



# Colmers Farm Primary School WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week at our  
nurturing school



A reminder; please continue to be polite and respectful to staff  
and one another in the school playgrounds and surrounding areas,  
thank you.

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the final newsletter of this term and the calendar year. It's been a rather busy week as final weeks always tend to be.

On Monday, Miss Jennings and Miss McCarron, took some of our pupils after school to Colmers Secondary School to take part in a series of winter themed sporting activities such as snowball dodgeball, curling, virtual bobsleighbing and hit the Grinch. Everybody had a lot of fun. Well done to our pupils who took part in this. Thank you to Miss Jennings and Miss McCarron for giving up your free time to enable our pupils to participate.

On Tuesday, our Year 6s went to RAF Cosford as part of their World War 2 topic. This gave our Year 6s the chance to reinforce and 'show off' all they have learnt during this topic. Here they got to see and identify different planes, tanks and other military equipment. They also got to experience a blackout room and to dress up in period uniforms. Our Year 6s represented our school on this visit very well. Well done Year 6!

Also on Tuesday, fourteen of our Year 3 and 5 pupils took part in a sporting competition at Billesley Indoor Tennis Centre. Here our pupils competed in a variety of activities such as javelin, long jump and circuits. They all demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship qualities throughout the day. Our pupils did brilliantly in this activity finishing first out of ten schools. Well done to all the pupils who took part in this.

This week, we had our termly Governors Award assemblies. This is always a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our pupils who have been either good role models, have been improving the well-being of others or have been trying really hard with their learning over the term. Congratulations to all our winners who for this term were:

|                                    | Reception     | Year 1       | Year 2          | Year 3          | Year 4     | Year 5      | Year 6      |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Improving the well-being of others | Leighton (RG) | Ella (1W)    | Emmett (2B)     | Oliver (3F)     | Lucas (4L) | Lawson (5T) | Riley (6G)  |
| Being a good role model            | Hannah (RT)   | Shea (1W)    | Duaa (2B)       | Arash (3J)      | Max (4G)   | Evie (5M)   | Phoebe (6G) |
| Achievement and progress           | Nora (RL)     | Logan W (1K) | Gracie-May (2P) | Kaydi-Anne (3F) | Jake (4G)  | Nazila (5M) | Ayan (6D)   |



Good attendance is something that we value highly as a school. Congratulations to all our pupils who received their attendance certificates and badges this week for gaining over 97% attendance for this term. This is a great achievement! These pupils also got to have a non-uniform day on Wednesday as part of this achievement.

Nothing quite gets you in the Christmas spirit like a nativity performance and our Reception Classes carried our multiple performances this week for their parents and the other pupils in our school. The performances were wonderful! Thank you to all of the children who took part and also to all the staff in our Reception classes for all their hard work with these. This week we have also had our Christmas dinners in the dining room and our class Christmas parties. We are all in the Christmas mood at Colmers Farm.



Each Wednesday this term, pupils in our Year 5 and 6 drama club have been working with a drama specialist teacher from Colmers Secondary School (Miss Muscetto). During these sessions, they have been working on developing their speaking and listening and acting skills. This week, these pupils used their skills to take part in a special performance for their parents which linked with the Year 5 topic of the Tudors and specifically the six wives of Henry VIII. We all loved this humorous performance. Thank you to all our pupils and to Miss Muscetto for their hard work with creating this. You were all fabulous!

This week we received a thank you from the B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank for our collection last week. We managed to collect 327.3kg of food which is fantastic. "From everyone at the B30 and South Birmingham Foodbank, on behalf of all our clients, we say a heartfelt thank you once again for your kindness and generosity."

Today you should have received your child's/children's knowledge organiser/s for their Spring Term topic/s. Please spend some time with your child/children looking at these and encouraging them to learn some of the facts contained within them. Also, please remember the homework activities on these. We love our children bringing in examples of these throughout the year, which we display in our classrooms. One child from each class will also be chosen to display their homework on a special display outside of my office. I look forward to seeing what is created.

I hope that you and your families all have a wonderful Christmas break. We look forward to welcoming everybody back to school, safe and well, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

Mr Williams  
Headteacher



## Proposed Admission Changes for 2024-2025

Please see the link below for the proposed admission changes from Birmingham City Council for 2024-2025

[Proposed admissions arrangements 2024 to 2025 | Determined admissions arrangements 2023 | Birmingham City Council](#)



A huge thank you to all our children and parents/carers for your generous donations in support of the local food bank!



