Colley Lane Primary Academy

Never settle for less than your best

Newsletter - 3rd December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another productive but busy week has flown by and it's incredible to think that there are only two more weeks left this term. With all the news around the Omnicron variant, we have reviewed and amended our risk assessments in regards to performances and are taking each week as it comes. We are remaining positive that we will be able to host the carol concerts and plays but will take advice as the week goes on. Due to the size of our school, as staff we are wearing masks in busy, common areas to keep everyone safe and this may be a consideration for parents when they come into school but again we will keep you updated through the usual forms of communication.

This week, myself and Mrs Williams, Acting SENDCo, welcomed Mrs Jenkins into school to share our practise and provision for SEND at Colley Lane. Mrs Jenkins has years of experience as an Osfted Inspector and HMI in the area of Special Educational Needs and we have invited her into school to ensure that all children achieve their academic and personal potential and that no child "slips through the net." We are proud of how inclusive we are as a school but always want to ensure that we provide the best for all children and parents by working alongside experts in their field.

Thank you for all the generous donations of pennies for our Pennies for Pudsey campaign. You raised a great total of £477.41 for Children in Need, which we will send to this amazing charity. With charity and thinking of others in mind, in assembly today, we launched our



permanent Food Bank Box for Black Country Food bank. This will



be located in the main corridor all year round to support others. We talked with the children about how at this time of year, there will be others less fortunate than ourselves and that even a little gesture can help someone. If you would like to donate any items, that would be fantastic as they have shortages at the moment. You can access the full list of items to donate here

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend. Kind regards,

Mr Dominic Simpson Headteacher

Colley Lane Primary Academy

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Key Dates

- Tuesday 7th December Reception RY Trip to MAC Cannon Hill Park Birmingham
- Wednesday 8th December School meals Christmas Dinner
- Thursday 9th December Reception RDW Trip to MAC Cannon Hill Park Birmingham
- Friday 10th December School closed
- Monday 13th December Y3 & Y4 Christmas Performance - 2pm at Church
- Tuesday 14th December Y1 & Y2 Christmas Performance - 9.30 am at School
- Wednesday 15th December Nursery & Reception Christmas Performance - 10 am / 2.00 pm at School.
- Thursday 16th December Y1 & 2 Christmas
 Performance 9.30 am at School
- Thursday 16th December Y5 & Y6 Christmas
 Performance 2pm at Church
- Friday 17th December Christmas Jumper Day for Edwards Trust.
- Monday 20th December Monday 3rd January Winter Holiday
- Tuesday 4th January Inset day School closed
- Monday 21st February -25th February -Spring Half Term
- Monday 11th April Friday 22nd April Easter Holidays
- Monday 30th May Friday 3rd June Summer Half Term
- Monday 6th Wednesday 8th June Year 6 PGL Residential Trip
- Monday 25th July Friday 2nd September -Summer Holidays



Reminders

Christmas Performances

A Google Form has gone out on ParentMail today regarding booking tickets for the Christmas performances. Please complete by 11 am on Tuesday 7th December if you would like tickets.

School start and finish times

Start time - All years - Doors open at 8.40am, school starts at 8.55am

Finish time -Reception and KS1 - 3.05pm. All KS2 - 3.15pm

Please make sure that children bring all their items to school that they need that day, e.g PE kits, lunch boxes etc as the school office cannot guarantee getting them to class on time.

Coats

Now the weather is getting colder, can we remind all parents / carers to make sure their children bring a coat to school.

We do have a special offer on school reversible coats for just £5! One side is fleece and the other is a hooded raincoat. If you wish to purchase one, please come to the school office. Please note we only have limited sizes available (3-4/9-10/11-12/12-13/13-14//15-16)





Raincoat side

Fleece side

Uniform

Please can all children's uniform, water bottles and lunch boxes be labelled with their child's full name.

<u>PE</u>

All children are to come into school with their PE kits on their PE days.

