

FOUR OAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume ~Issue 11 20/21

Infant Department: 0121-675-4040

Junior Department: 0121-675-2685

5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Governors



Well, we have now reached that important point where on Monday we will be so excited about welcoming everyone back to school. It will be wonderful to see all those smiling faces coming through the school gates between 8.40 and 9.00am, and to hear the chatter and hum of children throughout the building. If you have forgotten any of the guidelines about coming back to school, or making it through a school day, then please refer back to the letter we sent out last week. You can access this by clicking on the 'March Return to School' item in the Latest News section of the website.

Prompt Pick-Up

Can I remind all parents that to keep everyone on site safe children do need to be picked up during the allotted windows of time in the afternoon. The gates open at 3.10pm and Infant pupils can be collected between 3.10 and 3.30pm. Junior Children can be collected between 3.20pm and 3.40pm. Any children that have not been collected by these points will be transferred to FOSBACS and a charge will be incurred. Thank you to all parents for their co-operation in this.



Guidance from the Department for Education—Out-of-School Settings

The new guidance from the DfE for the wider opening of schools starting on March 8th asks that we should *"advise parents and carers that they should be limiting their use of multiple out-of-school settings, and should as far as possible only be sending their children to one out-of-school setting, in addition to school, in order to minimise mixing."* We would ask all parents to think carefully about the arrangements for their children outside of school in order to keep the pupils and staff as safe as possible. Many thanks.

FOSBACS

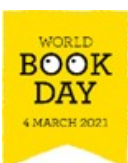
Can I remind all parents that FOSBACS opens again on Monday 8th March. Parents must book a place by calling our FOSBACS manager Amanda on 07967 527 562 or by emailing her on:

fosbacs@fouroaksprimary.bham.sch.uk.

All payments for FOSBACS **must** now be made either by childcare vouchers or bank transfer.

World Book Day

We hope that all of our pupils enjoyed their 'World Book Day' activities yesterday, it was lovely to see so many costumes and so many children reflecting their true love of reading both in school and on-line. We hope everyone enjoyed taking part in 'The Masked Reader' competition—winners of our book token prizes will be announced in the assemblies on Monday.



Parents Evening

We are in the process of arranging virtual appointments to discuss your children's learning in the week beginning 29th March by which point all children will have had three weeks back in school. This process will take place via Microsoft teams and meetings will last 8 minutes. Please keep an eye on your child's email account for your appointment invitation to arrive. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



School Dinners - Menu Week 1



A reminder that we will be starting back on Week 1 on Monday. Debbie may have to make a few minor alterations to the menus due to supply issues, but there will still be plenty of choice for the children and normal service should be resumed very soon.

School Books—Bug Club

Could I please ask all parents to have a good look at home for any school books, especially Bug Club books, and return them to school next week with the children as our stocks are looking rather depleted. Thank you.



Ventilation and Warm Clothing

A reminder to all parents that as part of the COVID guidelines all classrooms and other areas of our building have to be well ventilated. This inevitably means that our school is not as warm as it usually is and we would ask you to please make sure your children are appropriately dressed, with layers of clothing including long trousers, vests and jumpers. Thank you.



Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust—School Clothing Grant



Every year Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust run a scheme whereby any parents who reside within the Sutton Coldfield boundaries can apply for a grant of up to £100 per child to help purchase school uniform. This is dependant upon whether the parents are in receipt of Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit or Universal Credit. If you think you may be eligible for this scheme then please contact Mrs Johnson in the Junior Office (Tel: 674 2685) and she will be able to provide you with a form to fill in. Please note the deadline for completed applications is Monday 22nd March so please don't delay in requesting your form.

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.



School Closures in relation to Elections—May 6th 2021

I would like to inform all parents of an unavoidable closure for elections on Thursday 6th May 2021 for the election of the West Midlands Police Commissioner & Mayor of Birmingham. The school will be used as a polling station from 7am until 10pm and with members of the public accessing the site all day safeguarding procedures do not allow us to open the school to children. I have requested that the school not be used in this way this year, but have been told by the Local Authority that arrangements cannot be changed.

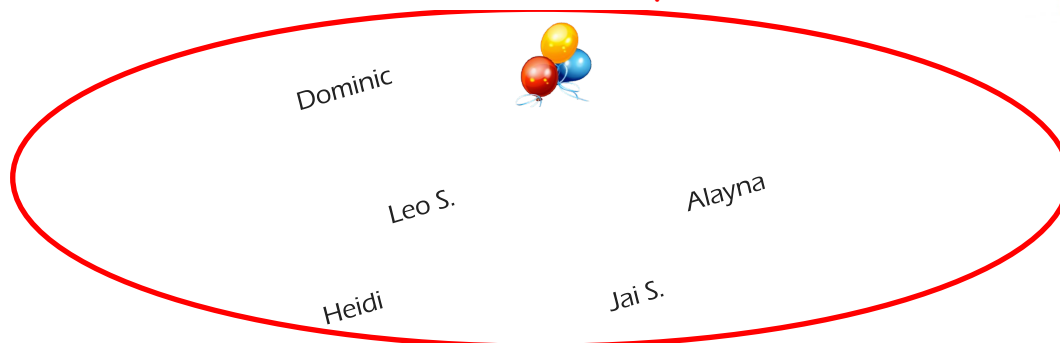


Acorns And Superstars

We will be resuming normal service in the next newsletter with the return of Acorns, Superstars and Courtesy Cup Awards, so watch this space!!!