## Happy Birthday Messages

For over the Christmas holidays, we would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

|          |    |    |          |    |    |           |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----------|----|----|-----------|----|----|
| Felicity | RG | 5  | Elsie    | RG | 5  | Ava-Leigh | RL | 5  |
| Tori     | RL | 5  | Star     | 1K | 6  | Elijah    | 1K | 6  |
| Jake     | 1W | 6  | Richard  | 1W | 6  | Skye      | 2B | 7  |
| Nate     | 2P | 7  | Louise   | 2P | 7  | Hope      | 3F | 8  |
| Robyn    | 3J | 8  | Demi-Lea | 3J | 8  | Hollie    | 3J | 8  |
| Max      | 4G | 9  | Isabella | 4L | 9  | Millie    | 4L | 9  |
| Daniel   | 5M | 10 | Taijon   | 5M | 10 | Bailey    | 5M | 10 |
| Piper    | 5M | 10 | Piper    | 5T | 10 | Thomas    | 5T | 10 |
| Alfie    | 5T | 10 | Lola     | 5T | 10 | Chad      | 6D | 11 |
| Amara    | 6D | 11 |          |    |    |           |    |    |



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

**Our school attendance for the whole Autumn Term is 92.6% - let's get this up to 96% in the Spring!**

**The Colmers Farm attendance league table Autumn Term**

| Position | Class | Games Played | Points |
|----------|-------|--------------|--------|
| 1        | 3J    | 12           | 33     |
| 2        | 4L    | 12           | 30     |
| =        | 5M    | 12           | 30     |
| 4        | 5T    | 12           | 21     |
| =        | RL    | 12           | 21     |
| 6        | 2B    | 12           | 19     |
| 7        | 1W    | 12           | 18     |
| =        | 1K    | 12           | 18     |
| =        | 4G    | 12           | 18     |
| 10       | 6G    | 12           | 15     |
| =        | RT    | 12           | 15     |
| =        | 3F    | 12           | 15     |
| 13       | 2P    | 12           | 12     |
| 14       | 6D    | 12           | 9      |
| 15       | RG    | 12           | 7      |

**CLASS AWARDS:**

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



**2B – 93.2%**

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



**3J – 96%**

Well done to the 157 children who earned their bronze badges this term!







**Accelerated™**  
Reader

|                 | Class Name | Number of Points |
|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 6G         | 576,922          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 5T         | 308,844          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 6D         | 133,940          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 4G         | 98,462           |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | 3J         | 58,005           |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | 5M         | 34,036           |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> | 3F         | 31,465           |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> | 4L         | 8,315            |

| Last week's top scorers |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>         | Paige (6G) 86,235   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | Lillian (6G) 85,872 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>         | Oliver (6G) 85,611  |
| Highest score this year |                     |
| Timothy (4G) 228,313    |                     |



## Spelling Shed

|                  | Class Name | Number of Points |
|------------------|------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 5T         | 132,731,770      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 6G         | 62,384,444       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 4G         | 39,418,343       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 5M         | 27,202,236       |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 6D         | 22,531,193       |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 29         | 13,161,976       |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 2B         | 8,021,880        |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 3F         | 3,135,696        |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 1W         | 2,871,246        |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 1K         | 2,004,653        |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 4L         | 675,590          |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | 3J         | 569,516          |

| Last week's top scorers |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>         | Theo (5T) 41,408,045     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | Ryan (5T) 33,443,718     |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>         | Kayleigh (4G) 24,991,886 |
| Highest score this year |                          |
| Chloe S (6G) 73,208,208 |                          |



## Mathletics

|                  | Class Name | Number of Points |
|------------------|------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 5T         | 10,939           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 6G         | 9,187            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 4G         | 6,436            |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 3F         | 4,784            |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 5M         | 4,325            |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 3J         | 3,150            |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 2B         | 2,687            |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 4L         | 2,500            |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 6D         | 1,890            |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 2P         | 986              |

| Last week's top scorers |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>         | Kayleigh (4G) 2,712 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | Freya (6G) 2,390    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>         | Hayden (4L) 2,210   |
| Highest score this year |                     |
| Khaleesi (3J) 10,100    |                     |



# Christmas Activities

That are good for your mental health



Make some homemade hot chocolate with real chocolate, it really has to be experienced!



Bake some treats, like gingerbread people. They're delicious and the activity taps into your creative side!



Watch a feel-good movie with an open fire. Films can help immerse you into the happier headspace.

Wrap up and go for a winter walk. Exercise is good for your mental health and we can't stop just cause it's a bit nippy out! Plus it's a great opportunity to look at Christmas Lights!



Donate some money/goods to charity. SVP's giving tree is a great appeal to help those in need. It feels good to give back!



Make a home-made Christmas jumper for any in person/zoom parties. Hot glue on tinsel and baubles or print off some memes or puns and stick them on. It's a great talking point and will give you a laugh!



Get Tidy. Christmas can get cluttered and messy with gifts and decorations. A tidy space can equal a tidy mind!

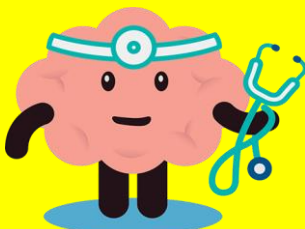


Do not neglect your mental health. Talk to a GP/Counsellor if you feel overwhelmed or low.



