



# Colmers Farm Primary School WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week at our  
nurturing school



Remembrance Day....Lest We Forget



**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to see all of Year 5 and 6 children back in school after the residential last week. From what I have heard from their parents, most of them slept very well over the weekend. I think the staff who went also did too!

It was wonderful to see and speak to so many of you at parents evening this week. I hope that you enjoyed looking around our school and at the art exhibition and that you found these meeting useful. Parents evening meetings are important, and if you were unable to attend yours for any reason please contact the school office or speak to your child's class teacher to arrange an alternative appointment.

Competitive sporting opportunities are something which we value highly at our school. These develop many qualities including resilience, teamwork, sportsmanship and leadership skills – which our children demonstrated in abundance this week. Miss Rudge's netball team were in action on Monday, with a match against Northfield Manor school and also on Friday where they against St Lawrence Junior School, the team displayed excellent teamwork and we are very proud of them. Our A and B football teams were also in action on Thursday, playing against St Lawrence Junior School where they unfortunately lost 2-5 and 1-8 respectively, a great effort was made by the football team. Well done to all of the children who took part in these and thank you for representing our school.

On Wednesday, we had 20 maths leaders in school who came to observe lessons in 1K and 1W. These visiting leaders were impressed with the learning behaviours of our children in these classes and with the lessons they saw. Thank you to all of the children in Year 1 and to Miss Wood and Miss Kent for hosting so many adults in their rooms.

Wednesday was also school photo day at our school. We hope that you like the photos when you receive them.

On Thursday, 15 of our children from Year 3 took part in a art project with 15 children from Parkfield Community School (one of our other MAT schools) in our art studio. This was a great way for our children to develop their cultural capital further by working with and developing friendships with children, who reflect different ethnicities and religions to many of our children at our school. The children produced some wonderful artwork based on the work of the artist Paul Susan and worked together really well. This was also a great way of seeing our No Outsiders ethos in action.

Next week is antibullying week. One of the ways that we raise awareness of this and the issues associated with bullying is through our odd socks day, which will take place on Monday. Hopefully, as many children as possible can take part in this.

Although some of our homework is paper based, please remember that Accelerated Reader, MyON, Mathletics and Spelling Shed are all available to use online. These are excellent resources for embedding and enhancing children's confidence and skills within maths and English. Please look at how your child's class is doing with these later on in this newsletter.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

## DIARY DATES

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November**  
Year 5 Mosque Visit

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**  
Year 3 Synagogue

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 4 Parent Reading  
workshop

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November**  
Flu Immunisations  
Year 2 Showcase

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November**  
Year 6 Cathedral Trip

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December**  
Reception Eye Tests

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
Last day of school term

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**  
Teacher training day – school  
closed

**Do you have a safeguarding  
concern about a child?**

Contact:

[safeguarding@colmersfarm.  
excelsiormat.org](mailto:safeguarding@colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org)

