, and recently revised guidelines pertaining to our Local Authority risk assessment, we are now unable to put on a live performance of our Year 6 show in the hall. However, to make it a special and memorable experience, we would like to record the children's performance and then host an outdoor screening of our production, *Year 6 Blasts Through Time*. As we are only permitted to have gatherings of up to 30 people outside, we can invite one parent/carer for each child to come to one of two screenings on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July (an a.m. time to be confirmed). You will be able to watch the screening with your child and enjoy their performance together. Social distancing rules will of course apply, but at least we will be together for one last time! In order to cover the cost of the screening equipment, tickets will be £5 per family. After the performance, you are invited to tour the refurbished nature garden with your child, which Year 6 are currently working hard to improve.

In the afternoon we will also use the hired cinema equipment to show the children a film during our PTA Film Afternoon. I hope that parents understand the restrictions that we are still operating under and how we have gone the extra mile in our creative thinking in order to involve parents in this celebration. Thank you for your continued support!



In the evening the children can look forward to their party and barbeque as this can happen in and just outside the junior hall. As usual this will be a celebration for the children and a few hardy members of the PTA Committee who man the barbeque, and we will look forward to it!





### Primary Transition Cancelled by Local Authority

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June Dr. Justin Varney who heads Public Health England sent an email to all Birmingham Schools stating that all Secondary and Primary transition days cannot now happen in person as planned on 7<sup>th</sup> July, due to the increasing COVID infection numbers across Birmingham.

The implications of this are that our Year 6 pupils will not be allowed to visit their new secondary schools and we will not be allowed to welcome our new Reception pupils from their nursery and playgroup settings. Having said that, secondary schools will be providing some remote transition materials and we as a school will be putting together some remote transition materials for our new Reception pupils.

Our in-school transition day on 7<sup>th</sup> July where we had planned to move each class up to their new teacher for the day will also not happen, however we will give all children a chance to have a 45 minute reading session with their new teacher on that day as part of our PTA Read-a-Thon. This will happen outside in the fresh air where children and staff members can keep at least 2 metres apart and therefore not compromise any of our existing bubbles.



### Next Year - PE Days & Start of the Day

We would like to inform parents of two parts of our COVID school structure that we are going to keep for the next academic year.

Firstly, we will keep to the rule that all pupils will come to school dressed in their PE kit on the days that they have PE. This was introduced to reduce physical contact between pupils and staff at the height of COVID, but it has had such a positive impact in terms of time saved, and health and safety levels in corridors without PE bags being present, that we will continue with this rule. We hope that this will also help parents in terms of the amount of school uniform you will need to purchase. We would ask that all children do however come dressed in normal Four Oaks Primary School PE kit, as listed in our school prospectus, and not in their own sporting clothes!



Secondly we will continue with all of our pupils walking into school independently each morning. We will continue with the arrangement that parents will drop their children off at the main school gates, and the children will walk around our one-way system to their classroom exterior door. Each gate (Junior, Infant and Russell Bank Road) will be open for 10 minutes between 8.50am and 9am. Doing this for the last year, our children, particularly our younger pupils, have become so much more independent and it allows for a quick and calm start to the school day. Parents will obviously be allowed on site at the end of the day to collect their children.

### Sutton Coldfield Community Games

The Sutton Coldfield Community Games are back after last years' absence and will of course be following all Covid safety guidelines. The organizers have asked us to promote this event in school newsletters but please be aware that regulations around this event could change very quickly.

This year to give everyone plenty of space we will be restricting numbers and activities each day to 2000 people and 35 activities. It will also be ticketed and we will be charging £2.50 per person for entry with 3 years of age and under free. Medals are still free for all participants and along with lots of volunteers, our mascot Buddy and bucket loads of smiles, we will be doing our very best to help everyone have a great community afternoon.

If you have any questions or queries at all please do not hesitate to ask

Tickets are available via

Facebook @communitygamescic

Website [www.suttongames.co.uk](http://www.suttongames.co.uk)

Internet <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/BBOP>

### Reception Trip

Reception had a great time on their trip to Cannock Chase. It was lovely to be able to get back to school trips again! Thank you to all the parent helpers who made the trip possible.

### IT Technician Vacancy

The LTE (Learning Trust for Excellence) has a vacancy for a grade 3 IT Technician at present and is looking to appoint a talented and committed IT professional to work at Hollyfield Primary and Little Sutton Primary. The details of this opportunity, including job advert, job description, person specification and application form can be found on our school website under the 'Our School / Vacancies' tab. If any of our families know of anyone who would be interested in this position and joining our very happy LTE team then please pass the details on.

### YMES—Music Lessons Next Year

Attached to this newsletter is a letter from YMES regarding learning to play a musical instrument next year. Three instruments are available: guitar, violin or keyboard. These lessons take place during school time with a peripatetic teacher. The lessons are available to all children in **Year 2 and above** next year. If you wish your child to start lessons please sign up using their portal, if your child already has lessons enrolment will be automatic for next year unless you contact YMES directly to cancel.



