



# Colmers Farm Primary School WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week at our  
nurturing school



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are having a good week.

### **Murphy Engineering and Construction Group**

On Friday last week, we received a donation of materials for our developing OPAL provision. This included construction hard hats, vests, safety glasses, construction signs and various other bits of equipment. We look forward to introducing this to our children over the next few weeks. We are very grateful for the generosity of this donation.



### **School Meal Prices**

Unfortunately, our school meal provider (City Serve) will be putting up their catering prices from April. As a school, we have absorbed the cost of previous increases over the last few years. Regrettably though, we will need to increase the amount we have to charge for school meals. These changes will take effect from after the Easter holidays. We will let you know the new price as soon as we have confirmation of what our supplier's new prices will be.

### **Year 6 Parents' Open Morning**

On Tuesday this week, our Year 6 parents were invited to come into school for the morning to see their children in action in the 4 classrooms, to experience some reading, writing and maths lessons and to meet the teachers. I hope you all enjoyed your morning and that you found it to be a useful experience. I have to say, the feedback that I had from the Year 6 teachers was glowing about how attentive our Year 6 parents were, and their behaviour was outstanding. Not a single blue card was given out. Well done parents! Gold stars all round. We look forward to seeing you again soon.

### **NSPCC Number Day**

Today we joined schools up and down the country celebrating the NSPCC Number Day at our school. This involved our children wearing clothing which contained a number and them taking part in several, even more fun than normal (if that's possible), maths activities. As part of this day, we also had a food collection for our local foodbank. Thank you all for your generosity with this.



## **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)**

OPAL continues to enthuse our children. The mixing of our KS1 and 2 children continues to work well and it's delightful seeing how these children interact. The dancing on the stage to our new sound system is wonderful and the creativity shown by our children with the tyres and pieces of wood is fabulous (see the photo). We look forward to introducing some new activities to our children next week.



## **Sooper Books**

Some of you may have seen on a recent episode of Dragon's Den something called Sooper Books. This is a book streaming service that offers a wide variety of original, world-class stories and audiobooks on any internet connected devices. You can read or listen as much as you want, whenever, wherever you want. There are 100 stories available free of charge that we think it would be a great way to encourage your child to read or listen to a wide range of stories.

[Sooper Books© | BBC Dragons' Den 2024](#)

Please remember that we also have MyON. This contains thousands of books that can be accessed online.

## **Birmingham City Football Club – tickets**

You may remember that Birmingham City Football Club, along with 'Pioneer People' offered Colmers Farm Primary School up to 100 tickets to Birmingham City Football Club vs Sunderland, on Saturday 17th February at St Andrews Stadium.

We have been completely blown away by the response from parents and have had almost 400 requests for these tickets! Mrs Young managed to secure some additional tickets, meaning that 85 children and their families will be lucky enough to enjoy this big-stadium experience for free. This would be great evidence that can be used towards the KS2 SAGE award.

Slips will be sent home today with all children who have been successful in their application. We are only sorry that there are some children who will not get this opportunity due to the high demand for tickets. Should we secure more in the future, these pupils will be prioritised. For this reason, if your plans change and you are no longer able to make the match, please let Mrs Young know.



## **And finally...**

We have this week introduced a weekly oracy question for each year group. This will be a new feature in our weekly newsletter, and this will be something that you can use with your children to develop their oracy skills and also to find out more about what they have done in school this week. We hope that you find this feature useful and that you will use this with your children at some point over the weekend with them.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend. Thank you for your continued support.

**Mr Williams**  
**Headteacher**

## Dates for your diary

| Date   | Event   | Additional Information |
|--|---|------------------------|
| Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February   | Symphony Hall Trip                                  | Year 6                 |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 | Half Term Holiday - school closed to pupils         |                        |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February   | Return to school after half term                    |                        |
| Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February   | After School Wraparound Provision starts            | 3:30pm – 5:30pm        |
| Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February  | Parents Oracy workshop                              | All year groups        |
| Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February                                      | Year 1 Maths Workshop                               |                        |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> March  | Year 2 Maths workshop                               |                        |
| Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April             | Easter Holidays – school closed to pupils           |                        |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April  | Animal Man visit                                    | Reception              |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April            | Bikeability   | Year 3 and Year 4      |
| Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May               | Bikeability   | Year 3 and Year 4      |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> May              | SATs week   | Year 6                 |
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May                | Whitsun Half Term Holiday – school closed to pupils |                        |
| Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June  | Class photo day                                     |                        |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June   | Wythall Transport Museum Trip                       | Reception              |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July   | SeaLife Centre Trip                                 | Year 2                 |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July   | Break up for Summer                                 |                        |
| Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July   | Teacher Training Day – school closed to pupils      |                        |

# 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.



## Please follow us on Twitter!

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

@Colmers\_FarmPS



## Happy Birthday Messages

For this week we would like to wish Happy Birthday to:

|            |    |    |
|------------|----|----|
| Wanny      | 5E | 10 |
| Jake       | 5E | 10 |
| Duaa       | 3B | 8  |
| Luckie     | 2M | 7  |
| Renzo      | 6B | 11 |
| Summer-Rai | 2P | 7  |
| Riley      | 3B | 8  |



### 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

### What's New on the Website?

- China Wow Day letter – Year 6
- Breakfast club price increase letter
- After school wraparound care letter
- Supermarket voucher letter
- Safer internet day letter
- Year 2 Biscuit Stonehenge letter

### ORACY Questions to ask your child.

To further develop ORACY skills for children here at Colmers Farm, we would encourage all parents to ask their child the below question in order to further develop their understanding, learning and ORACY skills around the topics they are currently learning about in school.

