

# FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Telephone Number: 0121-675-4040

[www.fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk](http://www.fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk)

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Next Week—Menu 3

## 17th November 2023

**Dear Parents and Governors**

### **School Attendance and Holiday in Term-Time Requests**

Here at school, we are still receiving requests from parents for holiday leave in term-time. As I stated in one of my Summer Term newsletters, the Local Authority are now taking a much firmer stance with these kinds of requests, and I have been asked to publicise the fact that we have now had fines of £60 per parent per child sent out to families from Four Oaks. The Local Authority will continue to do this, as holiday requests during time, when children should be in school, will always be unauthorised. This is part of a concerted partnership between all Birmingham schools and the City Council to maximize children's life chances by trying to improve attendance rates, and therefore opportunities to learn, and fulfil their potential.

### **No Outsiders - Respect**

As all parents know, we are a 'No Outsiders' school. This means that here at Four Oaks Primary School we promote the idea that everyone should be treated equally and that it does not matter at all what cultural background you have, what religion you belong to, what skin colour you have, what sexual orientation you have, what the make-up of your family is - everyone deserves respect!



I am sure that every single one of our families would agree with us on this point. At present we are really trying to push this idea even more than usual as we have had a few examples of children not showing respect to each other. I would ask all parents to support us in looking after all of our children by discussing the idea of 'respect' at home. We will be highlighting this issue during assemblies and PSHE lessons within class during in this half-term.

### **Fire Service Visit**

We are pleased to announce that the Fire Service will be visiting school for their annual workshop with our Year 4 pupils. On the afternoon of Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November the fire officers will talk to the children about fire safety and about road safety, as part of our PSHE curriculum.



### **Football**

We have taken the decision to stop all football being played in the KS2 playground for the time being, as many of the boys are finding it too difficult to control their competitive natures. Since September we have had external sports coaches offering a wide variety of different sporting games for the children to join in with during lunchtimes, so there will still be many ways for the children to participate in physical exercise and learn how to both win and lose.

### **School Show**

It is only a few days to go now until our biennial school show is unveiled to the school community. The children and adults have put so many hours into preparing this, and we know that parents and friends are going to love 'Star Warts'!

### **Lichfield Cathedral Cluster Carol Service**

We are looking forwards to some of our very talented pupils performing as part of the Four Oaks Cluster Carol Service at Lichfield Cathedral at 7.15pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November. We are sure they will have a lovely festive time and represent our school to a very high standard as usual.



### Working with other LTE schools

Last Friday we invited in Head Teachers and staff from Coppice Primary, Hollyfield Primary, and Town Junior School to come into Four Oaks and have a look at our Geography curriculum, ably led by Miss Wykes and Miss Cooper. This is part of our collaborative LTE work where every school gets to benefit from seeing first-hand what every other school is getting up to. I am proud to say the adults who visited were mightily impressed by the Geography lessons being taught, and the work that the staff and children are producing, so a big well-done to everyone!

### Y5 Playmaker Training

This Tuesday some of our Year 5 pupils had their 'Playmaker' training where they learnt how to lead lunchtime games for our younger infant children. They listened well and are now further equipped to help our lunchtime supervisors make sure that our Infant children have opportunities for high quality physical exercise every day.

### Bike Club



As you are already aware Miss Appleby has started to promote children cycling or scooting to school to promote a healthy lifestyle and aid them in practising their skills ready to complete their Bikeability award in Year 5 and 6. On Friday lunchtimes Miss Appleby holds a club for the relevant class of the week, which so far has proved hugely popular and the children have really enjoyed it. Please look on past news items to find the schedule for your child's week and try to encourage them to participate in the scheme.

### Young Active Citizen Scheme

We have had information come into school about the 'Young Active Citizen' scheme. This is a scheme which encourages children to do something positive with their free time and energy to benefit the community as a whole. We have included a flyer about this scheme at the end of this newsletter, so please take some time to read it, and if you are interested in getting your children involved just use the link on the flyer.