**Alternatively contact  
Birmingham City Council  
Children's Trust on 0121 303  
1888**

**Emergency out-of-hours  
number: 0121 675 4806**

**What's new on our website?**



**Art Exhibition – news section**

**Congratulations to the following children who have been chosen to be our new Eco-Committee representatives:**

Kataleya  
Valentina  
Mairam

3F  
3J  
4G

Hayden  
Lola  
Gabriella

4L  
5T  
5M

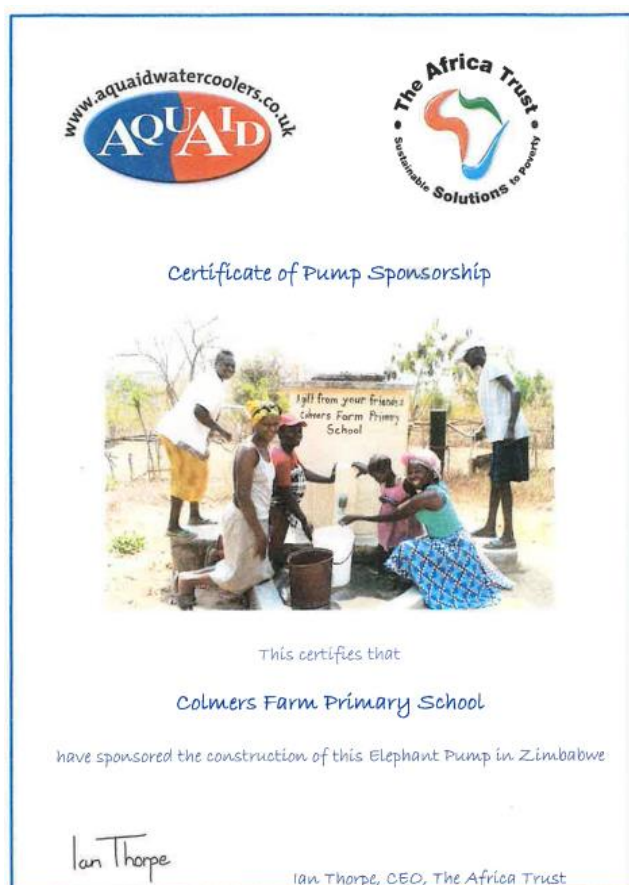
Abigail  
Riley

6D  
6G

**Well done!**

**We are proud to support the Africa Trust through Aquaaid – who supply our water coolers in school.**

**This week we received this wonderful letter from Shallom in Africa:**



Manicaland Province

Dear Friend

I am so happy to write this letter thanking you for the Elephant Pump installed at our school by the Africa Trust. My name is Shallom T. Moyo. I am 14 years old. The Elephant Pump we benefit clean and safe water to drink and wash.

Some of the advantages of the Elephant Pump are it is easy to operate and maintain. The water is protected and safe to drink. No more water borne diseases compared to open water. We grow vegetables for both commercial and domestic consumption at our school.

The pump is close to other's homesteads, no longer walking long distance to fetch water. We are so happy to have the Elephant Pump at our school.

Thank you my friend and God may bless you.

Yours sincerely

Shallom T. Moyo

Useful link for parents with babies and toddlers:

Learning to talk | 3 to 5 years | Start for Life (www.nhs.uk)

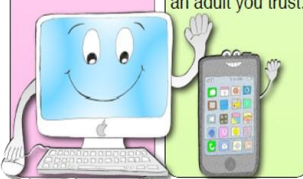
This is a great website, full of ideas and activities you can do with babies and toddlers.

## e-safety – Staying safe online

# S

**Stay Safe**


Don't give out your personal information to people / places you don't know.



# M

**Don't Meet Up**


Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Always check with an adult you trust.



# A

**Accepting Files**


Accepting emails, files, pictures or texts from people you don't know can cause problems.



# R

**Reliable?**

Check information before you believe it. Is the person or website telling the truth?



# T

**Tell Someone**

Tell an adult if someone or something makes you feel worried or uncomfortable.

Follow these SMART tips to keep yourself safe online!

## Pupil e-safety challenge



Your friend sends you a funny picture of themselves. What should you do?

- (a) Send it to all your friends. They would find it funny also.
- (b) Tell your friend to be careful about emailing funny pictures of themselves.
- (c) Do nothing.

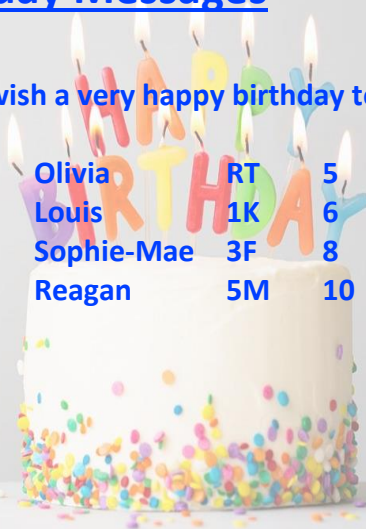
This week's answer = B. Sending funny photos of yourself might seem like a good idea to make your friends laugh. They can, however, be used to tease or bully you. Always think carefully before sending any photos of yourself to anybody. It is always best to check with your parents/carers before doing this.

## Happy Birthday Messages

For next week, we would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

Cleo	RT	5
Isabell	1K	6
Eden	2P	7
Euan	4L	9
Paige	6G	11

Olivia	RT	5
Louis	1K	6
Sophie-Mae	3F	8
Reagan	5M	10



## Please follow us on Twitter!

Our Twitter feed is where we celebrate the wonderful learning we see from our pupils everyday!

