

# FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Telephone Number: 0121-675-4040

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

Volume 23/24~Issue 10



Next Week—Menu 2

## 21st February 2024

**Dear Parents and Governors**

### Welcome Back

We hope that all of our Four Oaks' families enjoyed a restful week off and that the pupils have returned to school with renewed energy. This is the mid-point of the school year and we head into our second Spring half-term with lots of anticipation. This half-term will see World Book Day, the Swimming Gala, and Science Week happening in school, and with the return of the lighter evenings we will be excited about re-starting our football and cross-country calendar of events.

### Chinese New Year in Reception

Before half-term, the children in our two Reception classes engaged in an enjoyable workshop about 'Lunar New Year'. The children listened to a talk around Lunar New Year which involved learning about the Lunar Calendar, Chinese Zodiac Animals and New Year customs. The children practised learning to say, "Kung Hei Fat Choi" which means 'Happy New Year!' and then all had a turn dancing under the dragon costume as this year is the year of the dragon!



At the end of the workshop, all children were gifted a bright, beautiful red envelope with sweets in. At Lunar New Year, it is tradition to give red envelopes filled with money- known as Hóngbāo- to friends and family. The red colour of these envelopes symbolises good luck and prosperity in Chinese cultures. A huge thank you to the Reception Parents for giving up their time and sharing this wonderful cultural experience with our children- they loved it!

### Safe Driving and Parking.

Here at school, we were really pleased to receive praise from the Local Authority just before half-term as they publicised information about dangerous parking and driving outside Sutton Schools. They published a list of schools where drivers had been issued with penalty charge notices and a list of schools where drivers had been moved on by traffic enforcement officers even though their dangerous driving and parking fell short of a penalty notice, and we are happy to say that Four Oaks did not feature on either list.

We were however on the list of schools who have been proactive in promoting the safety of their pupils, with our Bronze 'good travel plan' being noted. In addition to this we can let parents know that we are about to have this status upgraded to a Silver 'very good travel plan', which will put us in the top group of Sutton schools alongside Hill West, St. Joseph's and Walmley Infant school.

To maintain this high standard, we would ask all parents to think carefully about children's safety whenever they park or drive around any of the school gates.

### Parents' Evening

We hope that all parents were able to come along to one of our two Parents' Evening sessions just before the half-term break to discuss their child's progress with their class teacher.

If for any reason parents were unable to attend, we would kindly ask them to contact school and re-arrange a convenient time to be able to chat to a member of staff.



### Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust—Grants for School Uniform

Every year Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust run a scheme whereby parents who reside within the Sutton Coldfield boundaries can apply for a grant of up to £100 per child to help purchase school uniform. If you are in receipt of the following benefits you will be able to make an application:



UNIVERSAL CREDIT, CHILD TAX CREDIT AND/OR WORKING TAX CREDIT, INCOME SUPPORT, EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT ALLOWANCE, JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE.

If you think you may be eligible for this scheme then please contact Mrs Johnson in the Junior office (0121 675 4040 Option 1) and she will be able to provide you with a form to fill in with our school stamp on. Please note the deadline for completed applications is **Monday 11th March** so please do not delay in requesting your form.

### School Attendance and Holiday in Term-Time Requests—LA Fines

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 2 further 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 term 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.

### The Vicar of All Saints

Yesterday we had our first visit from the Reverend Leanne Carr who is the new vicar at All Saints and Saint James'. She popped into school to have a cup of tea and meet some of the staff and pupils. Hopefully this will be the first of many visits as we work together to maintain the strong links between Four Oaks and All Saints.

### KES Concert Event—Symphony Hall

We have received the following information from the King Edward's schools which you may be interested in. *It gives me great pleasure to offer the families of your year 4 - 6 children complimentary tickets for the King Edward VI High School for Girls and King Edward's School biennial concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Monday 18th March from 7 - 9:15pm. The concert provides a wonderful showcase of KEHS/KES joint musical endeavours, and is a highlight of the schools' calendars. It's a varied and exciting concert, given by the bands and orchestra of both schools. There's a **massed choir, big bands, wind bands, 394 performers in total**. The concert ends with Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, given by KES/KEHS Symphony Orchestra, one of the most difficult pieces in the orchestral repertoire.*

*Joining us on stage will be **James Mayhew**, who will paint a **live illustration of the work's story**, projected onto the big screen, as we play it.*

*As a valuable partner school, we would really appreciate you forwarding such an invite to all families in years 4, 5 and 6.*

*For parents/guardians to reserve tickets for the concert, please could you instruct them to email [outreach@kes.org.uk](mailto:outreach@kes.org.uk) by **Friday 8th March**, stating **the school their child attends, and how many tickets they would require**.*

*Seats at the concert are limited, so I would encourage you to book in good time.*

### Year 2 Trip Aston Hall—Friday 8th March

Year 2 will be visiting Aston Hall on Friday 8th March in connection with their topic of the Great Fire of London. The voluntary contribution can be paid via SchoolMoney and please ensure that you tick the consent box. Thank you





**Super Stars and Acorns**



**Super Stars and Acorns**



The following children received Stars (Infants) and Acorns (Juniors) in Assembly On 1st February Well done to them all!!