### Data Sheets

Data sheets were handed to parents at Parents' Evening. Thank you to all the parents who have returned these. Could we please ask for any remaining sheets to be returned to school as soon as possible. Could we also ask you to take particular care in checking these this year as we had a new management computer system in September and it appears to be throwing up one or two anomalies. We are obviously keen to rectify these sooner rather than later and would ask for your help in bringing them to our attention. Can I remind all parents to return the forms initialled at the bottom **even if there are no amendments to make**. Thank you.

### Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day



Thank you to parents for supporting our Anti-Bully Week campaign by sending the children to school wearing odd socks last Monday!! Odd Socks Day marked the start of Anti-Bullying Week, and it was a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique and help raise awareness of bullying. The theme for Anti-Bullying week this year was 'Make a Noise About Bullying' and our SMSC work in school on this week focussed upon this.



### Y6 SATs Assessment Workshop

Many thanks to all of our Year 6 parents and family friends who came along to our Year 6 SATs workshop in the Junior Hall yesterday. It was great to see such a large turnout of adults supporting the children to do their very best in the challenge that faces them next May, when they take their Key Stage 2 assessments. I am sure that working together as families and school, the children will get the opportunity to do their very best and have a positive springboard into their secondary school adventure.



### Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Ophelia
Ladybirds	Charlotte
Owls	Saffi
Hedgehogs	Olivia
Turtles	Ranvir
Sharks	Avni
3E	Maya
3W	Hans
4C	Aalia
4R	Reuben
5G	Jake
5M	Joshvir
6B	Joshua
6S	Khadijah



### Super Stars and Acorns



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

Bumblebees	Heidi
Ladybirds	Harper
Owls	Arjun M.
Hedgehogs	Ava-Mae
Turtles	Rose
Sharks	Ren
3E	Aaminah
3W	Lexie
4C	Freddie
4R	Daia
5G	Ned
5M	Nikki
6B	The Whole Class
6S	The Whole Class

### Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week

Reception	Orla Mc / Kai P.
Year 1	Felicity / Zoia
Year 2	Amelie / Maiya Pa.
Year 3	Dylan / Leo
Year 4	Saffron / Toji
Year 5	Charlie L-M / Jessica C.
Year 6	Libby / Julia



Well done to all the winners!