@Colmers\_FarmPS



# Punctuality – Are you on time every day?

Arriving at school on time is essential. Learning starts promptly at 8:45 am and children who arrive at school late miss valuable learning time.

Children also report feeling uncomfortable when entering the classroom once lessons have started as they feel unsure about the learning objectives. It can also leave them feeling embarrassed and self-conscious. Class staff are ready to welcome children to their classrooms from 8:35 am and this warm welcome sets the scene for the children to have a happy and successful day.

Doors are open for arrival between 8:35 and 8:45 am. Registers are taken promptly.

Arrival time	Register mark
8:45	<b>P</b> (child is marked as present)
8:51 – 9:30	<b>L</b> (child is marked as late)
9:31 onwards	<b>U</b> (child is marked as late after registers close and % is affected)

**Our whole school attendance target remains at 96% and this year we are determined to reach it!**

**Our current school attendance to date is 94.2% - let's get this up to 96%!**

## The Colmers Farm attendance league table WEEK 7

Position	Class	Games Played	Points
1	3J	7	18
=	4L	7	18
3	2B	7	16
4	5T	7	15
=	5M	7	15
6	1K	7	12
=	1W	7	12
8	RT	7	9
=	RL	7	9
=	2P	7	9
=	2F	7	9
12	4G	7	6
=	6G	7	6
14	RG	7	4
15	6D	7	3

## CLASS AWARDS:

The class with the highest attendance in EYFS / KS1 and the winner of the Colmers Cat this week is:



**1W – 98.1%**

The class with the highest attendance in KS2 and the winner of the Colmers Camel this week is:



**3J – 98.2%**

## Help your child become a better **READER**

Questions to ask your child while reading fiction text.

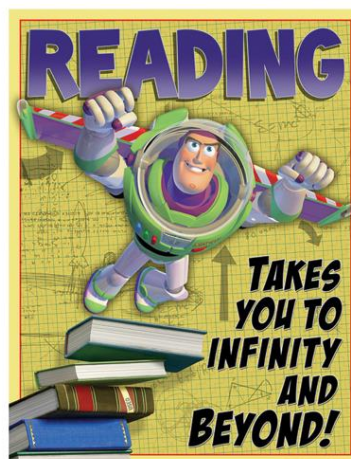
- Who is the main character?
- What is the setting in the story? Does the setting change?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- Did the character change during the story? How?
- How are you like the main character? How are you different?
- What do you predict will happen next in the story?
- Why do you think the author chose this title for the story?
- Do you like the title of the story? Why or why not?
- Can you think of a different title for the story?
- Which character from the story would you choose to be your friend? Why?
- Which part of the story was the most exciting? Why?
- Did you like the end of the story? Why or why not?
- Which parts in the story could really happen? Which parts could not really happen?

fun-in-first.blogspot.com

### READ, READ, READ!

Reading is a key skill which is so important to any child's development at any age. Please try to listen to your child read at least once a day (for 10-15 mins ideally). It's also great for children to listen to you reading aloud as well.

As you know, our children in Years 1-6 have access to thousands of books online via myON. If you need help accessing this, please contact your child's class teacher or the school office.



## Help your child become a better **READER**

Questions to ask your child while reading nonfiction text.

- What is the main idea of the text?
- Can you tell me something you already know about this topic?
- What did you learn from reading the text?
- Are there any words that you do not know what they mean?
- What are some new words that you learned?
- Do you have any questions after reading this?
- Were there any features (diagrams, charts, pictures) that were important?
- Where could you find out more information about this topic?
- What questions would you ask the author about this topic?
- What would be a good title for this text?
- Can you think of another book that you have read about this topic? How was it similar? How was it different?
- Did you like the text? Why or why not?

fun-in-first.blogspot.com

**Questions to ask your child when listening to them reading.**



**Accelerated™**  
Reader

	Class Name	Number of Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	4G	186,687
2 <sup>nd</sup>	6G	126,536
3 <sup>rd</sup>	5T	60,668
4 <sup>th</sup>	5M	51,673
5 <sup>th</sup>	4L	39,792
6 <sup>th</sup>	6D	28,687
7 <sup>th</sup>	3F	19,201
8 <sup>th</sup>	3J	17,463

