



# Colmers Farm Primary School WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week at our  
nurturing school



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the final newsletter of this term and calendar year. I hope that you have had a good week.

### Cake Sale

A huge thank you to everybody who donated and/or purchased cakes from our after-school cake sale on Tuesday. We managed to raise £142.50. This money will be used towards funding end of year activities for our children.

### Reception Nativity

For anybody struggling to get into the Christmas mood, if you were fortunate enough to attend one our reception nativity performances, I am sure you are now. It took a lot of courage for our reception children to stand up in front of a hall of packed with adults to deliver their performances and they were wonderful. Well done reception! Your families, teachers, teaching assistants and other staff at our school were all very proud of you. Thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to prepare and direct this performance. You did a fabulous job!

### Governors' Award Assemblies

This week, we held our popular termly Governors' Award Assemblies. During these assemblies we give out three awards per year group to children who have either:

- improved the well-being of others;
- been an excellent role model to others;
- shown fantastic academic achievement and/or progress.



To help give out the awards this term we were joined by Miss Cross, who is one of our school governors. Congratulations to this term's very deserving winners who were:

	Governors' Award for Improving the Well-Being of Others	Governors' Award for being an Excellent Role Model	Headteacher's Award for Academic Achievement and/or Progress
Reception	Marigold (RG)	Kenisha (RL)	Daisy-May (RL)
Year 1	Ivy (1K)	Miganne (1W)	Ava (1K)
Year 2	Mard (2M)	Hudson (2P)	Autumn (2P)
Year 3	Emily (3B)	Ruby (3F)	Lacey (3F)
Year 4	Scarlett (4J)	Isabelle (4V)	Ava-Rae (4J)
Year 5	Ma'Laysia (5S)	Tiegan (5E)	Ellis (5S)
Year 6	Oliver (6B)	Blake (6H)	Bailey (6B)

## Parking

Please can I remind all drivers to park in a considerate manner when dropping off and collecting children from school, particularly in and around Belton Grove. Please remember to not park in front of dropped kerbs, as this presents issues for residents accessing and leaving their properties. Please also remember not park on paths as this causes problems for pedestrians, who may be forced into the road on their journeys which increases the risk of accidents occurring. Thank you.

## School Uniform

The vast majority of children wear our full school uniform on PE and non-PE days, which is wonderful to see. Thank you parents for making this happen. Please can I remind everybody though that trainers should not be worn to school (on non-PE days) unless they are completely black, including any logos. Thank you for your support with this.

## Year 2 Movie Night

As part of Year 2's Colmers Farm Primary Guarantee, Year 2 had a Christmas film night in school on Tuesday. This involved the children, dressed in their pyjamas, watching the festive film 'Arthur Christmas' after school whilst also enjoying some tasty nibbles. The children thoroughly enjoyed this experience. Thank you to staff for giving up your time after school to support this event.



## Topic Knowledge Organisers

You should have received your child's topic organiser for their next history and geography topic today. Please keep these in a safe space and towards the end of the holidays, please read these through with your children. This is a great way of them having some background knowledge about a topic before they begin it in school. There are also plenty of homework ideas on this. Please have a go at a few of these with your children. Please send any completed homework into school, we love to display these in classrooms and one piece of homework from each class gets displayed in a special area outside of Mr Williams and Mrs Youngs office.

**ANCIENT EGYPT**

**Did you know?**  
Ancient Egypt was one of the earliest civilisations in the world. It was founded around 3100 BC and lasted for over 3000 years.

**Fun Facts:**  
The Great Pyramids of Giza are the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that still remains today.

**Homework Ideas:**  
1. Draw a picture of an Egyptian god or goddess.  
2. Write a story about an Egyptian pharaoh.  
3. Make a model of a pyramid or a sphinx.

## Dogs Trust Visit

Year 6 are fundraising money for the Dogs Trust. To better understand the work that this charity does, we invited them to come and speak to us. It was a wonderful afternoon of acting, reading and discussing the work that happens at the Dogs Trust. There was even a mystery to solve all about how to stay safe around dogs and why they may behave in a certain way. We came away very informed and with a fresh level of excitement about the work of this charity. If you would like to donate to the work of the Dogs Trust, here is a link:

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/support-us/donation>

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## Admissions Consultation 2025/2026

Every few years, schools must consult on their school admissions arrangements. Please find our consultation in the admissions section of our school website.

<https://www.colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org/key-information/admissions/>

### **Staff Leavers**

Unfortunately, today we are saying goodbye and good luck to three members of staff. Mr Varley will be leaving us as his wife is expecting their first child just after the holidays and he wants to spend more time with them both. Miss Jones in Year 2, after completing her training with us to become a teaching assistant, has secured a permanent position at one of the other schools in the trust and Mr Lynch has been with us for 18 years as a teaching assistant, is leaving us due to a restructure. We would like to thank all of these staff members for their commitment to our school and for everything they have done for our children and families. They will all be missed and we wish them the best of luck for their futures.

### **January Training Day**

Please note that Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January is a staff training day. We therefore look forward to welcoming all our children and families back to school on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

### **And finally...**

It has been a most exciting and rewarding term and I am very proud of all we have achieved together. On behalf of all the staff, I would like to thank you for your Christmas wishes; they are hugely appreciated.

