



Colmers Farm Primary School WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week at our
nurturing school



Friday 8th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have had a good week.

Head Pupil Vote

Our head pupil campaigns started this week as each of our nine candidates were given copies of the election posters they had created, to display around school. Their campaign videos will be shown early next week and then each child and member of staff in the school will be able to vote for their favourite candidate. I think it's going to be pretty close this year and I am excited to see who our two winning pupils will be. Good luck everybody!

Test Week

This week has been test week, with our pupils in Years 1-6 taking reading, maths and or grammar, punctuation and spelling tests. These tests are used as a tool to see where pupils are with their understanding and to identify areas for further development. Tests are rarely easy, and it has been really pleasing to see the high levels of resilience being shown with these as I have walked around school. Well done everybody!

Edgbaston Cricket Club – Year 4

On Wednesday, it was 4V's turn to visit Edgbaston Cricket Ground. Here they had a tour of this professional sporting venue and they were able to take part in some activities to develop their cricketing skills. 4J represented our school very well and they thoroughly enjoyed their visit.

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

At Colmers Farm we are working hard to increase and transform the opportunities for play during our dinnertimes. This week we officially launched OPAL with our first OPAL assembly. Each week we will be introducing a new activity for our pupils to use. As part of OPAL we tried something new on Wednesday and Thursday this week. On these days we allowed our EYFS, KS1 and 2 pupils to play on any playground they wished. This went very well and it was delightful to see the way many of our older pupils interacted and played with our younger pupils. Over the next few weeks, there will be many more opportunities for this and eventually this will hopefully become a permanent feature of our dinnertimes.

Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday was both Christmas dinner and Christmas Jumper Day at our school. The school was adorned with bright, sparkly and festive jumpers, which made everybody feel more festive. The children were also visited by a very special guest indeed.

As part of Christmas Jumper Day, we collected money for the Save the Children charity. As a school we managed to raise £40.05. Thank you for your generosity.



Attendance

Research has shown that regular attendance and good punctuality are crucial factors in students achieving their full potential in education. We are always happy to work with parents/carers in resolving any difficulties, but we are also committed to improving attendance levels at school.

If your child is genuinely ill, please contact the main school office on the day of absence before 8:30am. Please try to arrange medical appointments outside of the school day to minimise disruption to your child's education, however, we appreciate that this is not always possible.

At this time of the year, children often develop sniffles and coughs. These often do not prevent children being in school. Please send your children into school if they are experiencing these symptoms.

Also attached to this newsletter is a news release with regards to measles – please take the time to read this in full.

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Mr Williams
Headteacher



News Release

THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2023

West Midlands measles cases prompt MMR vaccination call

People in the West Midlands are being urged to check that they, and all family members are up to date with their MMR vaccine, following confirmation that measles is circulating in the region.

Since 1 October 2023, there have been 19 confirmed cases in the West Midlands, with an increasing number of likely cases.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) West Midlands is working with local authorities and local NHS partners to make sure that anyone in the region who needs an MMR vaccination is aware that there is an increased risk of catching measles, following confirmed cases in Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Additional Information
Tuesday 12 th – Friday 15 th December	Book Fair	3:30pm – 4:00pm
Monday 11 th December	Parliament trip to Parkfield	9:15 – 3:15
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 2 Showcase	2:10pm – 3:15pm
Friday 15 th December	Online meeting with a Baroness	Years 3,5 and 6
Tuesday 19 th December	Dogs Trust Visit	Year 6
Tuesday 19 th December	Nativity	9:30am
Tuesday 19 th December	Year 2 Festive Film Night	3:15 – 6pm
Wednesday 20 th December	Nativity	2:30pm
Friday 22 nd December	Christmas Parties & Christmas Jumper Day	All years
Friday 22 nd December	Break up for Christmas	
Monday 8 th January 2024	Teacher Training Day – school closed to pupils	
Tuesday 9 th January 2024	Pupils Return to School	All years
Wednesday 17 th January 2024	Citizens Advice Drop-in session	All day
Thursday 25 th January	Birmingham Cathedral Trip	Year 6
Tuesday 6 th February	Symphony Hall Trip	Year 6
Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February 2024	Half Term Holiday - school closed to pupils	
Monday 19 th February 2024	Teacher Training Day – school closed to pupils	
Monday 25 th March – Friday 5 th April	Easter Holidays – school closed to pupils	
Monday 13 th May – Thursday 16 th May	SATs week	Year 6
Monday 27 th May – Friday 31 st May	Whitsun Half Term Holiday – school closed to pupils	
Wednesday 5 th June 2024	Class photo day	
Friday 19 th July	Break up for Summer	
Monday 22 nd 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:

Abu	3F	8	James	3F	8
Miganne	1W	6	Sara	5E	10
Esshac	1W	6			
Clara	6H	11			
Sawyer	1K	6			



Do you have a safeguarding concern about a child?

Contact:

safeguarding@colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org

Alternatively contact Birmingham City Council

Children's Trust on

0121 303 1888

What's New on the Website?

- Year 2 Christmas Movie Night letter
- Changed to Breakfast club booking letter

Tips for SELF CARE over CHRISTMAS



Stay active: Physical activity can really help with keeping your mood positive – whether you like walking, cycling, playing football...

