

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Next Week—Menu 3

12th November 2021

Dear Parents and Governors

A welcome back to everyone after our half-term break. Just before we came back to school all the clocks went back by an hour and I would like to ask all parents of any children who are attending after-school activities to please take extra care when going home. It's much darker now and we want to make sure everyone is safe. If your child is in Year 5 or Year 6 and walks home on their own please talk to them about crossing roads safely and maybe invest in some reflective strips to attach to coats and bags.

A RECURRING SAFEGUARDING ISSUE - Squid Game

I yet again would like to ask for help from all school parents over an issue which is causing growing problems in school. It seems that the most popular television program in the world at the moment is a show on Netflix called 'Squid Game'. I am not going to go into details about its content in this newsletter, suffice to say that it is totally inappropriate for any of our children. It has a 15 rating and yet many of our children are coming in to school and talking openly about having watched it, often on their own in their bedrooms, and then they are talking about and re-creating violent scenarios from it in the playground.

I did ask parents in our last newsletter to take the responsible stance of safeguarding children and not allow them to watch inappropriate content on-line at any time, and yet we still have this issue in school and still have children as young as 6 who are openly stating that they are allowed to watch this inappropriate programme by their parents.

We also want to make parents aware that there are also computer adaptations of 'Squid Game' on Ro-Blox and Minecraft where people are building 'Squid Game' style worlds to play in.

Thank you for your support on this matter.

Professor McGinty in School



Our Year 3 and Year 4 children had a fantastic time this week working with our time travelling historian Professor McGinty. Together they travelled back thousands of years to the time of the Ancient Egyptians, and then back a mere couple of hundred years to the time of the Victorians. The children came away from these sessions with huge smiles on their faces and an enriched knowledge of their foundation curriculum topics, so a huge thank you to all parents who financed this experience through voluntary contributions.



School Photographs

Our school photography team had a successful day on Tuesday of this week and will now go away and process all of the photographs, returning soon to school with proof copies for parents to peruse. Please keep your eyes peeled for news of how to order sets of these photos, which I know will be treasured, in future newsletters.

A Trip to Tiny Town

Our Reception children will be taking part in their first school trip of the year when they visit 'Tiny Town'. Bumblebees will go on Tuesday 16th November and Ladybirds will go on Wednesday 17th November. This will help to support their learning in their topic about what happens in the wider working world. They will look at people who help us, high street jobs and think about what they would like to do when they are older. The children will come away from this experience with an enriched knowledge of their EYFS curriculum so a huge thank you to all parents who financed this experience through voluntary contributions, and who volunteered to go.



Our School Governors

In an effort to highlight all areas of school life we have asked our school governors to write a short pen-portrait about themselves, so that we can include them in our school newsletters over the course of the year. I'm pleased to introduce Tony Briggs who is our Vice-Chair.

Hello, my name is Tony Briggs

I was born in Pinner, Middlesex in 1961. It was and still is I believe a quiet suburb of Harrow, and according to Google Maps is 12 miles Northwest of Charing Cross. My parents moved to Thornton, Leicestershire in 1979. I moved to Four Oaks in 1998 after meeting my wife to be on a Skiing trip in Courchevel 1850, France 1997. The time in-between was spent working with both the Territorial and Regular Army undertaking various roles.

I have two boys who both attended Four Oaks, my eldest Jonathan has just started his second year at Warwick University reading Maths, and David who is in his last year of A levels at Arthur Terry. I became involved with the school after my Wife had been to the PTA induction evening....It is always nice to be volunteered for these things! I have memories of my time with the PTA doing BBO's at the Summer Fair, Leavers' Parties and the Christmas Fair and building Santa's Grotto, with many a happy hour spent at the Discos in the Tuck Shop. When I was told about a vacancy on the Governing Body I stood and was duly elected, I have sat as Chair of Governors and am currently serving as Vice Chair, Safeguarding Governor and I am on the Resources Committee.

This current time of Covid has been hard for everyone, especially all the teaching staff, and in my opinion they have all gone above and beyond, in what most people would say is not the easiest of professions. I give my admiration to the school staff and will continue to support them in any way I can through the Governing body and my role as a Town Councillor, and I know that all the Governors feel the same way.

Nut Free School

Can I please remind everyone that we are a nut free school. When sending snacks into school with packed lunches can you please ensure that there are no nuts contained within them, for example Nutella or some cereal bars that can contain nuts. We do have a few students who are highly allergic to nuts and we have to ensure their safety. Thank you.



