



# Colley Lane Primary Academy

*Never settle for less than your best*



## *Newsletter - 10th September 2021*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely this week to welcome the children back into school and I have to say how incredibly quickly they have settled back into school. As I have walked around school, or stood on the gates at the start and end of the day, the smiles and warmth I have received has shown me what a special community I have joined. It is a very exciting time as we emerge from the last 18 months and we will be looking to ensure that all the things that we have had to postpone, like trips, visitors into school, working across year groups and many others, are brought back and children have opportunities to really fly not only with the academic side of school life but also realise their personal potential.

This is the first of our weekly newsletters which we hope you will find informative but also provide an insight into school life and what has been happening over the week in the year groups. Each week there will be a praise assembly and we will publish the names of the children. We have changed it this year so that we will celebrate one child from each class for displaying character or learner skills. I would also like to award Headteacher Awards for children who are just doing the right thing so please watch out for those. It would also be lovely to share the success that the children have outside of school too, so please let class teachers or the office know of these achievements.

I hope that you found the letter about communication useful this week. As a school we have introduced Class Dojo and this has been incredibly well received by the children. It gives the school a consistent approach to praise and positive feedback but will also ensure you as parents see when your child is rewarded. The letter with your child's code came out yesterday so please sign up over the weekend. If you need another letter for Mum, Dad or a carer who is at a different address, please ask the classteacher. We will be using the feedback part of Dojo first and then introducing the Class story tab and messaging later on but communication will follow about this. It will not replace Parentmail but enhance our communication between home and school.

I am very much looking forward to the adventures ahead and ensuring that Colley Lane continues to foster every child's potential, be that personal or academic, within a caring, nurturing community that goes from strength to strength.

Have a lovely weekend and be very proud of your children for the fantastic way they have returned to school.

Kind regards

Mr Dominic Simpson  
Headteacher

### **Colley Lane Primary Academy**

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**Email:** [info@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto:info@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)

**Website:** <https://www.colley.dudley.sch.uk> **Twitter:** @colleylane

### Key Dates

15th September - Year 2 children will be decorating space t-shirts

28/29/30th September - Year 4 Stone Age to Iron Age workshop in school

12th and 13th October 2021 -Parents evenings

Monday 25th October - Friday 29th October - Half term

Friday 10th December - School closed

Monday 20th December - Monday 3rd January - Winter Holiday

Monday 21st February -25th February -Spring Half Term

### Reminders

A reminder for all year 2 parents and carers for a voluntary contribution of £1.50 (cash in named envelope) for their children's space t-shirts.

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

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

Please book your school meals every Thursday by 4pm. The booking forms are sent out every Monday via ParentMail and on our website

## *Iris ParentMail*

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.

## *General Reminders*

### Class Dojo

Please sign up this weekend using the letter provided from school. We are just using the "Classroom" tab at the moment. Class stories and Messaging will be used but staff are not checking these currently.

### 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.

### Parent Meetings

We will be starting next Thursday. These meetings will be held every Monday and Thursday at 4.45pm and 5.15pm and will be held in the hall. This is an opportunity to come into the school to meet Mr Simpson, your child's year group leader and their own teacher and find out more about the year ahead. There will be a short presentation about your child's learning, and opportunities to ask any questions about learning, the curriculum and their wellbeing.

Please be aware that numbers will be limited to one person from each household. Where there are two households involved in caring for your child, one person from each household are of course welcome. More information will follow on Monday.

## PE Days

Nursery - Wednesday

Reception - Monday (to commence Monday 20th September)

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 (NOT Monday 6th September) 5W - Tuesday and Friday

Year 6 - Wednesday and Friday

## *Attendance*

At Colley Lane we understand that sometimes children need to be absent from school and we do not expect children to come to school if they are too ill. We cannot however authorise absence for reasons such as parent or sibling illness, holidays, birthdays or visiting relatives. If you are unsure if you should keep your child off school with their illness or not, there is government guidance on this which you can access [here](#).

If your child is absent it is important to contact the school before 9.00am, each day of their absence.

To do this you can:

- Telephone the school office on 01384 900450, please leave a voicemail if there is no answer.
- Send an email to [attendance@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto:attendance@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)
- Log the absence through the ParentMail App.

All absences where no message has been received will be followed up with a welfare telephone call from a member of the attendance team. It is important that you let us know the reason for your child's absence as absences with no message received or reason given will be marked as unauthorised. For safeguarding reasons we continually monitor all of our pupil's attendance and regularly keep parents informed about their children's attendance, particularly if it should become a concern.

