

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Next week
Menu



Dear Parents and Governors

Well, we have once more come to the end of a long half-term where teaching and learning have looked very different to usual. If you've been learning remotely at home, then a big well done for sticking with it and learning in a brand new way (and a well done to the adults as well!). If you've been coming to school all the time, or for a few days here and there, then you also deserve a well done for coping with a very different atmosphere in school to usual. Let's hope that very soon we are all back together again learning new fun facts alongside each other... it's what we all want!

Spring Half-Term 2

We now have a week's break from learning, so I hope that the children, and you the parents, all have a good break during the half term week.

School will re-open on Monday 22nd February under the very same systems that we are operating presently. That means that school will still only be open for the children of families who have key worker parents. There is already a booking system in place on our school website for the weeks beginning 22nd February and 1st March, and thank you to those parents who have already booked places. A reminder to all parents that unless you have booked a place via this system then children cannot be allowed into school.



Monday 22nd February is also the day on which the Prime Minister has said that he will review education provision nationally and announce further news about when schools can safely invite further year groups back. At present he has stated that March 8th is the earliest possible date when he would be prepared to look at further pupils returning. Obviously once he has set out the Government's plans we will either extend our key worker booking system, or communicate clearly with parents about the next steps towards full re-opening.

Asymptomatic Covid Testing of Staff

A reminder to all parents that all staff in school have been offered the chance to begin taking a 'Lateral Flow Test' twice a week at home. These tests have been supplied by the Government and are designed to show up anyone who is asymptomatic and yet positive in terms of Covid-19. If anyone produces a positive result with this testing system, they will then have to take a normal PCR Covid test and report the results to school. This system is obviously designed to cut down on the spread of the virus, but inevitably may result in further bubble closures. If this were to happen then we will communicate with parents via our 'School Jotter' mobile app, so please make sure you have this downloaded onto your smartphones.



Parents Evening

Usually our Spring Term Parents' Evenings would have taken place this week, but along with most schools, we have postponed this event until next half-term. We plan to have these virtual appointments to discuss children's learning just before the Easter break when hopefully all children will have had the chance to return to school. As soon as we have set dates for this to happen we will communicate this with parents and discuss the technicalities of how this will happen. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



Remote Learning Questionnaires

Many thanks to all the parents who took the time to fill out our remote learning questionnaire over the last week. This has closed as of midday today. It is so gratifying to read feedback from so many parents and know that we have done our very best to support families during this very challenging time. It is also really useful to read suggestions of how we can further develop our remote provision and we will be working on these points over the coming weeks. In relation to this, from the first day back after half-term both Year 4 and Year 3 will be moving away from our WordPress and email model of learning and transferring to using 'assignments' on Microsoft Teams. Many thanks to Mrs Boughton and Ms Wykes who have been training both staff in school, and running parent support sessions remotely, so that we are all working on the same expectations of learning and communication.



Reception, Year 1 & Year 2—Teams Assignments

We are planning to move all of the Infant Department away from the Wordpress and email model of learning to using 'Assignments' on Microsoft Teams. We will be holding meetings for each year group on Teams after Half Term to show all parents how to access Teams Assignments and where they will find the work. The timings of the meeting are as follows:

Year 2: Tuesday 23rd February—4.30pm

Year 1: Tuesday 23rd February—5.30pm

Reception: Wednesday 24th February—5.30pm

World Book Day

Even though we are still in a national lockdown we would still like to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 4th March with all of the children, whether they are in school or learning remotely at home. If they would like to, we would like the children to dress up as their favourite book character and we are going to have lots of fun literacy activities

ready for them to complete. As well as this we have secured access to talks by real authors who are taking part in virtual live events around World Book Day. The staff will provide links for the children so they can listen to people who actually earn their living writing children's fiction, so keep your eyes peeled on WordPress and Teams for further news about events surrounding this day when we celebrate reading the world over!



Birmingham School Year 2021-2022

We can now give the dates for the next academic year 2021-2022. Please remember that an additional 5 training days still need to be allocated.

School Year 2021 to 2022

Autumn Term 2021

Term Starts: Thursday 2 September 2021
Half Term: Monday 25 October 2021 to Friday 29 October 2021
Term Ends: Friday 17 December 2021

Spring Term 2022

Term Starts: Tuesday 4 January 2022
Half Term: Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 25 February 2022
Term Ends: Friday 8 April 2022

Summer Term 2022

Term Starts: Monday 25 April 2022
Half Term: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022
Term Ends: Friday 22 July 2022



Acorns And Superstars

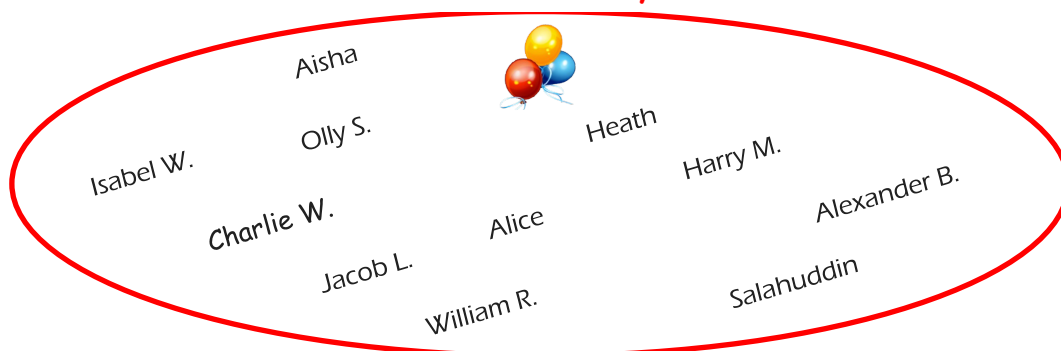
It was a close run battle as to whether the Acorns and Superstars should be awarded to the pupils or parents for the last two weeks but we can announce they have been awarded to...

Everyone!!!

For everyone's tireless efforts in continuing to learn.



Infant Birthdays



Free School Meals Funding / Pupil Premium



We are aware that we have some families who have decided not to apply for Free School Meals simply because their children are in the Infant Department and therefore get a free school dinner funded by the Government anyway. We would encourage these families still to apply as the extra funding that then comes into school can benefit their children in many ways, not just in terms of a free school meal, through something called Pupil Premium. To see if you would qualify for Free School Meals just go to our website, click on the parent tab at the top of the page and follow the links to meals. This contains a link for you to apply. Please be assured that this process is all totally confidential.

Lockdown Lunches and Meal Plans

Change4Life and the NHS have created recipes and shopping lists which may help some of our families to create lunch on a budget in these tricky times and they have asked us to share their ideas with you. You can access their 3 weeks plan at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/lunch/cheap-lockdown-lunch-ideas>



ICT Tip of the Week

Safer Internet Day 2021 – Tuesday 9th February

Separating fact from fiction: Half of young people encounter misleading content online on a daily basis. Research reveals the new challenges young people face in identifying misleading content, at a time when being online is more important than ever.

77% of young people say being online is a more important part of their life than ever before, with 65% enjoying online lessons during lockdown amidst school closures.

48% of young people are seeing misleading content every day, with more than one in 10 seeing it more than six times a day - often leaving them feeling annoyed, upset, sad, angry, attacked or scared.

43% of young people have noticed their friends and peers sharing misleading content (such as fake news) online.

62% of young people have had friend requests from people they don't know.

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

Mr M Benton
Head Teacher