Anti-Bullying Week

The week from 15th to 19th November is national anti-bullying week and the children in school will be talking around this theme during their school week. This ties in naturally to our 'No Outsiders' stance that we take in school. We have always stated, and will continue to promote the idea, that absolutely every child and family is welcome here at Four Oaks Primary, no matter what their religion, cultural background, country of birth, skin colour, family structure, sexual orientation or beliefs.....there are no outsiders here at Four Oaks!

KES Maths Competition

On Friday 26th November our Year 4 team of mathematicians will be heading off to King Edwards Edgbaston with Mr. Benton to compete against teams from other primary schools across Birmingham in a test of their mathematical know-how. We wish Etta, Seb, Annabel and Taran the best of luck!

The Kindness Tree Award

We have launched a new award this half term to promote random acts of kindness throughout our school. Children can be spotted at any time by any adult and nominated for the award. They will then be able to hang a symbol of kindness on the kindness tree. There will be one winner each week from the Infant and Junior departments who can share their good deed to inspire others.



In a world where you can be anything ...Be Kind

Book Fayre

Can we say a HUGE thank you to everyone who came and bought a book (or many books!) at our Book Fayre. We raised about £800 on commission to spend on books for school an amazing result! Mrs Glover is looking forward to spending the money on books across all year groups. Thank you.





Super Stars and Acorns



Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Muhammed
Ladybirds	Toby
Owls	Isaac B.
Hedgehogs	Nisharne
Turtles	Freya
Sharks	Jack
3B	Jacob M
3E	Jacob L
4B	Benjamin
4R	Erin
5C	Amirah
5ST	Rosie
6B	The Whole Class
6E	The Whole Class

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

Bumblebees	Karan
Ladybirds	Shaan
Owls	Theo
Hedgehogs	Sulayman
Turtles	Saffron
Sharks	Sophia
3B	Charly C. / Lily
3E	James
4B	Paige
4R	Ava
5C	Holly
5ST	Anna
6B	Leo
6E	Guhan

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Reception	Olivia /Rose
Year 1	Isaac E. / Zachary
Year 2	Poppy H. / Aaryan
Year 3	Charlotte / Charlie L-M
Year 4	Khadijah / Pippa
Year 5	Harry C. / Harry H.
Year 6	Not awarded



Well done to all the winners!

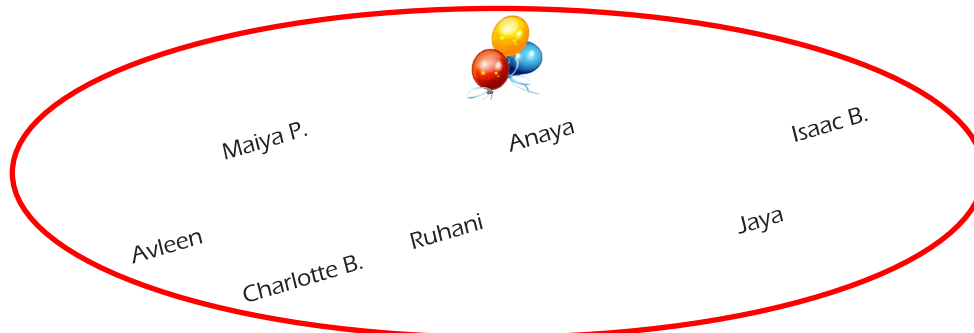
Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Mia J. / Thea
Year 1	Ismaeel / Caesar
Year 2	Daya S./Daia B.
Year 3	Penny / Lottie
Year 4	Julia / Thea (4R)
Year 5	Eva / Gabriel
Year 6	Henry / Jessica (6E)



Well done to all the winners!

Infant Birthdays



Kindness Tree Award

Last week Infants: Ryan K (Sharks)
 Last week Juniors: Not awarded
 This week Infants: Isaac Mc (Bumblebees)
 This week Juniors: Aimee W (6E)



Alison Mander—Kindness award

For last half term it was awarded to:

Infants— Rose L. (Ladybirds)

Juniors— Penny M. (3B)



For our new parents this is an award that was created due to the kindness of a past pupil Alison Mander who sadly passed away in 2016. Her wish was to set up an award for children who showed natural, instinctive kindness and with the help of her family this award is now presented on a half termly basis.

Year 4 Swimming



The last two weeks have seen the children in 4B and 4R taking part in their swimming sessions at Wyndley Swimming Baths. Next week selected children will complete our three weeks of swimming and have an extra opportunity to move forward with what are life-long skills! We aspire to have every child swim 25m before they leave Four Oaks Primary School.

