

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Telephone Number: 0121-675-4040

www.fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk

Volume ~Issue 6 20/21



Next Week—Menu 1

26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Governors

COVID

Once more can I stress the importance of letting us know if any children have any Covid symptoms at home. Can I also reiterate that the advice we have been given is that the lateral flow tests (those that are conducted at home) do not give reliable results on primary aged children and therefore we would ask that if your child has **any** symptoms that you take them for a PCR test. We still have many positive cases amongst our school community and we want to do everything we can to stop the spread of germs. At present we also have multiple members of staff isolating, so please bear with us if we are not as efficient as normal in responding to any queries, or if your child does not have their usual teacher in front of them. Thanks for your patience!

Petr Horacek Visit

What a wonderful day the Infant children had this Wednesday when famous children's picture book author Petr Horacek came to visit. The children had a great time listening to Petr talk about his life as an author and then Year 1 had an exciting afternoon creating lovely art work that will remain with us in school. We hope they enjoy reading their lovely picture books at home with you!



Four Oaks Primary School PTA Christmas Fair

Saturday 4th December

Games and stalls 3-5pm, food and drink continues 'til 6pm



We are all looking forward to families coming together, safely outdoors for fun and festive cheer! Games, prizes, our magical Santa's Grotto, a well stocked bar, hot drinks, mulled wine, hot chocolate, cakes, hot dogs, hampers and new this year, hand-made wood fired pizzas from 'Cart and Carriage Events'. The list goes on...

Hampers—Thank you so much for the fantastic response to the plea for hamper gifts. We have plenty for the children's hamper, so now need some for the **adult hamper**. If you are able to donate, please label your gift 'hamper' and drop into school office by 2nd December.

Wednesday 1st December-non-uniform day. Your child can wear something Christmassy on this day. In return, please bring in a teddy or soft toy and/ or a bottle of something delicious and the PTA will organise them for the teddy and bottle stalls. If it's a PE day, children can wear something Christmassy over their PE kit and this will be fine.

Cash - Please remember to bring **cash** to the Fayre. Card payments will be available at the bar, but all other stalls and games are cash.

Santa's Grotto—If you still need to book your **Santa's Grotto** visit, please do so at

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/four-oaks-primary/#.YZ5LcNbP3-Z>



Helpers—We need a few more helpers to make this run smoothly, so please sign up on the website.

Tech plea - we need some tech to be able to run our chip and pin devices, for this and future events. If anyone has an Apple device running IOS 10+ or Android 5.0+ that they are willing to donate to the PTA, we would be extremely grateful.

Cup Cake Competition—details later in the newsletter on how to become star baker!

Finally, if you are able to help set up or clear away on the day, that would be fantastic.

We can't do this without you.



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 Debbie Jones our SEN and Science Governor.

Hello, my name is Debbie Jones

I joined the teaching staff at Four Oaks in 2008 and worked in upper KS2. My passion was Primary Science and during the time I was at school, I became a Fellow of the Primary Science Teaching Trust. I went on to work for them as an Area Mentor in the Midlands after leaving school in 2015 and have recently retired from that role.

I continue to be actively involved in Science in the area and work as an Independent Consultant for Edina Trust - a charity which gives money to Primary schools for science in eligible authorities (sadly, not Birmingham)!

I was delighted to be asked to become a co-opted member of our Governing Body two years ago and told the Governing Body, "I was always so happy working at Four Oaks and valued the support of my colleagues, parents and pupils that I am pleased to have the opportunity to give something back!"

I am always busy and have two adult children and love spending time with my family and making memories with my grandchildren, walking my dog, gardening and keeping in touch with friends. I have already been into school this term to be effective and supportive in my role as SEN and Science Governor.

Mrs. Rowberry

We look forward to welcoming our new member of staff in Year 3 Mrs. Rowberry into school on 6th and 7th December. These two days are part of her transition from her present school to Four Oaks Primary where she will take over the role of class teacher for 3B in January when Mr. Boughton leaves for pastures new. I know the children in Year 3 will make her very welcome!

School Photographs

Proofs of the individual and sibling photos have now been sent out for parents to peruse. These can be ordered online at www.academyphotos.co.uk or return the proof back to school with a cheque or the correct money enclosed in the envelope provided. Please note the deadline for orders is **Wednesday 1st December**.

Data Sheets and Language Updates Years 1-6

Data sheets and a form about collecting and recording data on English as an additional language will be coming out to all parents of Year 1-6 children. Could we please ask that you check the data sheets carefully and make any alterations that are needed. Please also complete the form regarding English as an additional language and return both forms to school as soon as possible. Please return the data form even if no alterations are required. Thank you.

Cup Cake Competition

Fancy your chances of being a star baker? Then enter our Christmas cupcake competition! Please refer to the letter that went out in your child's bag last week. Bring your entries in on Friday 3rd December by 2pm for judging. Your delicious creations will then be sold at the Fayre the following day. All entries must be nut free and a list of ingredients supplied please.