### Y5 Parents - Birmingham Grammar Schools - Entry to Year 7 in September 2022

We would like to advise present Year 5 parents that they can now register their child for the optional entrance test for any Birmingham Grammar School by applying online before 4pm on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The test will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021. To register, parents need to visit [www.birminghamgrammarschools.org](http://www.birminghamgrammarschools.org)

### School Absences

Can I remind parents again that if your child has a medical appointment you need to advise the school office rather than the teachers and also provide us with a copy of the appointment notice either electronically or send a hard copy into school. Also as parents are aware I am unable to authorise absences for holiday during term time however if you do wish to take your child out of school an Absence Request Form must be completed **prior to the absence**. This form can be found under the parent tab on our website. Thank you.

### Improving Our Outdoor Areas



The PTA had a great renovation day on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June, a further session will take place this Saturday—19<sup>th</sup> June from 9am. They are looking for as many volunteers as possible to help dig, weed, fix and build. Please come along if you can spare a couple of hours.



### ICT Tip of the Week

*Cryptocurrencies are digital or virtual currencies that use cryptography as a means of security. Bitcoin is probably the most popular but many more exist and you may see ads or receive requests to invest. As always, if you choose to proceed, you should do so with extreme caution and fully research what you are getting into. Most traders making contact with people and promising huge profits are usually scammers.*

- *If you choose to invest you should always have control of your cryptocurrency wallet. If you didn't set the wallet up yourself or can't access the money in the wallet, this most likely going to be a scam. You should stop making payments immediately.*
- *Many cryptocurrency sellers are not registered with the UK Financial Conduct Authority. Always use a firm that is on the Registered or Temporarily Registered FCA lists which can be found on the FCA website. You should ensure that you fully understand the risks and that if you invest and it turns out to be a scam you may lose all of your money.*

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

Mr M Benton  
Head Teacher



YMES is pleased to provide small group/1-to-1 lessons on a number of instruments at Four Oaks.

This letter provides details of these lessons for new starters. Current learners do not need to re-enrol and (with the exception of year 6s) will continue automatically unless you advise us otherwise.

Learning a musical instrument is a great opportunity which is fun and rewarding. It's a fantastic skill to develop and is proven to help young people's wider learning.

YMES coordinates all administration and billing for these lessons. Lessons take place during the normal school day and in a full academic year we usually visit for 36 weeks.

Instrument Options (all year 2 upwards)

• Guitar

• Violin

• Keyboard

Lesson Packages and Charges

We offer three different lesson packages. In our group lessons, 2-3 pupils will typically share a 20 minute lesson. We also offer 1-to-1 lesson packages which allow lessons to be more tailored and a faster rate of progress to be achieved. The charges for these lessons are as follows:

Small group lessons - £7.20 per lesson.

20 minute 1-to-1 lessons - £12.70 per lesson.

30 minute 1-to-1 lessons - £19.00 per lesson.

Cost Assistance

Four Oaks is able to provide support with the cost lessons for pupil premium pupils. This means there will be no charge for eligible families. Please select this option on the enrolment form if applicable.

Payment Plans

Lessons are committed to and paid for by direct debit in advance. We have two payment plans to suit your circumstances with no difference in overall costs between the two. Our monthly direct debit splits the annual cost across 10 instalments. Our termly direct debit plan splits it across 3 instalments. The instalments are detailed overleaf.

Instruments

Pupils will need an instrument for lessons, and to practise on at home. Instruments could be bought or hired and we can provide advice on appropriate models/sizes and where to purchase/rent from. You will most likely also need to purchase a tuition book, details of which will be provided by the teacher once lessons commence. Please note that YMES requires a minimum number of pupils for each instrument option to run, so you are advised to wait for this confirmation before purchasing/renting your instrument.

Enrolment

Enrolment is via our easy online form. Just visit:

<https://portal.ymes.org.uk/foak>

If you would like your child to take part in these lessons, please complete the form as soon as possible so that timetabling can begin.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to get in touch via email at [foak@ymes.org.uk](mailto:foak@ymes.org.uk).

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DMJ", is written above the name David Major.

**David Major**  
Managing Director

**For payment plans for instrumental lessons at Four Oaks Primary School 2021-22 please see next page.**



## Monthly Direct Debit

There are 36 teaching weeks each year. The monthly payment plan splits the total annual cost evenly over 10 instalments.

		<u>Group Lessons</u>	<u>1-to-1 (20 mins)</u>	<u>1-to-1 (30 mins)</u>
Instalment 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	£25.92	£45.72	£68.40
Instalment 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> August	£25.92	£45.72	£68.40
Instalment 3	2 <sup>nd</sup> September	£25.92	£45.72	£68.40
Instalment 4	2 <sup>nd</sup> October	£25.92	£45.72	£68.40
Instalment 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> November	£25.92	£45.72	£68.40
Instalment 6	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	£25.92	£45.72	£68.40
Instalment 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> January	£25.92	£45.72	£68.40
Instalment 8	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	£25.92	£45.72	£68.40
Instalment 9	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	£25.92	£45.72	£68.40
Instalment 10	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	£25.92	£45.72	£68.40

## Termly Direct Debit

There are 36 teaching weeks each year. The termly payment plan splits the total annual cost evenly over 3 instalments.

		<u>Group Lessons</u>	<u>1-to-1 (20 mins)</u>	<u>1-to-1 (30 mins)</u>
Instalment 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> July	£86.40	£152.40	£228.00
Instalment 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> November	£86.40	£152.40	£228.00
Instalment 3	2 <sup>nd</sup> March	£86.40	£152.40	£228.00