Iris Parent Mail

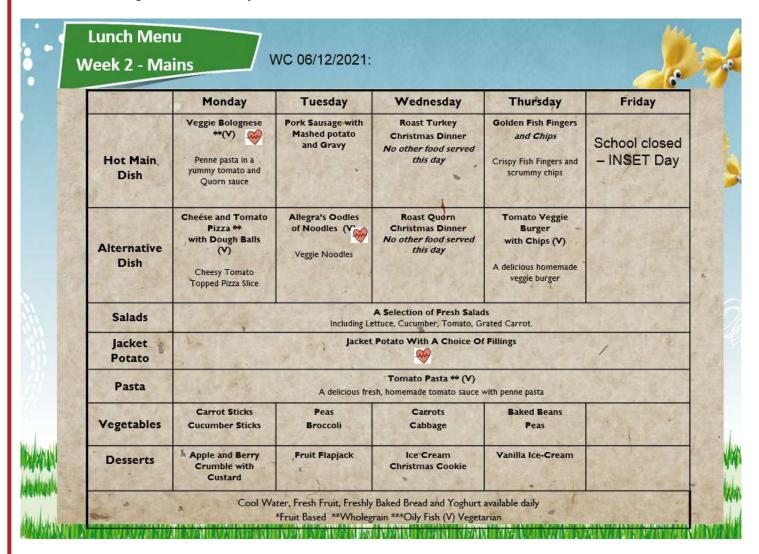
ParentMail is our main communication platform where you will receive emails from Mr Simpson, the office and teachers keeping you informed of school events, trips and class news. You can also report absences, book and pay for Breakfast and After School Clubs and purchase uniforms.

We encourage all parents to register if you haven't already. For those who haven't and if you have an email address, you will be receiving a verification email soon via your emails. Please follow the link on the email to register. You will get notification when we send out forms for trips, all payments will be via Parentmail. Please contact the school office if you need any assistance.

General Reminders

School Dinners

Just a reminder that you no longer need to book meals in advance, children can choose what they would like to eat on the day at the counter. Parents will still need to ensure that there is money in their child's ParentMail account but children will indicate they are having a hot dinner on the day in registration. Next week is Week 2 Menu, however Christmas dinner will be on Wednesday 8th December and the menu has changed on Thursday due to school being closed on Friday. Please see below:



The menus rotate on a 3 week cycle and all menus can be found on the website under 'School Life' then 'Essential Information'. You can also pick up a copy from the school office.

Asthma

Just a reminder that if your child needs an inhaler in school, please can you come to the office to fill in the relevant

paperwork. You will be asked to leave one inhaler in school.

Class Dojo

Please sign up to Class Dojo this weekend using the letter provided from school. For more information please see your child's class teacher or the school office.

Parking

We would like to remind parents and carers to park considerately around school. We have attached a letter from the West Midlands Police regarding Dudley's Operation Park Safe scheme. We would appreciate it if you can take a moment to read it and follow the rules set out in the Highway Code outlined in the letter.

Concerned parents/carers now have the opportunity to report unsafe parking via their Self Reporting Scheme. Copies of these forms are available in the office.

PE Days

Nursery - Wednesday

Reception - Monday

Year 1 - Wednesday

Year 2 - Thursday

Year 3 - Monday and Tuesday

Year 4 - 4R & 4K Tuesday and Thursday, 4H - Wednesday and Thursday

Year 5 - 5C & 5A Monday and Friday, 5W - Tuesday and Friday

Year 6 - Wednesday and Friday

Attendance

Updated Government Guidance - Please read

If your child is ill with a cough which is **not** new or persistent or if they have cold/Flu symptoms **please be aware that your child should still attend school.** If they require Calpol or an equivalent medication whilst in school we can administer this over a period of 48 hours. If this is required please fill in a medication form at the school office.

If you child is ill with any of the following 3 symptoms you must carry out a Lateral flow test before bringing them in to school or book a PCR test as soon as possible:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste.

If the Lateral flow test is **positive** your child must self isolate immediately, book a PCR test and notify the school office as soon as possible.