Russell Bank Road

I have had more than one parent come to see me this week to complain about the situation at the island on Russell Bank Road after school. Apparently there are children from the Junior Department running across, and playing games on, the traffic island whilst their parents stand by and chat to each other. I must stress that once parents collect children from classrooms that they are their own responsibility and we would all feel terrible if there was a horrible accident on the roads involving any of our children.

Christmas Card Orders

All the children have now come home with a proof of their fantastic art work that they created for their Christmas cards. A reminder that you need to order these online and that they will then be delivered straight to your door! The more sales we get the more money we will have to spend on some lovely art supplies for the children.





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	The Whole Class / Adam
Ladybirds	The Whole Class / Daisy
Owls	Edie
Hedgehogs	Shan
Turtles	Surbani
Sharks	Elena
3B	Charly C
3E	Jessica C.
4B	Harry
4R	The Whole Class
5C	Lily
5ST	Harry C.
6B	Oscar
6E	Lewis

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

Bumblebees	Benyamin
Ladybirds	Ranvir
Owls	Martha
Hedgehogs	Alexa
Turtles	Freddie
Sharks	Callum
3B	Jovan
3E	Alayna
4B	The Whole Class / Esme E.
4R	William
5C	Ted
5ST	Kiran
6B	Lily H.
6E	Louis

Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Reception	Aavai / Hugo
Year 1	Carys / Millie
Year 2	Xavier / Florence
Year 3	Esme / Amiee
Year 4	Oliver
Year 5	Isla C. / Oliver G.
Year 6	Izzy B / Ruben



Well done to all the winners!

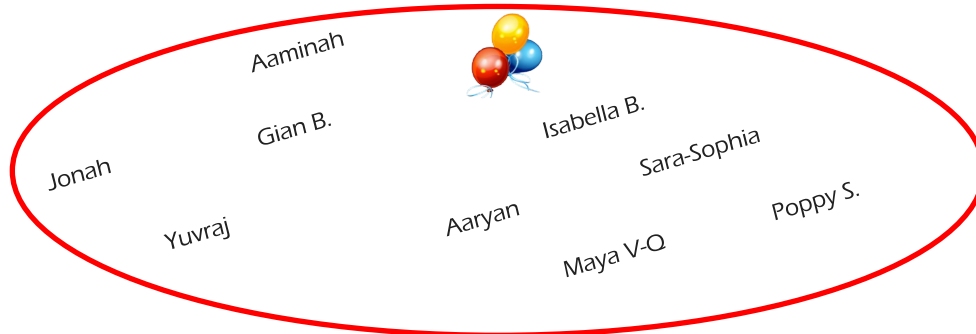
Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Pavi / Maya V-Q
Year 1	Harry / Heath
Year 2	Joseph / Stella
Year 3	Lilliemay B / Aarya
Year 4	Joshua / Maddison
Year 5	Maya / Francis
Year 6	Alex P. / Seth



Well done to all the winners!

Infant Birthdays



Kindness Tree Award

Last week Infants: Finley W. (Owls)
 Last week Juniors: Penny (3B)
 This week Infants: Vienna (Turtles)
 This week Juniors: Thea (4B)



King Edwards Visit

Unfortunately, our visit to take part in the Year 4 Mathematics competition at King Edwards in Edgbaston today was cancelled due to COVID concerns. If this gets re-arranged, we will inform parents.

Reception Parents Induction Questionnaire

Please find attached to this newsletter the results of our Reception Parents Induction Questionnaire.

PTA 200 Club

Here are the winners of our first 200 club prize draw of the year. Numbers were drawn by the children of 3B on Monday 22nd November.

£50—Ball 30—J Arnett

£10- Ball 116—R McQuillan

£10—Ball 72—R Newby

Funfest Voucher for a week of free childcare <https://fun-fest.co.uk/> - Ball 80 - A Whitehouse

Frank Jack's Crafts wax melt starter kit - Ball 114- S Linley

Candylicious Chocolate bouquet - Ball 180 - R Rai

Congratulations to all our winners and a big thank you to everyone who has joined up and given their support!

If you missed out on this draw, but will still like to join in the fun for the rest of the school year, it is now possible to enter (or buy an extra number) throughout the year.

Entry to the December-July prize draws costs £9 per number. **Remember December is double prize money with a first prize of £100!** <http://www.pta-events.co.uk/four-oaks-primary>.

Trip to Tiny Town

Reception had a wonderful time at Tiny Town. Each room was filled with interesting things to explore. Many thanks to the parents who volunteered to go on the trip with the children.

Pantomime Trip to Lichfield Garrick

Parents should have now received a notification via SchoolMoney regarding our trip to see Peter Pan. Can I please ask all parents to read the letter attached on SchoolMoney carefully as pick up from school will be later than normal. Payment can be made via SchoolMoney and please remember to tick the consent box.