- Reception:** What activities did you do on number day?
- Year 1:** What are the 7 continents?
- Year 2:** What have you learnt so far about the Stone Age?
- Year 3:** Why was the river Nile so important to the Ancient Egyptians?
- Year 4:** What are the differences between lines of longitude and latitude?
- Year 5:** Can you name 3 different types of force and give examples of when they occur?
- Year 6:** Why was The Silk Road important?

## Rights Respecting Article

We are actively promoting children's rights and ensuring they know them, please see an 'Article of the week' for you to share with your child'?

For more information, please visit the below website:

[The Right to Participation for Rights Respecting Schools - UNICEF UK](#)



## Article 12



*You have the right to give your opinion,  
and for adults to listen and take it  
seriously.*

## **The Right to Participation is one of the most important principles in becoming a Rights Respecting School.**

Participation of children and young people is one of the General Principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as it plays a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children.

One of the relevant articles of the Convention that addresses the principle of participation is Article 12, the right to be heard. Article 12 says that every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This principle recognises children and young people as actors in their own lives and applies at all times throughout a child's life.

There is also a wider group of rights (or articles) that address the right of children to participate, and which influence our understanding of participation, including a child's right to seek and receive information, to express their own views and to associate with others.

The Rights Respecting Schools Award provides a framework for pupil participation based on the Convention. Adults are encouraged to work with children and young people in an inclusive way to ensure that their views are heard and valued in decision-making. In Rights Respecting Schools, children understand that participation is a right, "an entitlement not a permission."

The experience of participation should be relevant, informed, voluntary, safe, respectful and transparent. Children must not be pressured into participatory activities and independent advocacy support should be sought where appropriate. There is no minimum age at which children can participate and younger children should be offered appropriate support, in line with their evolving capacities, to play an increasingly informed and active role in the school's life.

# This Week's Hot Chocolate Winners

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



|        |    |
|--------|----|
| Peyton | RG |
| Blake  | 1W |
| Darcie | 2P |
| Isbah  | 3B |
| Arnold | 4V |
| Amelia | 5S |
| Harley | 6H |



# This week's congratulations assembly recipients...



|        |    |        |    |             |    |
|--------|----|--------|----|-------------|----|
| Lucian | RG | Lowki  | RL | Thomas      | RJ |
| Blake  | 1W | Juno   | 1K | Hudson      | 2P |
| Luckie | 2M | Oliver | 3F | Skye        | 3B |
| Sophia | 4J | Arnold | 4V | Callum      | 5E |
| Alfie  | 5S | Evie   | 6B | Olivia-Rose | 6H |



## House Points

|           | Daley | Ennis-Hill | Farah | Thompson |
|-----------|-------|------------|-------|----------|
| This week | 155   | 117        | 130   | 158      |

|                   | Daley | Ennis-Hill | Farah | Thompson |
|-------------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|
| This term's total | 2924  | 2703       | 2831  | 2952     |





### Holidays and Absence during term time

Holiday absence will not be authorised during term time except in exceptional circumstances. It is very important that all parents and carers understand that children with unauthorised absences, including holidays, and unexplained absences will be referred for a Fixed Penalty Notice from Birmingham City Council.

Term time holidays continue to cause significant concern and debate. While there are many different views, the direct correlation between attendance and attainment is undeniable.

Absence from school interrupts teaching and learning and compromises progress. Birmingham City Council therefore seeks to support Birmingham schools and academies in reducing the amount of education lost to pupil leave of absence in term time. Birmingham City Council strongly discourages pupil leave of absence during term time.

**Our current school attendance is 93.3%**

**We are almost half way through the year and want to get up to 96% - We can do it!**

**The Colmers Farm attendance league table, WEEK 3.**

### CLASS AWARDS:

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



**RJ – 97.4%**

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



**3B – 94.3%**

| Position | Class | Games Played | Points |
|----------|-------|--------------|--------|
| 1        | RJ    | 3            | 9      |
| =        | 2M    | 3            | 9      |
| =        | 2P    | 3            | 9      |
| 4        | 3B    | 3            | 7      |
| 5        | 4V    | 3            | 6      |
| =        | 5E    | 3            | 6      |
| =        | 6H    | 3            | 6      |
| =        | RL    | 3            | 6      |
| 9        | 4J    | 3            | 3      |
| =        | 6B    | 3            | 3      |
| =        | RG    | 3            | 3      |
| =        | 1K    | 3            | 3      |
| =        | 1W    | 3            | 3      |
| 14       | 3F    | 3            | 1      |
| 15       | 5S    | 3            | 0      |