If the Lateral flow test is **negative** your child can then attend school as normal, if you would still like your child to have a precautionary PCR test your child can still attend school whilst waiting for the PCR result.

Please note if someone in your household has tested positive, children must still attend school as long as they have no symptoms or have tested negative.

Please let school know if your child is going to be absent for any other reason by;

- Calling 01384 900450 and speaking to a member of staff or leaving a message.
- Sending an email to attendance@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
- Reporting their absence via the ParentMail App.

Please be aware you **must** report your child's absence every day that they are unable to attend school.

What's been happening in school this week?

Nursery

Nursery children this week have really enjoyed learning about oral health. Children have even gone home and told their parents that they can now brush their teeth all by themselves! Well done Nursery! They have also taken part in discussions about which foods are healthy and which are not.

They have also continued to learn songs for our Christmas performance.

Please remember to bring in any costumes next week.

They have started to talk about Christmas and we will continue to share their experiences next week.

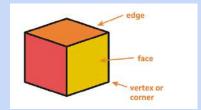
Reception

This week the children have learnt about oral health. They have spoken about which foods are good for your teeth and which are not. They have also enjoyed playing in the dental surgery role play centre where they have helped look after each other.

This week children have also started to learn about their new whole class reading book. They have explored outside looking at trees and sticks. They have also been very creative and turned their stick into something different such as a magic wand or stick person.

In maths they have explored 3D shapes, naming the different parts. Have a go at describing the properties of shapes at home using the math language, face, surface, edge and vertex.

Please remember to bring in any costumes next week for our Christmas production .



Year 1

The children have finished their whole class reading book, The Koala Who Could by retelling part of the story. They enjoyed taking part in role-play activities which helped them to discuss the events and generate good vocabulary choices. We were impressed with the progress they are making when we looked at their independent writing.

In Theme this week, the children have been creating posters of London including facts they have learned and pictures of famous places. They have certainly enjoyed this theme and have demonstrated their knowledge.

We have continued to look at the Christmas story and the significance of 'gifts'. We explored different types of gifts, not just those we buy. The children's suggestions for the gifts they would give those they love were heartwarming, e.g. I will give you big hugs' 'I will bake a cake' 'I will help tidy my room' 'breakfast in bed'.

Later in the week, we shared the story, The Bucket Filler when the thought about how using kind words and actions make others and ourselves feel happier.

In Maths, the children have continued to develop their recall of the number bonds to ten. They have been using this knowledge to help them to solve addition and subtraction equations.

Throughout the week, the children have been sharing news about their Christmas preparations at home. It is lovely to share their joy and excitement.

Year 2

Christmas has arrived in Year 2 this week, with the arrival of our very cheeky elves! They have already been up to lots of mischief already, eating some of our advent chocolates and having a nap in our tissue boxes.

In writing this week, we have been writing diary entries from the perspective of the bear in our WCR. The children have including many descriptive features, such as time conjunctions and adjectives to describe how the character is feeling. The children then worked collaboratively to get rid of any mould in their writing, giving and receiving feedback to support each other. We have been dividing in maths this week, using arrays to help us! We have shared counters into part whole models and used this to solve word problems.



In theme this week we explored the physical and human features in both Nairobi and Halesowen and made comparisons. The children were interested to learn about the Ngong Hills and the railways in Nairobi but were equally interested to learn more about their local area. For our Fantastic Finish we would like the children to come to school on **Wednesday 15th December** dressed in bright, colourful clothes please. We are going to have a carnival themed day to finish our geography topic.

Please can we ask that play costumes are in by Wednesday next week, in preparation for our Christmas play on Tuesday 14th December and Thursday 16th December.

Year 3

A busy week in Year Three. Last week we completed our diary writing block in English and this week we have been reading, analysing, planning and writing informal letters. We have written letters to Father Christmas and our friends in the other Year Three class.

In Maths we have been continuing to measure in cm and m. We have used measurements to calculate the perimeter of 2D shapes using the vocabulary of 'altogether', 'total', 'distance' and 'calculate'.