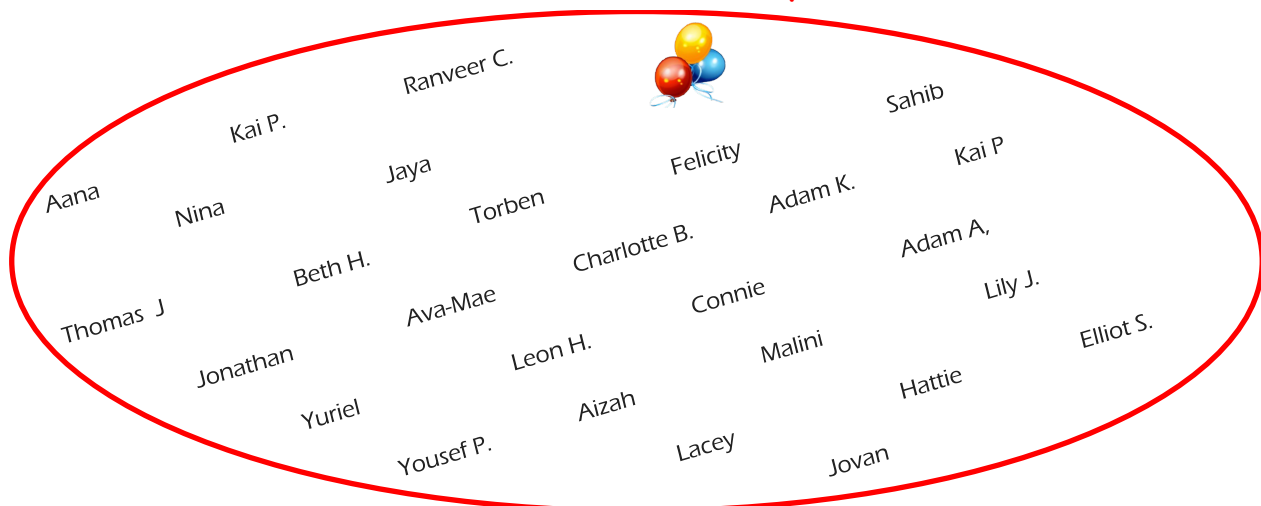
### Courtesy Cup Winners ~ this week

Reception	Sylvie / Dilawar
Year 1	Amber / Oscar
Year 2	Elliott / Maisie
Year 3	Milo / Shan
Year 4	Elena / Georgiana
Year 5	Olivia / Zach
Year 6	Jack / Jai



Well done to all the winners!

### Infant Birthdays



### Kindness Tree Award

Last Week Infants: Hajara (Owls)  
 Last Week Juniors: Jacob (5G)  
 This Week Infants: Elias (Hedgehogs)  
 This Week Juniors: Lily M (3E)



The PTA are now the PTFA (Parent, Teacher and Friends Association).

### Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November - Non Uniform Day 'Bring a Bottle and/ or a Teddy'



Children can wear Christmassy colours and bring in a bottle and / or teddy for the stalls at the Christmas Fayre. Wine, beer, cider, spirits, soft drinks for the bottle stall. Clean, good quality teddy bears/ soft toys will be gratefully received. Children should take their bottles or soft toys to their classrooms where they will be directed what to do with them.



Please ensure children wear suitable footwear for safely moving around the school. If it's PE day, suitable sportswear please.



### PTFA Christmas Fayre - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

5:30-8pm

The PTFA can't wait to join you for a wonderful festive evening. You can expect delicious hot food, hot and cold drinks, beers, prosecco, gin, mulled wine etc at the bar, cakes and sweet treats. There will be traditional games, stalls, raffles and plenty of Christmas cheer to keep your family entertained.

**Santa's Grotto tickets** are selling fast, so get yours now! Pre-booking your time slot is essential- there will be no availability to buy grotto tickets on the night. Visit our events website below and while you're there **PLEASE** sign up to help on a stall for a short time (your children can help, too). The children in the class with the highest number of parent volunteers will win a prize. This will be decided on 29<sup>th</sup> November so please sign up now.



<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/four-oaks-primary/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=70550>

### Christmas Fayre Bake Off

Fancy your chances of being a star baker? Then enter our Christmas Star Baker competition! There are adult, family and child categories with a prize for the best in each category.

Individual cupcakes, biscuits or larger cakes made for slicing are all welcome!

Please refer to the letter due out soon in your child's bag for full details. Please bring your entries in on **Friday 1st December by 1pm** for judging. Your delicious creations will then be sold at the Fayre that evening. All entries must be nut free and a list of ingredients supplied please.



### Hamper Donations



The PTFA are busily putting together some wonderful prize hampers to be won at the Christmas Fayre. If anyone is able to donate any items to contribute to these, please bring them into either school office labelled 'hamper'. This can be from now until Wednesday 29th November.

For the adult hampers- luxury, non-perishable foods, drinks and gifts.

For the children's hampers - non-perishable treats, **new** toys, games, puzzles, books, gifts.

Thank you!

### Grotto Build- Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 1pm-7:30pm & Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 3:30pm-6pm

Santa needs you! The Grotto is truly magical and it's pretty special to be part of the small team putting it together, especially when you see your child's face when they see it in all its glory.

We need 3-4 moderately strong people (there's a bit of lifting, fixing and moving to do) on the dates and times above. If you are able to help at these times (even for part of it) please contact Wendy Todd on 07713 419378. Thank you!





### Individual and Sibling Photographs

All the children had their photographs taken last Tuesday. Once we receive the proofs from Academy photography we shall send these out to all parents.