We want to make sure that your child receives a happy, successful, full-time education. If you are worried about your child's attendance or are experiencing difficulties getting them into school please do not hesitate to contact us. We will do our very best to support you and resolve any issues that may be affecting your child's attendance at school.

## *What's been happening in school this week?*

### *Nursery*

Our existing nursery children returned to nursery this week and they have had a fantastic week meeting new staff and old friends.

They have settled in well and have remembered how to be responsible and follow school routines. They are looking forward to making new friends next week, when our new nursery children start, and supporting them to settle in.

Next week we are continuing to learn and talk about our families. Please can you bring in a photo of your family, which can stay in school, to share with your friends.

## Reception

Year reception children have finished their first week at school! Well done!

It has been lovely to see the children coming into school happy and ready to learn. They have been working hard to follow routines and have started to make new friendships. They have explored their new environments and are showing us how responsible they are.

Next week we are continuing to learn and talk about our families. Please can you bring in a photo of your family, which can stay in school, to share with your friends.

## Year 1

The Year 1 children have made a fantastic start to the term. We have been amazed at how quickly and confidently they have settled into their new classes. They have enjoyed meeting up and playing with their friends again. We have shared stories such as *The Huge Bag of Worries*, which gave the children a chance to express their thoughts and feelings. They were also inspired by the story 'The Dot' to paint their own dots and use them to decorate a picture frame.

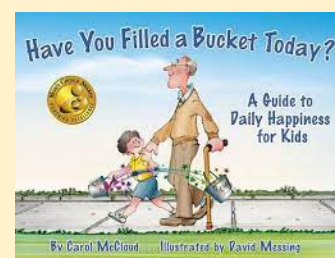
Our Science "Bubble" experiment generated lots of ideas to trial out such as, "How long can you keep a bubble in the air?" and "Do bubbles bounce?". They also learned how to make their own bubble wand using a pipe cleaner, they might enjoy this activity at home as well.

We are all looking forward to next week when we will be starting our new theme and looking at baby photos, please remember to send your child's in.

## Year 2

Year 2 have had a brilliant first week back at school, catching up with friends and settling into their new classrooms. We have loved introducing Class Dojo and the children have been collecting their points demonstrating a range of fantastic learner qualities along the way. We saw some super collaborative work taking place and risks were being taken when children were challenged to build towers out of only cubes and lollipop sticks. We also read a story 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' where children were thinking about how they can show everyday acts of kindness and many Dojo points have been awarded for this already.

We can't wait for next week when we will be starting our first History Theme of the year! Have a super weekend.



## Year 3

Welcome to Year Three. We have had a lovely first week back at school settling into our new routines and classrooms. The children have said how much they have enjoyed being back together with their friends and making some new ones too. We too have excitedly been collecting Class Dojo points through being respectful, resilient and collaborative to name just a few of the Aspire behaviours we have focussed on so far.

We have begun to read our class reader today, 'The BFG' and been predicting what we think might be going to happen to the character Sophie.

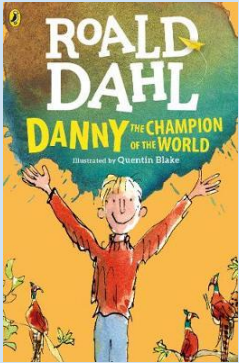
We have been using our enquiry skills in Science to help answer questions around applying force to a range of materials and seeing what happened when we changed the amount of force used.

One of our tasks this week has been to reflect on our emotions, likes, dislikes and aspirations. We have been putting our art skills to good use and will be displaying a selection of our work in the Year Three art gallery.

## Year 4

What a fantastic first week we have had in year 4! It has been a privilege getting to know your children and we look forward to seeing them grow personally and academically over the coming year. We have enjoyed being back together as a school in our very first assembly this year and feeling part of a community again. In classes, children have been achieving Class Dojo points which have been greatly received by the children. In English and PSHE, children have learnt about a wide range of emotions including anger and fear. We then harvested synonyms for these emotions and wrote didactic cinquains. Our class work has involved scientific enquiry and testing the hypothesis of whether the longer legs you have the further you jump. Results showed it was not the case and only technique can help you jump further!

## Year 5



We warmly welcome the new Year 5 children and families, it has been a pleasure to get to know everyone this week. We are looking forward to a range of exciting learning opportunities this year and will update you shortly with our curriculum. The introduction of Class Dojo has created a real buzz, which is already clear to see. We look forward to a positive year with lots of successes!