Infant Birthdays



Asymptomatic Testing Information

For parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- Through your employer, if they offer testing to employees.
- By collecting a home test from a local test site—anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests.
- By ordering a home test kit online—please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

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

Juniors—Payment for School Dinners on SchoolMoney

A reminder that your SchoolMoney account should always be in credit when paying for school meals. Please deposit a sum to cover your child's meals in advance either weekly or monthly. If your account is more than a week in arrears (ie £12.50) your child will be asked to bring in sandwiches until the debt is cleared. Thank you.

Infants—Milk

Milk money is now due for the remainder of this half term. Please check your SchoolMoney account and make prompt payment. For those children who have been in school the cost for the extra two weeks is included in your payment. Thank you.



Free Government Funded Training Courses

We have had information passed to us this week from a group called 'Aim' and they are offering government funded adult training courses in a wide variety of subjects and topics. They are structured as below:

- The qualifications are all question based, with interactive workbooks to help answer the questions.
- 6 weeks to be completed, taking on average between 15-25 hours in total to do.
- Online platform to complete the qualification, therefore a laptop or computer will be needed.
- 2 workbooks to be completed, with them needing to be submitted at the 3 and 6 week stage.
- Tutor support throughout for any help and guidance.

If you have the energy to take on something new and would like to know more, then all the contact details are on the attached flyer at the end of this newsletter.

PTA 200 Club

Below are the winners of the February draw which was completed by children in Year 1. Congratulations to the winners and for everyone's continued support.

The winners of the February draw are:

£50 No. 132 Mrs R Bashford

£10 No. 146 Mr K Nanglu

£10 No. 112 Mrs S Sokhi

Voucher—£40 for the Uniform Hub - No. 139 Mrs S Gibbins

Birmingham Bears Vitality Blast Tickets — No. 178 Mrs K Sherlock



ICT Tip of the Week

A good way to create a strong and memorable password is to use three random words. Numbers and symbols can still be used if needed, for example 3redhousemonkeys27! Be creative and use words memorable to you, so that people can't guess your password. Your social media accounts can give away vital clues about yourself so don't use words such as your child's name or favourite sports team which are easy for people to guess. Cyber criminals are very smart and know many of the simple substitutions we use such as 'Pa55word!' which utilises symbols to replace letters.

Never use the following personal details for your password:

• Current partner's name • Child's name • Other family members' name • Pet's name • Place of birth • Favourite holiday • Something related to your favourite sports team.

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

Mr M Benton
Head Teacher



Inspire.
Develop.
Empower.

OUR FULLY FUNDED SHORT COURSES ENABLE YOU TO EASILY UPSKILL YOURSELF, AND YOUR STAFF

DURATION

You have 6 weeks to complete a course, but they typically range from 12-30 hours to complete

QUALIFICATIONS

On completion of this course you will receive a level 2 qualification in your chosen subject

BENEFITS

Our courses can enable better processes to support your team whilst upskilling your staff

Course List

L2 Certificate in Understanding Nutrition and Health
 L2 Certificate in Awareness of Mental Health Problems
 L2 Certificate in Counselling Skills (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in Understanding Specific Learning
 L2 Certificate in Awareness of Bullying in Children and Young People (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in Understanding Behaviour that Challenged
 L2 Certificate in Understanding Autism (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in IT User Skills
 L2 Certificate in Lean Organisation Management Techniques
 L2 Certificate in Principles for Digital Skills in Employment
 L2 Certificate in the Principles of Dementia Care
 L2 Certificate in Common Health Conditions (RQF)

L2 Certificate in Principles of Customer Service
 L2 Certificate in Principles of Team Leading (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in Principles of Business Administration
 L2 Certificate in Understanding Retail Operations (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in Equality and Diversity (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in Information, Advice or Guidance (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in the Principles of the Prevention and Control of Infection in Health Care settings (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in Understanding Nutrition and Health
 L2 Certificate in Principles of End of Life Care (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in Understanding the Safe Handling of Medication in Health and Social Care (RQF)
 L2 Certificate in Preparing to Work in Adult Social
 L2 Certificate in Dignity & Safeguarding in Adult Health and Social Care

Please note you must be employed to take one of the above courses



FULLY FUNDED
COURSE



ELIGIBILITY
CHECKS

- Are you aged 19+
- Have you been an EU resident for 3+ years?
- Unemployed or Earning below the living wage?

GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE AND START UPSKILLING YOUR TEAM FOR FREE TODAY:

enquiries@theaimgroup.co.uk | 0203 900 3091