### Birmingham Panathlon News!

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November we took a team of talented Key Stage 2 children to the Panathlon at Birmingham University. They competed in a range of events include parachute popcorn, polybat, precision bean bag, new age curling, boccia blast, flight path, skittles, slam dunk, Messi football skills and table cricket. We were so proud of how they competed and of their fantastic behaviour. They supported each other and represented Four Oaks wonderfully- as did our band of parent supporters who kindly came along too. We achieved bronze and every child wore their medal proudly!

Well done children and thank you to Mrs Rowberry for organising this.

For more information about the Panathlon visit <https://panathlon.com/>



### Talented Pupils

From time to time, we highlight our pupils who gain success in their ventures outside school and this time we would like to congratulate Zach in Year 5 who is appearing in panto at the end of this month. It will be the second show he has done with the Aldridge Musical Comedy Society, and the first show he was in last year won the West Midlands Noda Award for best concert in 2022.

Zach has 3 different roles in this panto and is putting every ounce of effort he can into his performances. We are very proud of him. If you are interested in going to a super panto for the festive season, then please have a look at the flyer for this event at the end of the newsletter.

### Y6 Trip to Wroxeter

On 15<sup>th</sup> November our Year 6 team of staff and pupils went on their way to visit the Roman city of Wroxeter, near Shrewsbury. Whilst there they got to investigate the city ruins, learning all about civic life in Roman times, listen to stories from nearly 2,000 years ago and investigate a modern Roman villa. The children had a fantastic time and brought back many facts and figures to add to their classroom work within the History curriculum. Many thanks to parents for supporting this extra-curricular aspect of our work in school.



### Absence from School

Can we remind all parents that if their child is going to be absent from school either through illness, medical appointments or other appointments then they must **telephone the school office**. Please do not email enquiry or teachers for this purpose as emails cannot always be picked up in time for the register to be completed. As parents should be aware we now have a dedicated line for absences (option 3 on the telephone menu) which means that the call can be made even before school opens if this is more convenient. Please remember to call every day of an absence unless advised otherwise by the office team. In addition if you are filling in a 'Pupil term time leave' request form this should be submitted as soon as you are aware of the event not just a day or two before as these need to be processed. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Y5 Road Safety

Following on from our Road Safety 'Be Bright, Be Seen' assembly on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, we would like to ask all parents to make an effort to kit their children out with something reflective on their school coats or bags this half-term. This small effort will help to keep your children seen clearly by motorists and other pedestrians in the darker afternoons, now that the clocks have gone back an hour.

This is especially important for those of our pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 who walk home on their own. Thank you for your support in this matter.



### Visit to Stratford

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November will see our Year 5 team of pupils and staff heading off to Stratford to study all things 'Shakespeare'. We hope they have a fantastic day and that their activities help to enhance their work around 'The Bard' back at school.



### Christmas Performances

We are now able to announce the dates and times of our Christmas Performances.

This year the Infants will have a performance at school and the Juniors will be going to All Saints Church for their Christmas Carol Service.

#### Junior Carol Service—All Saints Church—Wednesday 13th December—1.45pm start.

For the Junior performance the children will be walked up to the church after lunch, and parents and grandparents are welcome to come directly to the church for a 1.45pm start, a seating plan will be available nearer the time. Please be aware of the limited parking around the church and walk where possible.



Parents will be then able to collect their child after the performance to take them home. If any parents are unable to attend, those children will be walked back to school for normal pick up.

**Infant Performance for Reception parents - Tuesday 12th December - Infant Hall - 9.15am.**

**Infant Performance for Year 1 parents - Wednesday 13th December - Infant Hall - 9.15am.**

**Infant Performance for Year 2 parents - Thursday 14th December - Infant Hall - 9.15am.**



The Infants' performances will take place over three days. We're asking parents of the different year groups to attend on different times and dates to avoid congestion in the hall. Grandparents are also welcome to attend these performances if they wish.

We hope these events will get everyone in the festive spirit!

