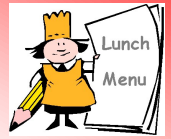


FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Next week—Menu 3

10th September 2021

Dear Parents and Governors



A big welcome back to everyone. It really was lovely last Friday to welcome back all of our children from Year 1 to Year 6. They walked through the gates in the morning with huge smiles on their faces and looking super smart in their school uniforms. It was so refreshing to begin to get back to something like normal, which involved having our first Infant and Junior assemblies since March 2020 and having a shared lunchtime with no year group bubbles where children were allowed to sit wherever they liked and even pick their own cutlery...Wow! It is amazing how many normal little things that we will re-introduce will feel like real luxuries! And on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week we met the newest members of our Four Oaks family when our 60 new Reception children began school. Let's just hope that these new found freedoms last and we do not have to re-introduce any restrictions to our friendly and welcoming school site.

Staffing News



I'm writing to you now with both sad news for school, but happy news for a member of staff. During the Summer break Mr. Boughton decided that he wants to spread his wings and tackle a new exciting professional challenge. He has been successful in gaining a post at the Shrubbery School to teach sport, and will start in his new position in January 2022.

I'm sure you will all agree with me in saying how sad we will be to see him leave the Four Oaks family, but also how exciting it must be for him to be able to grasp an exciting new opportunity, and we all wish him well. Can I take this opportunity to reassure all parents of pupils in 3B that Mr. Boughton will be 100% committed to his class, and Four Oaks Primary School, for the entirety of this Autumn Term, which should enable us to spread our net far and wide in the search for a high-quality member of staff to join our Four Oaks team. We will of course keep parents up to date with developments throughout this term, as we make our decisions, which will always be in the best interests of the most important people, the children.

Present COVID-19 Guidelines

We felt it would be helpful to clearly set out the COVID-19 guidelines that still apply to school life as many parents are still saying they are unsure.

COVID Symptoms and Testing

If any child shows any COVID symptoms whilst in school we are still required to contact parents immediately and ask them to take their child for a PCR test, however your child can return to school whilst awaiting results if they are well enough. If your child's result is positive, then they will have to isolate for 10 days and can return to school on the 11th day. If their test result is negative, then they can remain in school.

If we do have a child who has been in school who tests positive, then since August 19th it has no longer been the case that school will send a whole year group bubble home. If your child tests positive, then you as a parent will have a conversation with NHS Test and Trace, and between you you will decide who any close contacts have been. At this point school may be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and we will communicate with parents at that point. Any close contacts will then be asked to take a PCR test and if the result is negative they can stay in school.

If another member of your family tests positive then any Four Oaks pupils can still come to school, and do not have to isolate for 10 days, as long as they take a PCR test and the result is negative. This system is designed to reduce the number of school days lost for all pupils.

Parents on Site

We have already clearly communicated to parents that only pupils are allowed on site at the start of the school day. Unless attending an intervention (parents of these children will have been sent a letter detailing the intervention), pupils can't come onto site until 8.50am and the gates will close at 9am. During the pandemic our children have become so much more independent in the morning by coming onto site with their friends, and we see no reason to change this. If parents wish to communicate with school at the start of the day, then please phone the school office on 0121 675 4040.

At the start of the day both gates on Edge Hill Road and the gate at the bottom of the gulley from Russell Bank Road will be open and pupils can come onto site between 8.50am and 9am as stated above. At the end of the day these same three entrances will be unlocked at around 3.10pm but we would ask parents to stand back from the building if classes are still completing any PE sessions at this point.

If parents need to collect children for any reason during the day (dental or medical appointments), please use the intercom at the gate and you will be allowed to come into the office reception areas. We would ask that you wear a mask when doing this to protect both yourselves and staff.

We are no longer asking all parents to wear a face mask outside, but if parents feel they would still like to, this is more than acceptable, and we would ask all parents to respect everyone else's personal space. Once you have collected your children we would still ask all parents to not stand around and chat, but to move off site calmly and quickly, thus minimizing any chance of large crowds gathering....we still all need to be careful and look after each other.

A Big Thank You

I wanted to take the chance to say a huge thank you to our PTA for all of their help in the Summer Term to transform the Enchanted Woodland at the rear of the Infant field.