In Science we have carried out a fair test this week in order to find out whether larger spinners would fall quicker or slower than smaller ones. We made predictions and collected data to present in a table to help us see the results and write a conclusion. Can your child explain to you why the larger spinner took longer to land? We have continued to enjoy reading 'The Nothing To See Here hotel' in class and discovered how rude the visiting Prince was to everyone! The children decided who their favourite character was so far and used the book to find evidence to explain why they liked them best. Well done everyone.

Christmas isn't far away and the children are enjoying opening their class advent calendar. In R.E they have been discussing whether the true meaning of Christmas has changed? Lots of good conversations were had about this! We are slowly learning the Christmas carols ready for the carol concert. The links are all on the school story on Dojo so the children can be singing them at home!

Over the next two weeks we will be taking the children over to The Hive for some Christmas crafting and baking and we will be busy making our cards and calendars too; lots of festive fun to come.

Year 4

What a fantastic week of learning in Year 4!

In English we planned and wrote our own character descriptions of the White Witch completely independently. We focused on using similes and expanded noun phrases to aid our description. Us teachers were blown away with the writing the children produced. A fantastic end to a wonderful unit of writing.

In maths we have been representing data using pictograms and bar charts. The children finished this week by conducting their own research in their classes and showing what they found in a tally chart, frequency table and finally a bar chart. We were surprised to see how many children liked sushi! We were even able to use our new maths skills in geography this week. We researched the climate of Italy and Iceland and created bar charts on our iPads showing the temperature over the course of a year.

We are still enjoying reading The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and this week we came across Father Christmas in the book! The children enjoyed comparing the gifts that Peter, Susan and Lucy received and discussed which they would want and why.

On the theme of Christmas, the festive period has fully hit Year 4! The decorations have gone up and the children have helped to make the classroom festive by creating paper decorations to cover the walls and ceilings. The Christmas Carol Concert is soon approaching and the children are getting more and more excited each day. We have continued to rehearse the songs and class and we can really tell that the children have been singing at home. We are sounding beautiful and can't wait to show you what we have been working on. We have lots more in store for next week; keep up the fantastic work Year 4!

Year 5

We have especially enjoyed our learning opportunities this week in Year 5. During maths, we have consolidated our understanding of number knowledge and also addition & subtraction. This has helped children to revisit previously taught skills and strategies to make sure they are embedded. We have seen childrens' confidence increase during this week when they had the "I get it" moment. We are really proud of their efforts.

During science this week, we have explored craters on the moon. We worked in teams to replicate the impact meteors have on the surface of the moon. It was great fun! We discovered that the factors influencing the size of a crater are: diameter, mass, height of drop and surface. The greater the mass = the deeper the crater.

In English, children have written their informal letter from the perspective of Stanley Yelnats (main character from Holes). They have been incredibly hard-working and proud of their writing (just like we are).

During our final two weeks of this term we will be creative in Christmas art & crafts lessons and are really looking forward to having this enjoyable time together, creating experiences and memories. Well done to all!



<u>Year 6</u>

This week has been incredibly busy for Year 6! Firstly, the children have been sitting their Autumn SATs assessments this week; they have made us incredibly proud! Their hard-work and independence has really shown through. Keep up the good work Year 6!

In addition to this, in Science, Year 6 have been investigating refraction as part of their Light topic. The children experimented with objects in water, identifying how the image they see changes depending on the angle of sight. The children also added food colouring to their water to investigate whether this changed their observations.

In Theme this week, the children researched deforestation and the effects it is having on our planet. The children then debated, arguing whether they were for or against deforestation and justifying this with their reasons. We had some very interesting discussions!

Finally, in Art, the children have begun to develop watercolour pictures based on The Graveyard Book. They have been playing with colours and experimenting with the effects of watercolours on paper. They will be completing these next week; we are really looking forward to the end results! Another great week Year 6, well done!

Other News....