### Healthy Snacks!



I would like to remind all parents that we are a 'healthy school' and do not allow any children to bring in either chocolate or crisp based snacks for breaktime. All snacks should be of a healthy nature and we would expect all parents to support us in this push for a healthy lifestyle.



Many thanks for your support!

### Readathon Results

We are pleased to announce the results of our Readathon!

1st—Turtles

2nd—5M

3rd—Sharks

4th—5G

5th—3W



Thank you so much to all of the parents, grandparents and friends who sponsored all the children. We really do appreciate your support and the money will be used for books for the 'I'm a Clever Writer Scheme'.

### Four Oaks Methodist Church Jumble Sale

Four Oaks Methodist Church will be holding a jumble sale on Saturday 24th November. Please see the attached flyer for all the information.

### Playgroup Job Advert

Four Oaks Playgroup are recruiting for a Pre-school Assistant. Please see the attached flyer for all the details.

## Team Leaders

We have finalised our team leaders for all subjects and are pleased to announce the names of the children who are on the various committees. They have already been hard at work attending meetings discussing their various specialities!

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## ICT Tip of the Week

*Young people are growing up in an increasingly digital world, exposing them to both the opportunities and risks of the internet. CyberSprinters empowers them to make smart decisions about staying secure online. It's a collection of online security resources for 7-11 year olds.*

Visit the following link for more details:- <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/collection/cybersprinters>

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

Mr M Benton  
Head Teacher



## AWARD

For some time, the Lord-Lieutenant has wanted to recognise young people who truly make a difference to their local communities.

Until 2020 there had not been a special award for young people going the "extra mile" to help others. The Young Active Citizen Award was launched to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of young people, to reward their effort and hard work, and to celebrate people doing extraordinary things.

## REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR COUNTY

The post of Lord-Lieutenant of a county is an honorary appointment, whose origin dates back to King Henry VIII. Lord-Lieutenants are the Monarch's representatives in their county. It is their prime duty to uphold the dignity of the Crown and in so doing they seek to promote a spirit of co-operation and good atmosphere by the time they give to voluntary and benevolent organisations and by the interest they take in the business and social life of their counties.

### The responsibilities of Lord-Lieutenants include

- Participating in civic, voluntary and social activities within the lieutenancy.
- Arranging visits of members of the Royal family and escorting royal visitors.
- Acting as liaison with local units of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, Royal Air Force and their associated cadet forces.
- Presenting medals and awards on behalf of the Sovereign, and advising on Honours nominations.

## VISIT US

For more information on the West Midlands Lieutenancy and the Young Active Citizens Award visit us at:

<https://wmlieutenancy.org>

West Midlands Lieutenancy

# HAVE FUN!

# YOUNG ACTIVE CITIZEN

## SUBMISSIONS OCT TO FEB



WEST MIDLANDS  
LIEUTENANCY

# IMPACT

We embrace the Commonwealth values of humanity, equality and diversity in everything we do. This award celebrates young people who have shown extraordinary impact on the community in which they live.



Communities  
Culture  
Climate  
Commonwealth

## NEED HELP?

Here are some ideas of how you can be a Young Active Citizen!

### Volunteering

Is there a cause that you are passionate about?



### Litter picking

Next time you go for a walk why don't you take a bag with you?



### Promote reading

Could you read a story with your siblings tonight?



### Gardening for the community

Do you have a neighbour that struggles to mow their lawn?





**Jumble Jamboree!**  
A Jumble Sale for Every Generation

Ronald McDonald House Charities  
United Kingdom  
Keeping families close

**BIG Christmas SALE**

Preloved and second-hand sale. Come along and grab yourself a bargain!

Join us at  
**FOUR OAKS METHODIST HALL,**  
Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield B74 2UU  
on Saturday 25th November  
Doors Open: 2pm Admission: £1

If you are interested in selling items, please contact [Justine.cleary@uk.mcd.com](mailto:Justine.cleary@uk.mcd.com).  
Tables are £8 and goes to Ronald McDonald House Charities UK.

FR REGULATOR

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