Smartie Challenge

Thank you so much for sending back your cash filled Smartie tubes and for donating online. Well done to Ladybird Class in Infants and 4B in Juniors who won the giant Smartie tubes for raising the most money. This initiative raised over £1,300!



ICT Tip of the Week

Top Tips for shopping safely online

- *The festive period is always very busy and the perfect time for fraudsters to trick you into parting with your money.*
- *Use a credit card when paying for anything online as it's one of the safest ways to pay and offers greater protection*
- *Use retailers you know and trust, only use trusted websites that you can access directly (not via a link).*
- *Always check reviews before you buy anything*
- *Make sure the web address in your browser begins with 'https://'. The 's' at the end indicates a secure connection. Keep an eye out for spelling errors or strange characters in the web address – this can sometimes mean it's a fake site*
- *If you're keen to support smaller local businesses, again try and use your card as a secure way to pay*
- *If you don't receive goods and you've paid for them by card, contact the company you bought them from. If you can't resolve the issue with them, your bank or credit card company may be able to help.*
- *Always be cautious when you're buying from social media or online marketplaces. Offers that seem too good to be true usually are and could be a scam*
- *Before you make any payment, take a moment to think twice about who you're sending money to. If a seller tells you they can't accept a card payment and asks you to send them money directly, stop and think – it's very likely to be a scam.*

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

Reception Induction Questionnaire Results 2021

	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Opportunities to view the school prior to completing our preference form.	19 (56%)	12 (35%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)
The contact made with parents to inform you about your child starting school.	29 (85%)	5 (15%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
The contents of the Induction Pack supported the whole Induction Process.	28 (82%)	5 (15%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)
The accessibility of the information in the Induction Pack.	28 (82%)	6 (18%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
The information about our school on our school website was accessible and helpful.	22 (65%)	12 (35%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
The opportunity to visit the classroom and meet your teacher on your child's first day in September.	32 (94%)	2 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
The opportunity to contact the class teachers or school leadership if there were any queries about the induction process.	28 (82%)	6 (18%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
The opportunity to eat a school lunch with your child on their first day in school.	34 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Your impression of the effectiveness of the staggered entry of pupils. (Where youngest children are admitted to school first, when the groups are small.)	26 (76%)	6 (18%)	2 (6%)	0 (0%)
Our school's level of care for your child.	31 (91%)	2 (6%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)
The quality of contact between teachers and parents since starting school.	24 (71%)	9 (26%)	1 (3%)	0 (0%)
Your overall impression of our Induction Process.	29 (85%)	5 (15%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

Answered by 34 parents—comments overleaf

Positives:

- Truly thankful for the open door policy with parents involved and invited for starting school which other schools do not do make our four oaks primary school really stand out from the very beginning! It has been a pleasure meeting teachers, staff and getting inside the classrooms with other parents and kids, we believe our child is indeed in safe hands with high level of attention and great planning in education.
- I feel the school has done an amazing job considering all the current restrictions surrounding COVID-19. Contact prior to start date was amazing and I feel the school have gone above and beyond to make not just the children feel happy and safe but the parents also to know they are leaving their children in such an amazing school.
- Thank you for all the hard work carried out by all the staff during this unprecedented time. The whole induction process has been really well executed and we as parents really enjoyed it. We also think the use of teams as a resource and point of contact is worthwhile. Thank you for the curriculum information posted on teams as it is very useful as parents.
- The first day was excellent, really appreciate being able to be part of their first day. I know other schools doing a staggered half day for a couple of weeks which sounds stressful for both parents and children so I really appreciate your approach.
- We couldn't have been more pleased with the induction process. We feel our son has been supported in the best possible way to make the right start to his school life.
- We thought the video tour prior to preferences was brilliant. The induction process was clearly very well organised, and well-paced.
- Obviously, we weren't allowed to visit the school in person due to government restriction, but the virtual open day video was wonderful and we watched it numerous times.
- Compared to other schools you really made the best of a difficult situation.
- My son has settled in so well and we are really happy with FOPS!
- Very smooth process for both parents and child.
- Induction and settling in process was fabulous!
- It was helpful to reduce drop off time over the first few weeks - this helped to reduce anxiety when older siblings were going into school.
- The induction process was well organised and felt personal as a result of smaller groups and meeting Mr Benton and Miss Appleby personally.
- I thought the Induction Day in September was excellent. It was lovely that we were able to stay with our daughter all morning, eat lunch, and see her enjoying her very first day at school!

Things to improve:

- The first morning felt like a really long time!
- The pack was useful, but it really needed more information on what the school uniform requirements are as it only covered the PE kit and not the uniform.
- Obviously due to COVID, close and frequent contacts have to be reduced between parents and teachers, wish more communication on daily basis could be made when life returns to normal in near future.
- I am extremely happy how my daughter has settled in but we would like the children to be encouraged to drink more during the day.