Active Autumn - Family Learning, Dudley Council

Family Learning are encouraging parents to spend time with their children, explore the great outdoors and embrace community cohesion and sustainability through a series of six challenges in the autumn months. The short course entitled Active Autumn is available to anyone who has access to the Internet and parents can find out more and register an interest by telephoning 01384 818143.

There is also the option to upload comments and photographs of their achievements. As with all Family Learning courses, there is no charge to participate.

Family Learning free courses

Commencing Monday 10th January 2022, Family Learning is offering parents the opportunity to achieve a Caring for Children Award at Level 1 at The Hive (formally known as Little Colliers). The session will run weekly 1 pm - 3pm. The qualification usually costs £450 but the course and materials will be provided free of charge. The course will last for approximately 12 weeks and will be assessed by the production of a written portfolio of evidence. Consequently, parents will need to have English skills at Entry 3 or above.

The course is excellent for those parents who want to learn more about parenting and the theory behind it, or those who are thinking of a career with children and want to find out more. Places are limited so it is important that you reserve a place with the school by the 10th December at the latest. Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

Netflix Age Ratings

You will be aware that Netflix is hugely popular across all ages but there have been concerns in relation to age ratings and the type of content that is recommended to viewers. Like many other services, Netflix uses algorithms to determine what you might like to watch based on viewing history, what you have liked etc.

Since last year, Netflix has been working with the BBFC and 100% of the content on Netflix is now age-rated to BBFC classification standards. It is the first UK streaming service to accomplish this.

Here is a guide on how to set up a child account and choose maturity ratings. Parental controls on Netflix

Colley Lane Website

If you haven't already, please take the time to look at our new website at https://www.colley.dudley.sch.uk/
You will be able to find all the information that you need about our school including key information, news and dates and parent information.

Pupil Achievements

This week's Hot Chocolate Friday children:

RDW	RY	1H	1MS	2D	2E	3H	3W	D
Dania	Jovan	Rory	Ella - May	Jacob	Muhamma d (allergy to nuts)	Grace	Leyana	
4R	4K	4H	5W	5C	5A	6Н	60	6S
Franklin	Olly-Georg e	Lucas	Scarlet	Enya	Zak	Laylan	Ariz	Bobby



Well done to Jack Short in 4R who worked so hard to be awarded his black belt in martials arts last Friday - congratulations Jack!

Congratulations to Piper-Blêu in 2E and Paignton Pye in RDW who both passed their ballet exams this week, super proud of you girls!





Well done to Lucas Ellesmore in 4H who won an award from Quarry Bank Tennis Club/Prosser Academy at the award ceremony for Most Improved Tennis Player 2021 - Fantastic news Lucas!

We would like to celebrate our pupils' achievements both in and out of school. If your child has achieved something out of school that they are proud of whether it be learning a new skill, sports or club certificates or overcoming a fear or obstacle for example, we would love to know.

The Kindness Corner

Black Country Food Bank



The collection box for Black Country Food Bank is now in the school foyer where donations can be brought in at any time throughout the school year.

If you are able to donate any non-perishable food items please bring these along to the school office where we will collect them before donating them to help our local food bank and community.

Christmas Jumper Day 17th December 2021 to raise money for Edward's Trust



Edward's Trust is a specialist provider of holistic family bereavement support for the West Midlands area. We are based in Edgbaston, Birmingham. The Trust was founded in 1989 by Peter and Hilary Dent, in memory of their son, Edward, who died when he was 7 years old.

We support over 600 families per year which equates to around 3,000 family members. We are here for as long as our families need us. We offer a holistic approach through

counselling and play therapy and run a 'wellbeing in bereavement' service in order to support our families during their most difficult times.