I hope you all have a chance for a good, well-deserved rest over the Christmas holidays and you have a joyful time spent with family and friends. I wish you all a very happy Christmas, and health and happiness for 2024.

**Mr Williams**  
**Headteacher**



## Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Additional Information
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Teacher Training Day – school closed to pupils	
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Pupils Return to School	All years
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Citizens Advice Drop-in session	All day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School nursing team – Height and weight checks	Reception and Year 6
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Birmingham Cathedral Trip	Year 6
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 2024	Teacher Training Day – school closed to pupils	
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 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	
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Class photo day	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Wythall Transport Museum Trip	Reception
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Break up for Summer	
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Teacher Training Day – school closed to pupils	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	School re-opens	
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Half Term – school closed to all pupils	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December – January 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Christmas Holiday – school closed to all pupils	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	School re-opens	
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Break – school closed to all pupils	
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term	

# 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:

Louise	3F	8	Piper	6H	11	Piper	6B	11
Mitchell	1W	6	Taijon	6B	11	Elijah	2P	7
Efah	RL	5	Isabella	5S	10	Robyn	4J	9
Millie	5E	10	Lola	6H	11	Richard	2M	7
Jacob	RL	5	Hollie	4J	9	Max	5S	10
Felicity	1W	6	Blake	RG	5	Hope	4V	9

### 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?

- Film Permission letter – Year 5 & Year 6
- Dogs Trust visit to Year 6
- Year 2 Christmas Night

### Bring it on Brum – HAF Programme over Christmas

Bookings for the winter Bring it on Brum! are now open! Our winter programme starts on the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and will run weekdays until 5th January 2024.

Please click the link below to view the activities and clubs in the area this Christmas.

[Bring it on Brum \(coordinate.cloud\)](https://coordinate.cloud)





# This Week's Hot Chocolate Winners

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



Daisy RL  
 Mianne 1W  
 Jace 2M  
 Riley 3B  
 Kyla-May 4V  
 Ellis 5S  
 Nazila 6B



Due to the Christmas parties, our winners will have this treat on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January!

# This week's congratulations assembly recipients...



Jayden	RG	Awere	RL	Remi	RJ
Olivia	1W	Finley	1K	Connor	2P
Joshua	2M	Godpower	3B	Josh	3F
Reignn	4J	Savannah	4V	Tahmid	5E
Jensen	5S	Nazila	6B	Olivia-Rose	6H



## House Points

	Daley	Ennis-Hill	Farah	Thompson
This week	0	0	0	0

	Daley	Ennis-Hill	Farah	Thompson
This term's total	2560	2368	2491	2572



# 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.



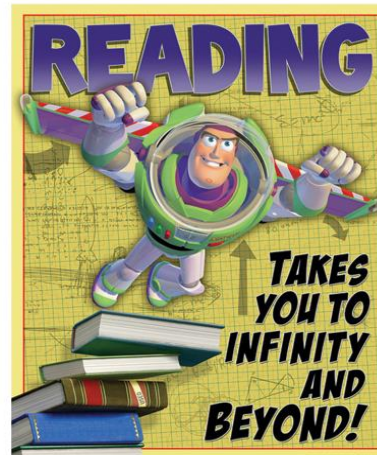
- Who is the main character?
- What is the setting in the story? Does the setting change?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- Did the character change during the story? How?
- How are you like the main character? How are you different?
- What do you predict will happen next in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



	Class Name	Number of Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	5S	66,751
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5E	55,831
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3F	28,969
4 <sup>th</sup>	6H	10,242
5 <sup>th</sup>	3B	9,783
6 <sup>th</sup>	4V	7,967
7 <sup>th</sup>	4J	2,625
8 <sup>th</sup>	6B	0

Last week's top scorers	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Lucas (5E) 22,032
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Max (5S) 24,401
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Zahara (5E) 11,634
Highest score this year	
Tim (5S) 750,914	

	Class Name	Number of Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	6H	121,112,038
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5S	55,109,429
3 <sup>rd</sup>	5E	30,760,42
4 <sup>th</sup>	3B	19,389,930
5 <sup>th</sup>	3F	3,503,888
6 <sup>th</sup>	6B	1,527,705
7 <sup>th</sup>	4V	1,223,410
8 <sup>th</sup>	1K	571,584
9 <sup>th</sup>	1W	409,692
10 <sup>th</sup>	2P	268,548
11 <sup>th</sup>	4J	99,426
12 <sup>th</sup>	2M	0

Last week's top scorers	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Thomas (6H) 82,400,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Isabella (5S) 41,641,146
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lucas (5E) 28,653,028
Highest score this year	
Thomas (6H) 183,627,340	



	Class Name	Number of Points
1 <sup>st</sup>	3B	162,460
2 <sup>nd</sup>	2M	160,408
3 <sup>rd</sup>	5E	151,556
4 <sup>th</sup>	2P	104,139
5 <sup>th</sup>	4V	70,852
6 <sup>th</sup>	6H	55,453
7 <sup>th</sup>	5S	36,929
8 <sup>th</sup>	6B	36,041
9 <sup>th</sup>	3F	33,887
10 <sup>th</sup>	4J	27,594

Last week's top scorers	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Scarlet (3B) 95,656
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lucas (5E) 74,535
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Laurie (2M) 33,096
Highest score this year	
Scarlet (3B) 95,656	