Another huge vote of thanks must go to one of our very supportive parents Mr. Kevin Perry, who has given both manpower and time from his company to clear the woodland area and create some wonderful wooden furniture for the children. His company, 'CTS Environmental Management' specialize in the management of trees gaining a reputation as quality arborists and tree surgeons who do a wide variety of work for both businesses and private residential customers. His generosity did not stop here though as just before the children returned he helped to clear the school garden behind our Year 6 classrooms. This will now enable our older pupils to develop this garden space and make it another learning area on a sustainable footing. Many thanks to Kevin.



Tel: 0121 748 1071 | Mob: 07734 875 635
Email: kevin@ctsmanagement.co.uk

Y5/Y6 Children Walking Home Alone

We will only allow children in Year 5 or Year 6 to walk home on their own if parents have sent a letter into school giving their specific permission. We cannot allow this to happen under any other circumstances and a telephone conversation or email will not suffice.



Super Stars and Acorns



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

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Bumblebees	The Whole Class
Ladybirds	The Whole Class
Owls	Mati
Hedgehogs	Beatrix
Turtles	The Whole Class
Sharks	The Whole Class
3B	Lilly-Mae S.
3E	Rhett
4B	Aarun
4R	Zachary
5C	Zoha
5ST	Luca
6B	The Whole Class
6E	The Whole Class

Reception

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 6

Isaac M. / Luna

Oliver B. / Elliot

Sara-Sopia / Aima

James / Oliver J.

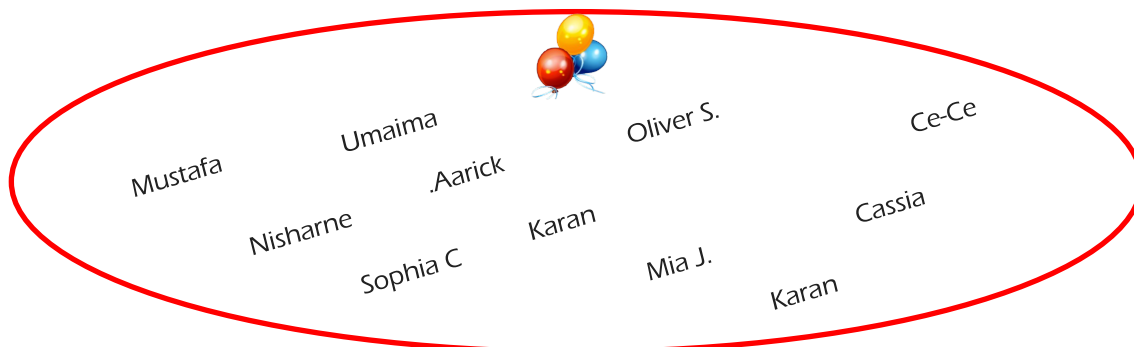
Aneka / Thea Card.

Georgina / Maelynn

Jessica / Mykola



Infant Birthdays



Lost Property

We have decided to take a radical step in relation to lost property in order to cut down on a terrible amount of wasted money. Every year we try to instil into the children the value of looking after personal possessions, particularly their school uniform. We also inform parents at very regular intervals about where they can search through lost property and yet every year we end up with mountains of lost clothing, the vast majority of which have no names written in.

This year we have done away with our lost property collection points. We will still instil in children the urgency to look after items and will endeavour on a daily basis to return items to children however this can only happen if items are named, however at the end of each week, any items that have been left unclaimed or left outside in the varying weather conditions will be disposed of.

A plea to all parents... the easiest way to help you children look after their uniform is to either write or attach their name into every item, including shoes.



School App

A reminder to all parents but especially any new parents to make sure they have downloaded our school app. This is our main form of communication with all parents. Thank you.



Nasal Flu Vaccine

Forms will be sent out next week to all parents regarding the nasal flu vaccine which will take place on 13th October. Could we please ask all parents to return these forms to school by **29th September** at the latest. Thank you.

Birthday Books

All parents will have received a letter last week outlining our new 'Birthday Books' scheme. In the past some pupils have brought in sweets for their classmates on the occasion of their birthdays. In order to both make our school a healthier school and increase the number of quality texts in school we would now like parents to buy a book for their child to donate to the class when they celebrate their birthday. The letter we sent all parents gives them a list of appropriate books to choose from and we hope the children will really enjoy unwrapping a present for all their friends.