Visit their website at; www.edwardstrust.org.uk

Diary Dates

Autumn Half Term

School Closed Friday 10th December 2021

Winter Holiday

Monday 20th December 2021 to January 3rd 2022

Inset day - School closed Tuesday 4th January 2022

Children return to School - Wednesday 5th January 2022

Spring Half Term

Monday 21st February 2022 to Friday 25th February 2022

Return to school Monday 28th February 2022

Easter Holidays

Monday 11th April 2022 to Friday 22nd April 2022

Return to school Monday 25th April 2022

Summer Half Term

Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June 2022

Return to school on Monday 6th June 2022

Summer Holidays

Monday 25th July 2022 to Friday 2nd Sept 2022

Return to school on Monday 5th September 2022

Bank Holidays

New Year – Monday 3rd January 2022

May Day – Monday 2nd May 2022

Inset days to be confirmed

Sports Clubs

Colley Lane Sports Club News

A very cold week at clubs this week but all of the children have still enjoyed themselves and tried hard. Clubs will be running right up until we break up for the holidays so please still come along and take part.

The price of clubs is £1 per club to a maximum of £3 regardless of how many clubs attended per week (this doesn't include JSB clubs.)

Unless your child has PE on the same day as a club they must come in school uniform and bring their kit to change into. If they are participating in a club before school they can come in their kit and bring their uniform to change into if they don't have PE that day, this also applies to the JSB club.

Sports Clubs							
	Before school (Start time)	Cost	After school (Finish time)	Cost			
Monday	Y4 & Y5 Cross Country (8.00)	£1.00	Y3 & Y4 Multi Sports (4.15) Y1 & Y2 Multi Skills (4.30)* JSB	£1.00 £3.00			
Tuesday		£1.00	Y5 &Y6 Netball (4.15)	£1.00			
	Y3 & Y4 Tri Golf (8.10)		Y3 & Y4 Dance (4.15)	£1.00			
			Y5 & Y6 Football (4.30)*JSB	£3.00			
Wednesday	Y5 & Y6 Football (8.00)*JSB	£2.00		C1 00			
	Y3 & Y4 Football (8.00)* JSB	£2.00	Y5 & Y6 Basketball (4.15) Y3 & Y4 Dodgeball (4.30) *JSB	£1.00 £3.00			

Thursday	Y5 & Y6 Sportshall Athletics (8.10)	£1.00	Y5 & Y6 Hockey (4.15)	£1.00
			Y3 & Y4 Choir (4.15)	£1.00
			Y1 & Y2 Football (4.30)* JSB	£3.00
			Y3 & Y4 Football (4.30) * JSB	£3.00
Friday	Y1 & Y2 Football (8.00) * JSB	£2.00	Y5 & Y6 Girls Football (4.30)	£1.00
			Y5 & 6 Squad Football - Invite Only (4.30)	£1.00
			Y5 & Y6 Dodgeball (4.30) *JSB	£3.00

Free School Meals

If your child is in Reception, years one or two, you will automatically be entitled for free meals under the new 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' criteria.

However if you do meet the criteria listed below then you will need to submit an online claim in order for your child's school to receive Pupil Premium funding.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (you must have less than £616.67 a month net earned income (after tax and not including any benefits)

Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also allowed to receive free school meals. Children under the compulsory school age who are in full time education may also be entitled to receive free school meals.

Infant free school meals in England

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they're in a government-funded school and in: reception class, year 1 and year 2 Tell your local authority if you also get any of the qualifying benefits. Your child's school can get extra funding if you do. If you wish to apply for Free School Meals click here <u>Free School Meals</u> or collect a form from the office.



Please see the below information with links to a host of really important safety advice.

With many organised displays cancelled again this year, many families will be thinking of having displays at home.

But do we all know how to buy safely and avoid unlicensed sellers?

Do we know what precautions to take to avoid a serious accident?

And would we know what to do if the worst happened?

Our new fireworks advice hub makes it easy for you to share safety messages with families. You'll find:

- Fireworks buying guide to help families avoid dangerous fireworks.
- Fireworks safety tips essential tips for families doing their own display.
- <u>Lessons for little ones</u> a downloadable resource to help you teach children about safety.
- Warning to parents a real story to share.
- In an emergency good first aid will reduce the likelihood of lifelong scarring.