Not feeling festive? That's okay! There can be all sorts of reasons why some of us don't feel festive. It's okay to feel how you feel – you're not the only one!



Get enough sleep: Sleep is vital for our wellbeing. Try not to skimp on it – even on Christmas Eve!

Give yourself space: If it's all getting a bit hectic, take time out to be in nature, listen to your favourite music, read an uplifting book – or just be in the moment.



Aim for regular meals: Keeping a healthy routine, with plenty of water, fruit, veg if you can, will help keep stress at bay. Try whatever's realistic for you and be kind to yourself if you have 'off' days.

Stay supported: It's easy to feel lonely at Christmas when we're bombarded with images of happy families. Stay connected to your sources of support and if you're not sure where to turn, we've listed some useful organisations:

This Week's Hot Chocolate Winners

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



Cyrus	RJ
Tori	1K
Mard	2M
Evelyn	3F
Noah	4J
Gabriel	5S
Arley Joe	6H



This week's congratulations assembly recipients...



Marigold	RG	Jacob	RL	Meghan	RJ
Aiman	1W	Sawyer	1K	Desmond	2P
Troyzier	2M	Lily	3B	Maria-Mae	3F
Noah	4J	Tiegan	4V	Zahara	5E
Ellis	5S	Reagan	6B	Emilie	6H



House Points

	Daley	Ennis-Hill	Farah	Thompson
This week	188	78	96	155



	Daley	Ennis-Hill	Farah	Thompson
This term's total	2481	2350	2461	2546



Safeguarding at Colmers Farm Primary School

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



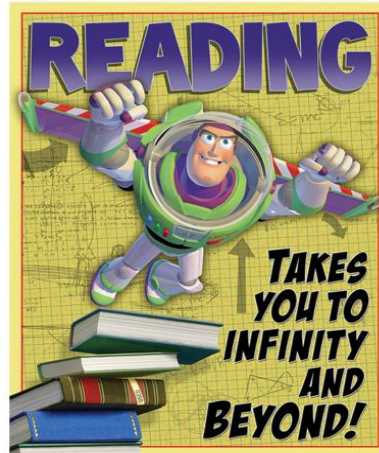
- Who is the main character?
- What is the setting in the story? Does the setting change?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- Did the character change during the story? How?
- How are you like the main character? How are you different?
- What do you predict will happen next in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

Let's Celebrate!



Next Friday, 15th December, bronze attendance badges will be given out in class to celebrate the children with attendance of 96% or higher this term.

(Please note: the percentage is calculated up to and including Thursday 14th December 2023)

We fully understand that there will be children who have not reached 96% or higher for genuine illness reasons, and that this may be disappointing for those children and families. The great thing about celebrating attendance our way, is that each term there is a new opportunity to earn your bronze badge, and those who achieve their bronze badges this term will move on to silver in the new year.

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

Our current school attendance to date has slipped to 93.7% - let's get this up to 96%!

Attendance league table, WEEK 12

Position	Class	Games Played	Points
1	3B	12	33
2	RJ	12	27
=	2P	12	27
4	5E	12	24
5	2M	12	21
=	6H	12	21
7	3F	12	18
=	4V	12	18
=	6B	12	18
10	1K	12	15
=	4J	12	15
12	RG	12	12
=	1W	12	12
14	RL	12	6
15	5S	12	0

CLASS AWARDS:

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



RJ – 99%

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



3B – 97.3%



AcceleratedTM
Reader



	Class Name	Number of Points
1 st	5S	76,575
2 nd	4J	67,483
3 rd	5E	62,485
4 th	4V	41,511
5 th	6B	33,220
6 th	3F	31,507
7 th	3B	8,708
8 th	6H	8,514

Last week's top scorers	
1 st	Timothy (5S) 67,344
2 nd	Lucas (5E) 41,334
3 rd	Gabriella (6B) 30,644
Highest score this year	
Lucas (5E) 74,145	

	Class Name	Number of Points
1 st	6H	74,006,272
2 nd	3B	38,450,042
3 rd	5S	24,785,622
4 th	5E	22,940,488
5 th	6B	11,551,468
6 th	3F	7,755,612
7 th	2M	2,622,792
8 th	4V	1,985,898
9 th	1K	2,610,106
10 th	4V	1,841,020
11 th	4J	1,530,570
12 th	2P	1,305,256

Last week's top scorers	
1 st	Godpower (3B) 32,730,000
2 nd	Lucas (5E) 20,187,236
3 rd	Moonshine (5S) 17,645,000
Highest score this year	
Godpower (3B) 942,210,390	



	Class Name	Number of Points
1 st	2M	150,673
2 nd	3B	149,079
3 rd	5E	132,542
4 th	2P	96,409
5 th	4V	58,135
6 th	6H	46,772
7 th	5S	32,637
8 th	6B	31,823
9 th	3F	30,482
10 th	4J	27,594

Last week's top scorers	
1 st	Scarlet (3B) 85,415
2 nd	Lucas (5E) 60605
3 rd	Laurie (2M) 32209
Highest score this year	
Scarlet (3B) 85,415	