Last week's top scorers	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Timothy (4G) 169,680
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stefania (6G) 46,236
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rocco (6G) 41,073
Highest score this year	
Timothy (4G) 228,313	

## Spelling Shed

	Class Name	Number of Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	6G	86,175,490
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5T	59,913,782
3 <sup>rd</sup>	6D	50,490,191
4 <sup>th</sup>	4G	34,582,818
5 <sup>th</sup>	5M	25,087,390
6 <sup>th</sup>	2P	7,002,620
7 <sup>th</sup>	3J	6,782,168
8 <sup>th</sup>	3F	5,921,845
9 <sup>th</sup>	4L	4,716,086
10 <sup>th</sup>	1K	3,863,168
11 <sup>th</sup>	2B	2,373,524
12 <sup>th</sup>	1W	672,950

Last week's top scorers	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Ryan (5T) 50,818,712
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Oliver (6G) 18,053,976
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Timothy (4G) 17,971,064
Highest score this year	
Oliver (6G) 72,545,608	

## Mathletics

	Class Name	Number of Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	5T	18,599
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5M	16,822
3 <sup>rd</sup>	6G	12,410
4 <sup>th</sup>	6D	12,154
5 <sup>th</sup>	2B	11,231
6 <sup>th</sup>	4G	7,851
7 <sup>th</sup>	3F	6,508
8 <sup>th</sup>	3J	5,421
9 <sup>th</sup>	4L	3,170
10 <sup>th</sup>	2P	1,921

Last week's top scorers	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Sujaan (5M) 6,123
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ryan (5T) 5,839
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jamie-Lee (6D) 4,270
Highest score this year	
Khaleesi M (3J) 10,100	



At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

## 10 Conversation Starters for Parents

Talking about mental health to children is sometimes hard. To the point that we can put off raising the subject, not wanting to unearth problems or raise overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. But rather than keeping children in the dark, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so they feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.



### 1 LISTEN

This sounds obvious, but it is not something we are always great at. Active listening is where we listen without interrupting or making judgements and shows interest in what is being said. If your child feels listened to in the 'smallest of problems' they will become confident that you will listen when the 'biggest of problems' arise.

### 2 ASK TWICE

The campaign from time to change is great. <https://www.time-to-change.org.uk/support-ask-twice-campaign>. Be tenacious about your child's wellbeing. Children instinctively know when your questions and support come from a place of wanting to help and care.

### 3 THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A STUPID QUESTION

This advice also relates to the first point. If your child can ask you any questions about the smallest of things and you listen and answer without shaming or belittling, then they will have more confidence to ask the biggest of questions.

### 4 BE OPEN AND HONEST

Children appreciate honesty, particularly if you are having to share information or talk about a difficult subject. For example, you may be talking about death or loss: 'It's very sad that Nana has died' or 'I feel sad that Nana has died'. How you talk about a subject will differ depending on their age and developmental maturity. Talking about death to a younger child for example will be different to that of an older teen, as their experience and understanding of death is different.

### 5 KNOW WHEN TO SEEK HELP

Assess the severity of the mental health difficulty you are noticing. Is the difficulty making it hard for your child to function regularly throughout everyday life? How frequently is your child affected, how long does it last and how persistent is it? Are they having problems controlling the difficulty? Talk to your child about your concerns and that it is likely they will need further support beyond family and friends.

### 6 TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH NATURALLY

Speak about mental health as part of everyday life, so that talking about our feelings and those of others is normalised. If the usual 'are you ok?' is not creating an opportunity for dialogue then say something like 'I know when something like that has happened to me I felt like this... is that how you are feeling or are you feeling something else?'

### 7 EMPATHISE

'It makes sense that you would feel this way, it is understandable'. Children often worry about things that we, as adults, might see as trivial or silly. However, for them at their age and stage it is a big concern and they need our kindness and care when they show their vulnerability and share their worries.