Author Visit

The 23rd November will see a visit to school by famous children's picture book author Petr Horacek. He will be spending the day not only chatting to the Infant children about his beautiful books, but also creating a permanent piece of art work with our Year 1 pupils, which he will leave behind in school, and we will put on display in the Infant Hall. We are all really looking forward to this event and it is yet another example of how here at Four Oaks we put the promotion of reading at the forefront of everything for our children! We will soon be sending out information about Petr's lovely books which he will bring with him on the day and which you will be able to pre-order, so watch this space!

Reception Parents Induction Questionnaire

We have sent home paper copies of this document for our Reception parents to complete and return to school. We did send this out electronically on our school app but have not had many replies sent back. By completing this it will supply us with vital feedback about the support we offer our new families, and indicate to us whether we need to make any alterations to our systems relating to welcoming our youngest children. We would really appreciate it if our Reception parents would send these back to school ASAP. Many thanks for your support!

Christmas Arrangements

Even though we are not in a lockdown situation this year, it is obvious that we still have a continuing situation where we have regular positive cases of COVID occurring throughout our school community. In light of this we will not be able to operate a normal Christmas in school in terms of being able to invite parents into school to watch mass Christmas events. Instead we are planning to follow our very successful plan from last year and film our children performing for you so that you can access our yuletide fun through our school website. Over the next few weeks both the staff and children will be working very hard to practise their festive celebrations so that everyone can enjoy them just before we break up for the Christmas holidays.



Lichfield Cathedral Carol Concert / Good Hope Hospital Carol Singing

The traditional event at Lichfield Cathedral where all of the Cluster schools perform a carol concert together has been cancelled again, as this event poses far too many risks to everyone's health and safety. Instead of this, Mrs. Smith has organized that our school singing group, who would have performed at Lichfield Cathedral, will instead get the chance to sing as a group outdoors at Good Hope Hospital. This event will happen on Tuesday 14th December between 1pm and 2pm, and children involved will get a letter very soon asking parents for a very small voluntary contribution towards transport costs.



Lost Property

Our new approach to lost property this year seems to be paying dividends. We are having far fewer items left around school and the majority of those that we are picking up have got names in them and so are able to be returned to their rightful owners. Could I continue to ask all parents to make sure that they do put names in their children's uniforms as we know how much these items cost to buy.





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Smartie Challenge

Thank you so much for sending back your cash filled Smartie tubes and for donating online. The final deadline is Friday 12th November- the online donation will stay open until midnight on Friday for any last-minute entries. Once the donations have been counted, the winning classes will be announced.



Four Oaks Primary School PTA Christmas Fair



We are delighted to announce that our Christmas Fayre is back! This year's FOPS 'Christmas Miracle' will take place on Saturday 4th December from 3pm-6pm.

This time, your favourite traditional festive stalls and games will be outdoors, to keep everyone safe. With marquee cover, twinkling lights and Christmas music, you can enjoy 3 hours of festive family fun, whilst raising money to support your children in school. Hot food, hot and cold drinks and sweet treats will be available and if you're walking home, enjoy a tipple from our well stocked bar.



Our truly magical Santa's Grotto (with some very special elves) will delight your children. To reassure you, as the grotto will be the only part of the event which is indoors, social distancing will be maintained. Santa insists on everyone's safety! (Pre booked time slots for Santa online opens Saturday 13th November).



As always, your help makes this happen. Please sign up for 30 minutes on a stall by visiting <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/four-oaks-primary/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=42646#.YY1BxNbP1sM>

www.pta-events.co.uk

Film and PJ Night—16th December.



This fundraising event for our children is planned on Thursday 16th December straight after school in the Infant and Junior halls. School Council members have been busy polling the children on their favourite films. If you would like your child to attend this event, tickets will soon be on sale at £3.50 per child, via the PTA events website. For Infants it will be 3:20pm - 5:00pm and for Juniors, 3:30pm-5:10pm. If

your child is attending this event, you only need to collect them at the end of the event, as they will be escorted from their classrooms at the end of the school day, to the hall by school staff. If your child would like to wear a onesie or their pyjamas to relax in, please send them in a labelled bag for them to get changed into at the end of the school day.



ICT Tip of the Week

Not all publicly available Wi-Fi hotspots are secure. Criminals can intercept your data, even if you access an app without retyping your password. Your device will send your password details over Wi-Fi and this information could be intercepted. Make sure the Wi-Fi you connect to is secure. Don't use public Wi-Fi for doing anything you wouldn't want a criminal to see, such as online banking, accessing emails, or anything that requires a username or password. 3G, 4G or 5G data connections are a better option if you're not sure the Wi-Fi is secure. Data passed via 3G, 4G and 5G is encrypted.

You can also use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) when connecting to public Wi-Fi hotspots. A VPN will encrypt information you send.

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

Mr M Benton
Head Teacher