



Colmers Farm Primary School WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Celebrating another special week at our
nurturing school



Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer break with your families. It is always quite scary how fast those six weeks go by. After our two teacher training days on Monday and Tuesday, it was wonderful to see all our children back in school on Wednesday for the start of the new school year looking very smart in their uniforms.

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new families who have joined our school this week, which includes our new reception children and new starters in other year groups. We are delighted that you have joined our school and I am confident that you will soon feel an integral part of our special family here at Colmers Farm Primary School.

Staff News

We have several new teachers who have joined us for the start of the term and I know you will join me in welcoming them to Colmers Farm. They are Miss Murphy (Year 2), Mr Varley (Year 4), Mr Edwards (Year 5), Miss Scarlett (Year 5), Miss Brenwald (Year 6) and Miss Hill (Year 6).

We also have one name change – Miss Kelly is now Mrs Young after getting married.

Medical Needs and contact information

If there have been any changes to your child's medical needs or your contact information, please contact the school office as soon as possible. This can be done by telephone or via email (enquiry@colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org).

Uniform

School uniform helps to foster a sense of belonging among our school family and helps to encourage a sense of pride in our school. Uniform also promotes equality between children. We strongly encourage all children to wear school uniform when attending school and when attending organised school events outside of the normal school hours. This year you may receive an individual letter home if your child is not wearing the correct school or PE uniform. As a school, we appreciate and understand that items of uniform may become outgrown, lost or damaged during the year and that for a temporary period a child may not be in their full uniform. This is fine. Please let the school office or a senior member of staff know about this in the morning if your child is not in their full uniform. We do however appreciate your support in sourcing replacement uniform as soon as possible. Please remember to use www.ruberycommunityswopshop.co.uk for access to free preloved items of uniform if needed.

Our Year 5 pupils will be given their ties within the next week or so depending on when our new delivery arrives. Ties are an important part of our school uniform in Years 5 and 6 and should be worn to school each day. On days where the temperature is too warm, I will ask the children to remove these and to undo their top buttons.

On warm days, we would be grateful if you could please ensure that your child comes to school with a full water bottle, a sun cap and that they are not wearing unnecessary layers of clothing such as vest or jumpers.

Artmark Award

Over the last three years, we have been working towards the Artsmark award. This helps schools to evaluate and enhance their provision within the arts curriculum (art, dance, drama and music). Over the summer holidays, we were delighted to be awarded the silver quality mark. Thank you to Mrs Oliver, Miss Wood and Miss Freemantle for all their hard work in helping us to gain this award.



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Attendance

Attendance at school is important as poor attendance can negatively affect their progress, attainment and sense of well-being of children. Please contact the office if your child is going to be absent. The office is open from 7:30 each morning. Please note that home visits may take place if a child is absent.

Please see the attendance letter from Mrs Young later in this newsletter.

Rock Kids

Next Tuesday, we will have **Rock Kids** in school to work with Years 1-6. Rock Kids is a Rock 'n' Roll workshop who tour the UK teaching and developing children's personal qualities. During their visit to Colmers Farm they will be focusing on anti-bullying and relationships. I am sure that our children will thoroughly enjoy these workshops.

Clubs Complete (new after school wraparound provision at Colmers Farm)

Since the closure of Rubery Nursery's after-school club provision just before the start of last year, we know that many of our parents have struggled to make arrangement for after-school care for their children. Since then, we have been working hard to find a provider to provide this service for our parents. We are delighted to announce that we have made links with a company called ClubsComplete, who from Monday 18th September will be offering this provision at our school, using our school dining room as a base for this. **This service will run from 3:15 until 6:00 Monday to Friday and will involve a cost to parents.**

Registered children will be collected from the lower hall at the end of the school day and taken to this provision. At the end of the session, parents can collect children from the dining room door (located by the disabled parking spaces by the main entrance gate). See the map below.



This provision is Ofsted registered. Please see the attached letter to the newsletter email for more information regarding this. To book this provision please click on the link below:

<https://myclub.clubscomplete.co.uk/settings/colmers-farm-primary-school>

For further information regarding this provision, please contact ClubsComplete Ltd on: 01530 412 750 or email admin@clubscomplete.co.uk. Please note, that although our school site will be used to provide this provision, all bookings and questions regarding this provision should go through ClubsComplete and not the Colmers Farm School office.

Topic homework

Thank you to all the children who have brought into school their topic homework. We have loved seeing how creative you have been. Thank you parents for supporting your children with this also. This is a fantastic way of inspiring your child about their new topic. Homework ideas are available within the Knowledge Organisers. Digital copies of these can be found at:

<https://www.colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org/our-learning/curriculum/>

If your child has not done this yet, you can complete this homework at any point during the school term. Work created for this will be displayed either outside of my office or in the classroom. Below are a few examples we have already received. Starting in the top left and working around clockwise we have fabulous homework from Niamh (5E), Henry (6B), Blake (1W) and Lucas-Ray (5E).