### 8 HELP YOUR CHILD FEEL SAFE

Teens particularly feel that by talking about their worries or concerns that this will make things worse. Reassure your child that you will discuss a plan of action together and what may or may not need to happen next. If they are a younger child, it is likely you will need to lead the conversation and explain next steps.

### 9 MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

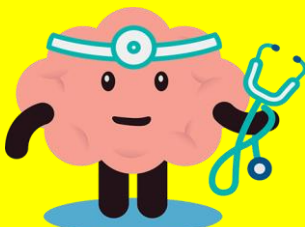
Be mindful of the language you use at home to describe and talk about mental health. Stigma often arises from misconceptions and a choice of language which is harmful. Using the word 'mental', 'man-up' or other such words in a derogatory way won't encourage your child to talk about their mental health for fear of being belittled.

### 10 IT IS OK TO SAY 'I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT'

Adults do not have all the answers but often children think they do. It is ok to acknowledge that what your child is experiencing is not something you have come across before or know anything about, but that you will work it out together and seek help together.

## What should I do If I have any concerns about my child's mental health?

Please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of our school's pastoral team (Mrs Taylor, Miss Evans or Miss Storer).



# This Week's Hot Chocolate Winners

Congratulations to all of our hot chocolate winners this week. They are:

Syeda	1K
Nonso	2P
Dior	3F
Sophie	4L
Beth	5T
Logan F	6D



# This week's congratulations assembly recipients

Well done to:

Ryan	1W	Hudson	1K	Lily	2B
Emily	2P	Oliver	3F	Daniel	3J
Lucia	4L	Kayleigh	4G	Gracie-Mae	5M
Phoebe	5T	Abigail	6D	Freya	6G



You have all demonstrated the key quality of resilience this week.

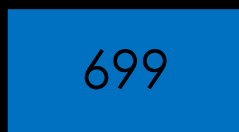
# This week's house point results



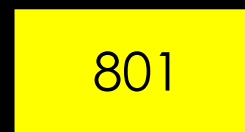
Farah



Thompson



Daley



Ennis-Hill

# School Uniform

At Colmers Farm Primary School, we place a high priority on our children wearing the correct school uniform. Please note that our children are not allowed to wear trainers in school unless this is short term with prior agreement.

For details about our school uniform requirements, please see the uniform section on our school website.

Thank you for your support with this.

# Help with School Uniform



Rubery Community Swop Shop is a fabulous organisation which helps families by providing pre-loved school uniform, PE kit and footwear to them FOR FREE. Please visit [www.ruberyswopshop.co.uk](http://www.ruberyswopshop.co.uk) or [ruberyswopshop@outlook.com](mailto:ruberyswopshop@outlook.com) for more information.

# Help for all families in Birmingham



Food  
& Energy



Youth  
Support



Domestic  
Abuse



Emergency  
Funding



Money &  
Debt Advice



Data & IT



Under 5's  
Support



School Uniforms  
& Clothing



Parenting



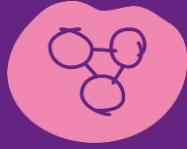
Special Needs  
& Disabilities



Bereavement



Housing



Sexual  
Health



Mental  
Health



Play

**Birmingham**  
Children's Partnership



**Birmingham**  
Children's Partnership



## Edgbaston

EarlyHelpEdgbaston@gatewayfs.org  
0121 456 7821

## Erdington

ErdingtonFamilies@compass-support.org.uk  
0121 748 8199

## Hall Green

Hallgreen.families@greensquareaccord.co.uk  
07570 953519 (9:30am to 4:30pm)

## Hodge Hill

EarlyHelp-Hodgehill@family-action.org.uk  
07976 199894

## Ladywood

childrenandfamilies@bsettlement.org.uk  
07764 977636

## Northfield

NorthfieldFamilies@northfieldcommunity.org  
07516 918 133

## Perry Barr

PerrybarrEHnetwork@spurgeons.org  
0121 752 1900

## Selly Oak

EarlyHelp.Billesley@gmail.com  
0121 441 4556

## Sutton Coldfield

SuttonEHnetwork@spurgeons.org  
0121 752 1860

## Yardley

EarlyHelpYardley@barnardos.org.uk  
0121 289 4875