## 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).





**CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

**PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS**

**Premier Education** | **INSPIRING ACTIVITY**

**SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
or visit [premier-education.com/holiday-camps](https://premier-education.com/holiday-camps)

**Trustpilot**  
Based on over 15,000 reviews

## Forestdale Primary



### FREE! CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CAMP, FRANKLEY AND RUBERY

Premier Education are pleased to announce we will be running a free holiday activity Camp as part of the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme which offers Free School Meal (FSM) children free holiday camp provision!

**Venue:** Forestdale Primary School, [Wreham](#) Road, B45 0JS

**Date:** Monday 19<sup>th</sup> – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022

**Activities:** The camp will include a healthy lunch and a wide range of enrichment activities! From Dodgeball, Dance and Archery, to Arts and Crafts and fun team games, we have plenty of activities in store for all abilities!

**Age:** 5 years – 11 years

**Time:** 9am – 1pm (free)

**Booking Link:** <https://family.premier-education.com/add-course/805494>

We are also offering families some extra time on our camps. This can be added through the booking process for £5 per day! Please see below for more information.

**Time:** 9am – 3pm (£5 per day)

To book this please select 'Xtra Time' throughout the booking process.

**DISCLAIMER:** Once a place has been booked, please ensure your child attends. If they are unable to attend, notification needs to be made to ensure your place is opened to the waiting list.



## 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 Swap 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.ruberyswapshop.co.uk](http://www.ruberyswapshop.co.uk) or [ruberyswapshop@outlook.com](mailto:ruberyswapshop@outlook.com) for more information.

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?



Year 6 Trip to Cosford (News Section)

Pupil Premium Spend for 2022/2023 (Pupil Premium)



## The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas

# FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!



### 1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).

### 2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.

### 3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.

### 4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.

### 5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.

### 6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.

### 7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.

### 8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.

### 9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.

### 10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.

### 11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.

### 12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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# THE DANGERS OF FROZEN WATER

Every year children are at risk when they are tempted to play on the ice formed on open waters and adults find themselves at risk as they attempt to save them. Over 50 % of ice related drowning involved an attempted rescue of another person or a dog.

Areas with frozen waters can be beautiful to look at but they are also extremely dangerous. Here are some useful tips to help you enjoy these areas safely.

## TOP TIPS TO STAY SAFE

### NEVER GO ON THE ICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

This includes attempting to rescue another person or animal who may have fallen through the ice.

### ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Try to take walks in the daylight but if you must walk in the evening, only use well lit areas and avoid anywhere with water.

### KEEP AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF THE WATER

Never go close to the edge or lean over to touch the ice. You may over balance or trip and fall in.

### ALWAYS WALK WITH AN ADULT OR A GROUP OF FRIENDS

Look out for each other and if someone does fall through the ice there will be others around to raise the alarm and get help

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Keep calm and shout 'help'

Spread your arms across the surface of the ice in front of you

Try to kick your legs and pull yourself out of the water and on to the ice

Lie flat, spreading your weight across the surface and pull yourself to the bank. you may find it easier to roll.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help and keep as still as possible. Keep your head above the water, press your arms by your side and keep your legs together

Once you are safe, it is important that you go to hospital immediately for a check up



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE SOMEONE FALL THROUGH THE ICE

Shout for **'HELP'** and dial **999** or **112** if you can

**DO NOT** walk on to the ice to attempt a rescue

Shout to the person to **'KEEP STILL'** and offer reassurance.

If they are close enough, **LIE DOWN TO AVOID OVERBALANCING** and falling onto the ice, and try to reach them with a tree branch clothing tied together or anything else which can extend your reach.

If you cannot reach them, **SLIDE SOMETHING** which floats across the ice, such as a plastic bottle or a football, so that they can hold on to it to stay afloat whilst help is on the way.

If they are too far away, **WAIT FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES** and reassure the casualty from the safety of the bank.

StayWise





HERBERT'S  
YARD



# HERBERT'S WINTER WONDERYARD

**28TH & 29TH DECEMBER AT HERBERT'S YARD**

**10AM-2PM | FREE ENTRY\***

*INCLUDING...*

**CRAFTS AND CLAY  
FOOD WORKSHOPS  
SPORTS**

***FREE HOT MEAL FOR EVERY CHILD***

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

*This event is funded by 'Bring it on Brum' and is only available  
for children in receipt of free school meals.*

*There will be no tickets available on the door.*

***\*BOOKING IN ADVANCE IS REQUIRED***

*To book your place head to [www.bringitonbrum.co.uk](http://www.bringitonbrum.co.uk)*



# 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



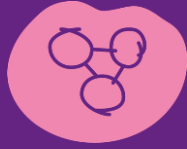
Special Needs  
& Disabilities



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