Garrick Pantomime

Two years ago we decided as a school that it would be lovely to take the whole school to the Lichfield Garrick Theatre to watch a pantomime...then COVID-19 intervened! Now that restrictions have been lifted we still intend to see this through and so on Wednesday 15th December we intend to take all 420 children to see Peter Pan! We are letting you know as we know lots of families like to go to the pantomime around Christmas and didn't want you to double book...obviously if you really love pantomime, then what could be better than a double helping!



YMES—Music Lessons



Music lessons with YMES will begin next week. Please can parents note that for this term Guitar lesson will now be on **WEDNESDAY**. Keyboard and violin will remain on a Thursday. Can you please ensure that your child brings their music and instrument (if applicable) with them on the appropriate day. Thank you.

Extra Curricular Activities

I have attached to this newsletter a copy of the extra curricular activities school will be running in the Autumn Term.

Copies of Newsletters

We are sending out hard copies of this newsletter to our new Reception children. In future this can be accessed through our website or using our School Jotter app. If you received a paper copy last year we will assume you want one this year however if you no longer require a paper copy please contact Mrs Underwood in the Infant office.

Welcome Back Leaflet—Birmingham City Council

We have been asked to distribute a welcome back leaflet from Birmingham City Council and have therefore attached this to the newsletter.

Parking on Russell Bank Road

I'm sorry to have to do this, but can I remind parents about being considerate towards our neighbours when they park on Russell Bank Road. We have only had all of our gates open for six days and I have already had complaints from irate residents. Please do not park across driveways, and please understand that no-one is legally allowed to park on the edge of traffic roundabouts, however small. Many thanks for your consideration.

ICT Tip of the Week

We all need to use passwords to keep our online accounts secure, and it is just the same for children on their favourite apps, sites and games. It is important to use strong, secure passwords and to keep them safe.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/news/how-to-create-strong-passwords-online/>

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

Mr M Benton
Head Teacher

Extra-Curricular Activities – Autumn Term 2021					
	Activity	Staff	Location	Time	Yrs
Monday	Gymnastics	Premier Sports / Miss Appleby	Infant Hall	3.20 – 4.20pm	1/2
	French	Le Club Francais	Junior Library	3.30 – 4.30pm	3/4/5/6
	Year 5/6 Production	Mrs Smith and Mrs Bambury	Junior Hall	3.30 – 5.30pm	5/6
Tuesday	Gymnastics	Premier Sports / Miss Appleby	Infant Hall	3.30 – 4.30pm	3/4/5/6
	French	Le Club Francais	Acorn Suite	12.00 – 12.30pm	2
	X-Country	Mr Boughton	Junior Field	12.10 – 12.30pm	3/4/5/6
	French	Le Club Francais	Junior Library	3.30 – 4.30pm	3/4/5/6
	Netball	Mrs Goldspink and Hayley Myles	Junior Hall	3.30 – 4.45pm	1/2/3
	Gardening Club	Miss Wykes and Miss Everitt	6E and Garden	3.30 – 4.30pm	3/4/5/6
Wednesday	French	Le Club Francais	Acorn Suite	12.00 – 12.30pm	1
	French	Le Club Francais	Junior Library	3.30 – 4.30pm	3/4/5/6
Thursday	Netball	Mrs Goldspink and Hayley Myles	Infant Hall	3.30 – 4.45pm	4/5/6
	Year 5/6 Production	Mrs Smith and Mrs Bambury	Junior Hall	3.30 – 5.30pm	5/6
Friday	Gymnastics	Premier Sports / Miss Appleby	Infant Hall	3.20 – 4.20	R
	Dance	Dance 'n' beats	Junior Hall	3.30 – 4.30	?
	Football	Four Oaks School of Soccer	Junior Field	3.30 – 5.00	5/6
Science Ambassadors / Y6 Rotary Award Pupils / School Council		Mrs Morris, Mrs Elvins and Miss Appleby will let all pupils involved know when to meet as			
Instrument Lessons		Various in-school sessions across both Key Stages.			
<u>The start dates of these activities will be announced by the adults running them.</u>					

Welcome back

For a safe return to education for Primary school

Update and
information for
parents



1

If your child has been identified as a close contact, they should continue to attend school as normal

2

If possible please get a PCR test if identified as a close contact

3

Your child does not need to remain in a bubble

4

Staff are required to take twice weekly home tests

5

Your school will no longer trace close contacts

6

Your child will not be included in the rapid testing programme