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

Bumblebees	Yuriel
Ladybirds	Rosa
Owls	Benjamin
Hedgehogs	Adam A.
Turtles	Saya
Sharks	Didar
3E	Gian
3W	Oliver B.
4C	Katie
4R	Callum
5G	Noah K. / Amiee B.
5M	Penny
6B	Emily S.
6S	Lily-Mae R.

Bumblebees	Amrita
Ladybirds	Jovan R.
Owls	Aaliyah
Hedgehogs	Aizah
Turtles	The Whole Class
Sharks	The Whole Class
3E	The Whole Class / Jenson
3W	The Whole Class / Oliver S.
4C	Sheng
4R	Danny
5G	Olivia
5M	May-Louise
6B	Erin
6S	Eleanor

**Courtesy Cup Winners ~ 1st February**

Reception	Austin / Sahib
Year 1	Freddie / Elias H.
Year 2	Rose / Avni
Year 3	Ria / Mati
Year 4	Freddie / Daia
Year 5	Jack / Faith
Year 6	William H. / Taran



Well done to all the winners!

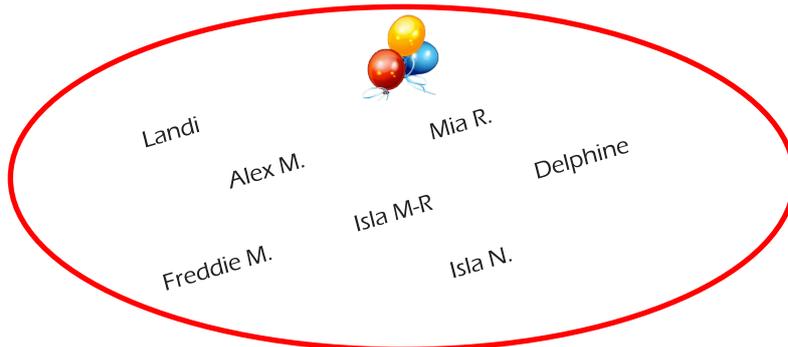
**Courtesy Cup Winners ~ last week**

Reception	Jonathan / Harper
Year 1	Benjamin / Ananya
Year 2	Cassia / Didar
Year 3	Harry C. / Lexie
Year 4	Aima / Xavier
Year 5	Alayna / Salahuddin
Year 6	Frankie / Khadijah



Well done to all the winners!

**Infant Birthdays**



**Kindness Tree Award**



1st February Infants: Aizah ( Hedgehogs)  
 1st February Juniors: Zach J. (5M)  
 Last Week Infants: Isla M-R (Bumblebees)  
 Last Week Juniors: Jessica P (5M) nominated by James G.



**Lunchtime Tennis Club—Infants**

We are sad to say that Streetly Tennis Club have advised us that they will no longer be running the tennis club on a Monday lunchtime. They should have contacted parents of the children affected directly.

### The King Edward's School Maths Challenge

On Friday 1st March we look forward to our Year 5 team of mathematicians heading off to King Edward's School in Edgbaston to represent the school in the heats of the 'Borcherds Shield Year 5 Maths Challenge' where they will compete against teams from schools from all over Birmingham. We wish them luck, and who knows, they may even qualify for the finals later in the year!

### World Book Day—7th March

On Thursday 7th March schools across the country will celebrate World Book Day to promote the proven benefits of reading. We would like the children to dress up as their favourite character from a book. Please do not spend a lot of money on the costume—we love the inventive home made ideas!!



We plan on having a great time doing lots of fun activities from our poetry performances, cross year group reading sessions, quizzes and lots more. We sent a message out on teams before half term so if you have any queries please look at this. Happy World Book Day!

Mrs Glover

### KS2 Gymnastics Competition

We hope our KS2 gymnasts have enjoyed themselves today at the GMAC competition. We will let you know the results in the next newsletter. Thank you to Miss Appleby for organising this.

### Swimming Gala—Saturday 24th February



Good luck to all our swimmers who are taking part in the Swimming Gala on Saturday. A reminder to parents of the children who are competing to please ensure that you arrive by 5pm. The ticket link has been sent to your email, please note the deadline for ticket purchases is TOMORROW, you will not be able to purchase tickets after this. If there are any further queries please contact me by the end of the week. We will let you know how they all got on in the next newsletter!

Miss Cooper



.....PTFA NEWS.....PTFA NEWS.....PTFA NEWS.....PTFA NEWS.....

For all of our events, visit <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/four-oaks-primary/index.cfm?event=Shop>

### Smarties Challenge - Closing Date 26th February

We hope you enjoyed eating the Smarties! This fundraiser is also a competition. Have your children have been doing a few tasks for you over the holidays to earn a few coins to fill up the tube? Please bring back into school by 26th February, the PTFA will count it all up and see which classes raised the most money!