# Safeguarding at Colmers Farm Primary School

Please see the safeguarding page on our school website:  
[Safeguarding - Colmers Farm \(excelsiormat.org\)](http://safeguarding-colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org)

At Colmers Farm Primary School safeguarding children is of paramount importance. We have 4 Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) who can be contacted by parents should they have a safeguarding concern. **If you have safeguarding concerns about a child, please email school using the following email address: [safeguarding@colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org](mailto:safeguarding@colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org).** Our 4 DSLs are:



**Mrs Young**  
DHT  
Lead DSL



**Mrs Taylor**  
Pastoral Care  
Deputy DSL



**Mrs Evans**  
SENCO  
Deputy DSL



**Mr Williams**  
Headteacher  
Deputy DSL



**BIRMINGHAM  
CHILDREN'S TRUST**

## Contact details

Monday to Thursday: 8:45am to 5:15pm  
Friday: 8:45am to 4:15pm  
Telephone: 0121 303 1888

## Emergency out-of-hours

Telephone: 0121 675 4806.

The Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) provides a single point of contact for professionals and members of the public who want to seek support or raise concerns about a child.

We want to keep all children and young people in Birmingham safe from harm. If you are concerned about a child please contact us. We will listen, assess your concerns, and can take action if a child is at risk.

## If you have any concerns at all about a child's safety or wellbeing, don't hesitate to contact us



**Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.**

It doesn't have to be an emergency — you might be looking for guidance and support on issues affecting children. Whatever it is you're worried about, our dedicated child protection specialists will be able to advise and take any necessary action.

Whatever your worry — call us on 0808 800 5000, email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk), or submit our [online form](#) — we can help. We also have advice about [spotting the signs of abuse](#).

Due to an increase in demand across our service, our voice Helpline is currently operating between the hours of 10am-4pm on Monday to Friday. However, you can email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) at any time. It's free and you don't have to say who you are. If you think a child is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999 straight away.





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

Questions to ask your child while reading  
fiction text.



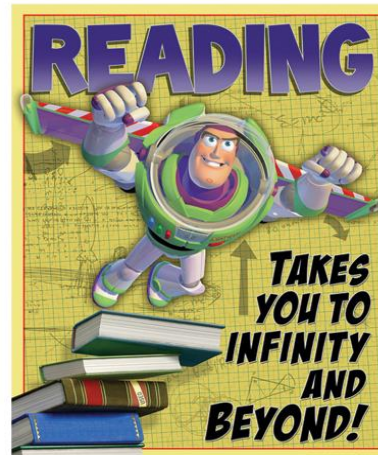
- Who is the main character?
- What is the setting in the story? Does the setting change?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- Did the character change during the story? How?
- How are you like the main character? How are you different?
- What do you predict will happen next in 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<sup>TM</sup>**  
Reader

|                 | Class Name | Number of Points |
|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 3B         | 32,263           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 3F         | 31,434           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 4J         | 18,208           |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 4V         | 112,772          |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | 5E         | 73,553           |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | 5S         | 9,086            |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> | 6H         | 4,944            |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> | 6B         | 708              |

| Last week's top scorers |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>         | Lucas (5E) 99,287    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | Danielle (4V) 79,092 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>         | Kade (3B) 13,816     |
| Highest score this year |                      |
| Tim (5S) 99,577         |                      |

**Spelling Shed** 

|                  | Class Name | Number of Points |
|------------------|------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 3B         | 84,577,988       |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 3F         | 80,079,364       |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 5S         | 16,943,618       |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 5E         | 15,678,666       |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 6B         | 2,914,624        |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 2P         | 2,451,636        |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 4V         | 1,673,132        |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 2M         | 1,456,956        |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 6H         | 1,182,472        |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 1W         | 1,073,894        |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | 1K         | 921,902          |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | 4J         | 482,056          |

| Last week's top scorers |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>         | Godpower (3B) 381,858,000 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | Szymon (3F) 25,312,030    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>         | Theo (3F) 28,572,834      |
| Highest score this year |                           |
| Lucas (5E) 196,342,628  |                           |

**Mathletics**

|                  | Class Name | Number of Points |
|------------------|------------|------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>  | 5E         | 197,537          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | 3B         | 186,602          |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 2M         | 180,004          |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | 2P         | 122,024          |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | 4V         | 103,925          |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 6H         | 73,850           |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 3F         | 50,778           |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 6B         | 46,381           |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 5S         | 43,289           |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | 4J         | 37,614           |

| Last week's top scorers |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>         | Scarlet (3B) 113,274 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>         | Lucas (5E) 106,175   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>         | Laurie (2M) 34,656   |
| Highest score this year |                      |
| Scarlet (3B) 113,274    |                      |