

Newsletter

DIARY DATES

W/C 9th May – KS2 SAT's

W/C 16th May – KS1 SAT's

Dear All,

We have had another great week at Finham Primary. The Year 4 children performed brilliantly on Wednesday morning. It was probably back in Year 1 when they last performed in front of an audience so there were some initial nerves but they all pulled through with great results. Year 6 have been working exceptionally hard preparing for their SATs they have all put in a great deal of effort and I'm sure they will work to the best of their ability next week – as always.

As you may be aware, we experienced some IT failures last week which led to all our IT systems being down last Monday morning. Thankfully, we have a highly skilled IT support service who, supported by a third-party specialist IT company, were able to get some of our systems back up and running safely and in the correct order within a few hours. As I write however, the telephone system is still limited but we anticipate a new system will be fully installed next Monday.

We had a high number of responses to the parental questionnaire, which highlighted some great positives in Finham Primary's provision. These have been shared with school staff, as we felt it was important to celebrate their excellent work. After analysing the questionnaire, we were also able to identify some common areas for development. These areas have been split into themes and each one has a response below.

1) Staggered Starts and COVID Restrictions:

Staggered starts came up as a frequent area for development on the parental questionnaire. However, since restrictions around COVID have been reduced, we have really enjoyed welcoming parents back onto the school site. This has made it easier for parents to interact with both senior leaders and teaching staff, who are readily available on the school gates. Furthermore, extra-curricular clubs have opened up to a wider number of children, also meaning that we can offer a wider range of activities too. We have been able to increase the number of sports events taking place; whether this is matches on the school field or children representing Finham in local competitions. Ultimately, reduced COVID restrictions, have allowed school to invite more parents onto site and share some of the fantastic work that staff and children are completing. The recent year group assemblies are a great example of this - the children have really enjoyed sharing their work with you!

2) Uniform:

There have been some common questions raised about Finham's new uniform. I would like to provide some clarity on this matter. All uniform items will be available to be purchased from local supermarkets. School branded items will be available, but plain products can be brought in order to minimise the cost. On the cost front, old school uniform can be phased out. For instance, white polo shirts can be worn with a tie, until the children have grown out of them. To reiterate, ties will be worn in all year groups from Year 1 to Year 6 and not in Nursery or Reception. The ties will be clip on variants and not elastic as shown in the questionnaire pictures.

After collating all of the votes from parents, governors, staff and children, I am proud to announce that Finham's new tie will be the thick blue and red tie (Tie 3).

3) Communication:

A number of people raised concerns about the communication channels that we use at Finham. The most common reason, suggested that communication comes in too many forms and isn't consistent. For example: emails, texts, phone calls, newsletters, frog, parent information sheets and verbal communication from a teacher. Moving forward, the newsletter will become one of our main forms of communication. We have tried to improve the newsletter by adding more information about each phase. For instance, one concern raised was about the changing of PE days throughout the school year. A PE timetable has been added to the newsletter so there is clarity but please bear in mind that additional sessions may be added to enhance children's experiences. For example, we have recently allowed children to partake in tennis sessions, bhangra dancing and cricket coaching, which have been arranged outside of PE lessons when a coach is available.

As a school, we realise that communication is something we must evaluate in order to be more effective. Therefore, I am creating a 'Parent Communication Panel' who will be asked to advise school on how we can streamline and improve the way we communicate. If you are interested in been involved in this please email the school office.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to our questionnaire.

Have a fantastic weekend

S. Bracken

Head Teacher

Lower Phase Update

Giants, dragons and buckets are not three things you expect to hear in the same sentence but that's what the lower phase have been writing about this week.

In Year 1, the children have really enjoyed their work on the story 'Billy's Bucket' and have been using actions to help them remember the story. I had the pleasure of popping into 1R and 1W this morning to see their brilliant writing. The children were working so hard to rewrite the story and it was lovely to see how much their writing has improved since September!

If anyone was walking past Year 2 this week, I'm sure they will have heard "Fee-fi-fo-fum!" coming from the classrooms. 2B and 2AB have been working on the traditional tale 'Jack and the Beanstalk' In English lessons, the children planned and wrote their own version of the tale with wizards, evil Kings and trolls making an appearance.

Up in Key Stage Two, Year 3 have been using 'Dragonology' to learn about dragons. In their lessons, the children have designed their own dragons for their report writing next week. Evie in 3L has invented the Pink, Rainbow Dragon and Shaan in 3J has created the French, Ferocious, Flame Dragon. In art, Year 3 have kept with their dragon theme and have started to make paper-mache dragon eggs. I'm looking forward to seeing them once they are finished!

Miss Beale

Lower Phase Leader

WORRY MONSTERS

We would like to thank The Leofric Lions for donating some hand-made Worry Monsters to our pupils. The children will love them. Thank you.



PE DAYS

MONDAY

Year 1 - Athletics

Year 2 – Games

Year 5 – Striking/Fielding Games skills

TUESDAY

Nursery - Fundamentals + Dance

Year 3 – Athletics

Year 6 – Net/Wall game skills

WEDNESDAYS

Reception-Athletics

Year 1 – Games

Year 4 - Striking/Fielding Skills

Year 6 - Striking/Fielding Games Skills

THURSDAYS

Nursery - Fundamentals + Dance

Year 2 – Athletics

Year 4 – Athletics

Year 5 – Net/Wall Games Skills

FRIDAYS

Year 3 – Striking/Fielding Game skills

PTA update:

Quiz Night: TONIGHT!

Friday 6th May, 7pm at school. Adults only, and bring your own alcohol. Prizes include Wave tickets, hampers, chocolates.

Tickets can be bought ahead of the day via - <https://www.fastforwardentertainment.co.uk/finham-primary-quiz-night>

You can also turn up on the night and pay cash if you prefer.

Tickets cost £4 including a raffle entry. Soft drinks will be available to buy. Come along to have a laugh, meet other parents and grandparents, and win some prizes!

Sunflower competition: Please send your child in with a name envelope + £1 on the 9th May. Seeds and pots will be given out over 12/13th May. Grow them over the summer and come back in September for the winners of the tallest and most heads to be announced.

Jubilee Party: The biggest event we have ever planned! **Sunday 5th June, 11am-3pm.** Music, games, craft stalls, fun, cakes and sweets. Free entry and lots to take part in. Year 6 and the School Council will have their own stalls so come along and celebrate with us. Everyone is welcome!

Vaisakhi kite competition: Thank you to all that entered. We were delighted by such bright and colourful kites, well done! We raised £45.50 which will be put towards some signage for the new pond.

Congratulations to the winners:

Zikra in 4A

Azlan 1W

Viyan RM

Your prizes should be winging their way to you soon



Happy Birthday from Finham Primary

Yusuf RL Ravneet 2AB Krina 6B

Niyah 6T Kiaan 2B

Sebastian 3L Beatrice 6T George 6B

Caleb 2AB Benjamin 5R

Siddhanth 2B Kiara 6B Joshua RL

Harry 4S Aarav RM

Ziya 2AB Jasleen 5R Michaela 2B

Reva 5R