If cash isn't convenient, you can pay in what they've earned via our pta-events site.

Paying online will still count towards the class total. The classes raising the most money (one class in Infants and one in Juniors) will win a giant tube of Smarties for each of their pupils.

Thank you for your support.



### Rags2Riches

Thank you to everyone who brought in a bag of quality, unwanted clothing on 6th February. Special thanks to our volunteers - HD for taking the lead with this and LP for stopping by on her morning run to help carry all the bags to the van!

The driver told us we'd raised an impressive £175.40! The final amount we receive will be less because unfortunately some people put in unacceptable items (toys & uniform) which will be disposed of at the depot on unloading, so please remember not to do that next time.

### Comedy Night- This Friday 23rd February 7pm.

There are only 8 tickets left for this fantastic night of live stand-up comedy from some quality acts (see attached poster). Don't miss out- we only do this once a year. Help us to make this a sell out. **Doors & Bar open 7pm.**



### Summer Festival - Date Set - Saturday 22nd June

This is a hugely popular family fun event with a fantastic range of stalls and attractions however this doesn't happen by magic. It takes a lot of organising. We can only run the event with all of its stalls and attractions if volunteers like you step forward to help. This year we are in desperate need of a **lead person for the BBQ**. This person will organise purchasing the meat, rolls, sauces etc, set up the BBQs and run it on the day, alongside other volunteers. Ideally someone with food service/ catering experience but this is not essential, training is available. If no-one steps up to take responsibility for the BBQ, we won't have one. **Please help!** Email us: [fopspta@gmail.com](mailto:fopspta@gmail.com).



Also, as our chair is stepping down at the end of the year, we need someone to take **joint lead** for this event so that a handover can take place to allow for smooth running of this event in future. Get in touch if you'd like to get involved!

### Spring Ball 17th May 2024

We hope you are all looking forward to our fantastic Spring Ball. A reminder that menu choices and final balances are due **by the end of February please.**



### COMMUNITY NEWS.....COMMUNITY NEWS.....COMMUNITY NEWS.....

#### Vacancies in Girl Guiding Rainbows

We have attached a flyer from our local Guiding Rainbows group who currently have vacancies.. Rainbows are aged from 4-7 so should you be interested in your child joining the group please use the contact details on the flyer.

#### ICT Tip of the Week

*The NHS recommends that children should have no longer than 2 hours screen time per day. All devices allow parental controls to help with this. It's healthy to set time limits with your child and give them a 5-10 minute warning when time is nearly up. A period of downtime before bedtime also helps with a good night's sleep.*

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

Mr M Benton  
Head Teacher



**Rainbows**  
All Saints

Wednesday 5:30-6:45pm (Term Time Only)  
Community Building,  
All Saints Church,  
Belwell Lane,  
Four Oaks  
Sutton Coldfield  
[www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus)  
Email: [allsaintsrainbowssc@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintsrainbowssc@gmail.com)



Girlguiding  
All Saints Church, Sutton Coldfield



FOUR OAKS SCHOOL PTA



LIVE COMEDY NIGHT  
21st  
FROM COMEDY JUNCTION

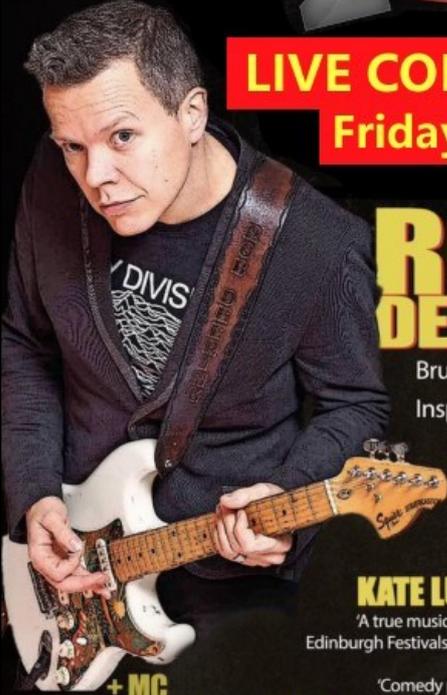


STAND UP COMEDY



**£20**  
Food Included

**LIVE COMEDY NIGHT**  
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**  
Doors and Bar 7:00pm



**ROB DEERING**  
Bruisingly hilarious - *Time Out*  
Inspired - *Daily Telegraph*  
"A highly impressive one - man soundscape powered mainly by energy and excellent guitar skills"  
*The Scotsman*



**KATE LUCAS**  
'A true musical genius'  
*Edinburgh Festivals Magazine*  
'Comedy perfection'  
*TO DO LIST*

+ MC  
**MICHAEL DRYBURGH**

Tickets via [www.pta-events.co.uk/four-oaks-primary](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/four-oaks-primary)