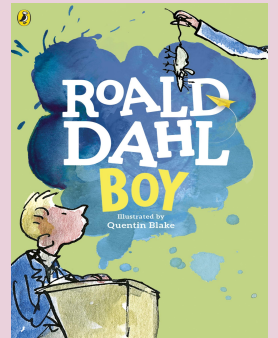
During this week, we explored democracy and many children were shocked when they discovered that throughout history there was not an equal opportunity to vote. Children have also created self-portraits and artwork about who they are.

Children have explored the front cover and blurb from our new class book – Danny the Champion of the World by Roald Dahl. This supported their predictions about the 'daring plot' Danny and his father concoct to give Mr Hazell the greatest shock of his life.

## Year 6

We are really impressed with the positive attitudes of our year 6 pupils as they have settled into their first week back after the summer break. They are delighted to see their friends and meet their new teachers and to be back in the classroom learning once again. Pupils have had the opportunity to develop their teamwork skills, showcase their writing skills and to begin asking questions about their whole class read 'Boy' by Roald Dahl.

On Monday, they also learnt all about democracy and were challenged to write a speech answering the Big Question: What changes would you make as a world leader? After reading them, we now know for sure that our year 6's will be making a BIG impression this year. Watch this space!



## Other News...

We are very excited to announce that we have launched our new website!

Take a moment to take a look 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

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.

Please email them to [info@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto:info@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)

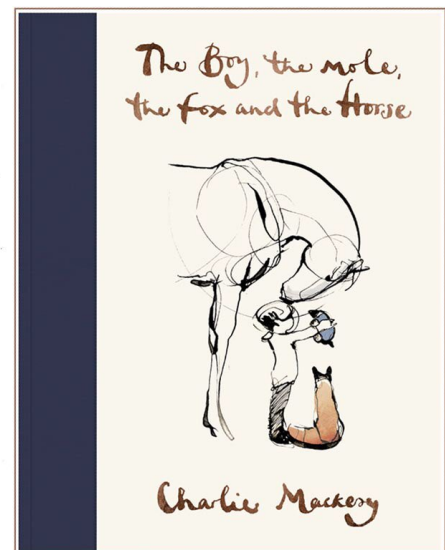
From next week we will be adding pupils' achievements in school here too.

## The Kindness Corner

"What do you want to be  
when you grow up?"



"Kind," said the boy



We celebrate acts of kindness at Colley Lane and we thought it would be a nice idea to do so on the newsletter. If your child has been kind by fundraising or helping others, do let us know and we will share this in school and on the newsletter.



## ***Diary Dates***

### **Autumn Half Term**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Return to school Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

School Closed Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### **Winter Holiday**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022

Return to school Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### **Spring Half Term**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Return to school Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### **Easter Holidays**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022

Return to school Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### **Summer Half Term**

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

Return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### **Summer Holidays**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2022

Return to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### **-Bank Holidays**

New Year – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

May Day – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

Inset days to be confirmed

## ***Sports Clubs***

Sports clubs will be commencing week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> September and you should have received forms for KS2 children via Parentmail. 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.)

We are hoping to be competing in local competitions again this year across all sports and school teams will be chosen from these 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 JSB clubs.

### *Sports Clubs*

	<i>Before school (Start time)</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>After school (Finish time)</i>	<i>Cost</i>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Y4 &amp; Y5 Cross Country (8.00)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Multi Sports (4.15)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Tri Golf (8.10)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Netball (4.15)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Dance (4.15)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Football (4.30) * JSB</b>	<b>£3.00</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Football (8.00) * JSB</b>	<b>£2.00</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Tag Rugby (4.15)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
	<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Football (8.00) * JSB</b>	<b>£2.00</b>		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Sportshall Athletics (8.10)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Hockey (4.15)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Choir (4.15)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y1 &amp; Y2 Football (4.30) * JSB</b>	<b>£3.00</b>
			<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Football (4.30) * JSB</b>	<b>£3.00</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Y1 &amp; Y2 Football (8.00) * JSB</b>	<b>£2.00</b>	<b>Y5 Y6 Girls Football (4.30)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y5 &amp; 6 Squad Football - Invite Only (4.30)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Dodgeball (4.30) * JSB</b>	<b>£3.00</b>

### *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 [Free School Meals](#) or collect a form from the office.