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

Mr Williams
Headteacher

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:

| | | |
|--------|----|----|
| Mariam | 5S | 10 |
| Logan | RG | 5 |
| Zoe | 4J | 9 |
| Elijah | 1K | 6 |
| Archie | 4J | 9 |

| | | |
|------------|----|----|
| Amy | 2M | 7 |
| Emily | 4V | 9 |
| Sophie-Mae | 5E | 10 |
| Isabelle | 5E | 10 |



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?

- RAAC update letter
- Year 1 Topic Walk Letter



SEEK SHADE
OR STAY INDOORS
FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.



WEAR
PROTECTIVE CLOTHING



WEAR SUNGLASSES
WITH 100% UV
PROTECTION



WEAR
A WIDE-BRIMMED HAT



USE SUNSCREEN
THAT IS SPF30 OR HIGHER,
REAPPLY REGULARLY

SUN SAFETY TIPS

Safeguarding at Colmers Farm Primary School

Please see the safeguarding page on our school website:
[Safeguarding - Colmers Farm \(excelsiomat.org\)](http://safeguarding-colmersfarm.excelsiomat.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.excelsiomat.org.** Our 4 DSLs are:



Miss Kelly
DHT
Lead DSL



Mrs Taylor
Pastoral Care
Deputy DSL



Miss Cross
SENGO
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.

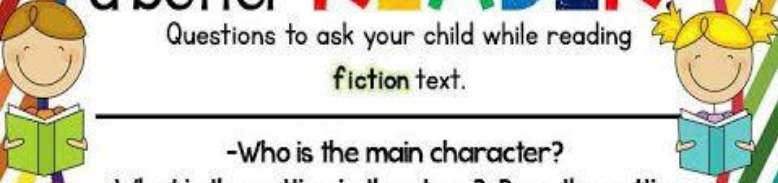
It doesn't have to be an emergency — you might be looking for guidance and support on issues affecting children. Whatever it is you're worried about, our dedicated child protection specialists will be able to advise and take any necessary action.

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.

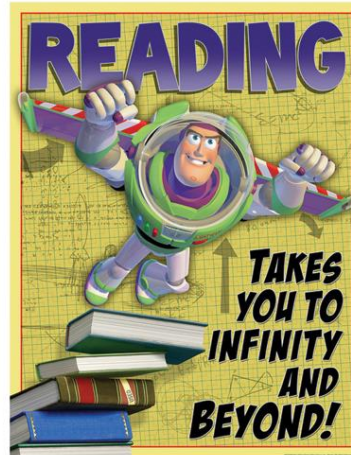


- Who is the main character?
- What is the setting in the story? Does the setting change?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- Did the character change during the story? How?
- How are you like the main character? How are you different?
- What do you predict will happen next in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

School Attendance – a very important message for all parents/carers

September 2023

Colmers Farm Primary School is working in partnership with parents and the Local Authority to improve school attendance.

A big thank you to the majority of parents who make sure their children attend school regularly, particularly during the current cost of living crisis impacting families.

Your efforts, working in partnership with the school, will ensure that your child will have the best chance to achieve their academic potential and have real opportunity in further education and the world of work. It will also enable your child to:

- access the lessons needed to achieve their expected outcomes
- maintain friendships and develop new ones
- have access to social and sporting events offered by the school
- explore potential careers
- develop work habits such as good punctuality which are essential to thrive in the world of employment

How does your child compare?

| Attendance during one school year | equals this number of days absent | which is approximately this many weeks absent | which means this number of lessons missed |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 95% | 9 days | 2 weeks | 50 lessons |
| 90% | 19 days | 4 weeks | 100 lessons |
| 85% | 29 days | 6 weeks | 150 lessons |

If you are worried about your child/children's attendance the first port of call is to discuss your concerns with the school directly. The school has specialist staff who may be able to help, and all schools work closely with health and council teams who may also be able to help if needed. If you have concerns about mental health; domestic abuse; parenting; bereavement; finance; problems with drugs and alcohol; you can find help and support from the 'From Birmingham with Love' webpage:

[From Birmingham with Love](#)

Additionally, Birmingham City Council provides online information and guidance to parents on school attendance which you can access here:

[School Attendance Information for Parents](#)

It may be tempting to book a family holiday in term time to save on costs during the cost of living crisis. Parents have also told us that the impact of industrial action in schools and the recent pandemic has made them even more likely to book holidays during the school term.

However, now is not the time for children to miss even more school. Family holidays in term time are not allowed in law and are very unlikely to be authorised. Taking children on leave without applying for authorisation may mean the school has to report your child as 'missing' to the local authority and holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively in law. Adding even more absence to the time children have missed because of school closures only means that the children miss even more lessons that will not be repeated.

Family emergencies also need careful consideration. It is not always appropriate or in the best interests of the child to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Notifying the school of leave due to a family emergency does not mean it will be authorised.

Please note that where parents fail to ensure their child attends school regularly, legal action, including penalty notices, may be considered.

Kind regards,
 Mrs Emma Young
Deputy Head Teacher
Attendance Lead

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

