

# NEWSLETTER



## Key dates:

- 11-12th /11/20: Parents' meetings for class 5B (only)
- 30/11/20 - 11/12/20: Y2 pupils to complete Phonics Screening Check
- 14/12/20: End of term reports to be sent to parents
- 16/12/20: End of term parents' meetings, 3:30pm - 6:30pm
- 17/12/20: End of term parents' meetings, 3:30pm - 6:30pm
- 15/12/20 Virtual Nasheed concert to be made 'live' on school website
- 18/12/20: Break up for holidays at 12.20pm
- 04/01/21 School reopens for pupils



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope your children have settled in well and have enjoyed the first half of the Autumn term - despite the challenges that continue to be presented by coronavirus (COVID-19).

As we progress through the second half of this term, please do take a few minutes to read through this newsletter fully as there are a number of items that are different to the way we normally operate school, including:

- Changes to remote learning for pupils who are self-isolating due to COVID-19;
- Changes to the format of our end of term parents' meetings in light of COVID-19 restrictions;
- The option for year 5 / 6 pupils to walk home by themselves - once you have given your consent;
- Staffing changes in class 5B.

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring our safety measures are able to minimise the risk of infection from COVID-19.

**In the event that your child or anybody in your household is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, please DO NOT send your child to school until they have completed the required period of self-isolation.**

Kind regards,

Mr . H. Asghar  
Principal



### **Election of Pupils:**

To develop pupils' leadership skills and help with the smooth-running of the school, we held pupil elections last term for a number of roles and responsibilities. This involved each applicant making a formal application and delivering a 'speech' to other pupils as part of the election campaign. Although not all applicants were successful, the response from pupils was fantastic! A big 'thank you' to all pupils who applied and congratulations to our newly elected:

#### **Head Boy:**

Aadil J (6B)

#### **Head Girl:**

Zainab R (6A)

#### **Deputy Head Boy:**

Muhammad L (6A)

#### **Deputy Head Girl:**

Shahla R (6B)

Congratulations also go out to all the successful applicants in the following categories:

Junior Leadership Team (JLT)  
Class Prefects  
Play Leaders  
iGeniuses



### **Internet access:**

In order for your child(ren) to be able to access their learning whilst self-isolating, it is useful for us to know if your child **DOES NOT** have internet access at home. If this is the case please notify our school office as otherwise, we will presume your child is able to access their learning at home using their school-issued iPad. Remember, you only need to tell us if you **DON'T** have internet access at home.

### **Y2 Phonics:**

In line with current guidance from the Department for Education, our current year 2 pupils will be required to attempt the Phonics Screening Check (PSC) as they were unable to do it whilst in year 1, due to lockdown. With this in mind, we have scheduled the PSC to take place during the first two weeks of December. To help your child with their phonics and reading please ensure they are reading regularly at home. We have also created some video tutorials which we hope you will find useful when helping your child with their pronunciation of the different letter sounds. The videos will be available on our school website from Monday 9th November, as follows:

<http://www.theolivetreeprimary.com/reading-and-phonics.html>

### **Class 5B staffing:**

Mrs Nanji will be taking maternity leave from 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020. With this in mind, we have employed the services of an experienced teacher – Miss Lianne Collins - until the end of the academic year. I hope you will join me in wishing Mrs. Nanji all the best as she embarks upon her journey to motherhood, whilst at the same time welcoming Miss. Collins as your child's new class teacher.

## **Layering up for the cold!**

To ensure adequate levels of ventilation, we are currently operating with windows open to allow as much fresh air into classrooms as possible. This is to ensure our school spaces are as safe as possible for our pupils and staff and is in line with government guidance for COVID-19. Therefore, you may wish to send your child into school wearing an extra layer of clothing such as:

- A long sleeved t-shirt / thermal top /vest under their polo shirt, or
- Their navy blue PE hoodie / jumper.

Additionally, as the days become shorter and colder, please do ensure your child is wearing a suitable winter coat and footwear and a hat and gloves to ensure their safety and wellbeing. If you are yet to buy a winter coat for your child, we suggest one with a reflective strip or band, which is safer in winter when it is dark by home-time.

## **Early Years learning for children in Reception class:**

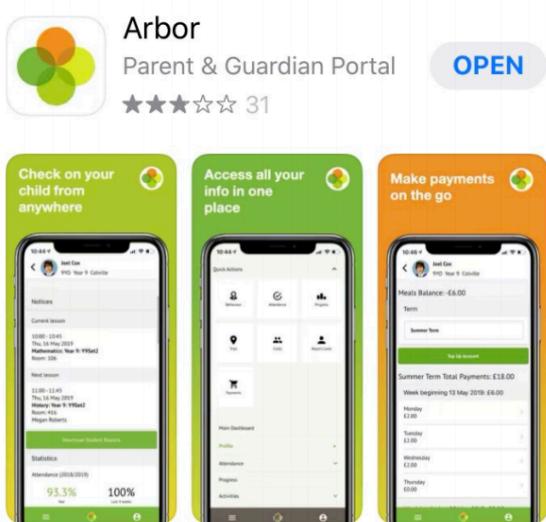
At the end of their Reception year we assess all children and decide if they have met a set of early learning goals in different areas of learning. The Department for Education has decided to change the early learning goals that are used to assess children and has offered schools the chance to adopt the new early learning goals one year early, from September 2020. Our school has decided to become an early adopter school and from this year we will be using the new early learning goals to assess your child's learning at the end of their Reception year. New guidance to support learning over the Reception year has been released alongside these new early learning goals, this is called 'Development Matters'. Development Matters is not a checklist of things that your child should do, rather it is guidance for adults who work with children, to help them to support and embed your child's learning journey. Should you require more information about this, please visit the EYFS class pages of our school website where you will find the detailed 'EYFS early adopter framework / Development Matters' documents - or speak to our EYFS lead, Miss M. Patel.

## **Using the Arbor app:**

As advised previously, we now use an app called 'Arbor' for a number of things, including:

- Communicating with parents;
- Cashless online payments for trips / lunches;
- Booking parents' evening slots;
- Accessing children's end of term reports;

To download the app, please visit the app store on your mobile device and search for the word 'Arbor'. The app you need to download is called 'Arbor Parent & Guardian Portal' and looks like this:



Full instructions for downloading and using the app can be found here:  
<https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/sections/201716749-Parent-Portal-and-the-Arbor-App-as-a-parent>

### **End of term parents' meetings for class 5B:**

As Mrs. Nanji will shortly be going on maternity leave, we will be holding the end of term parents' meetings for class 5B on Wednesday 11th November and Thursday 12th November. As stated in the letter we sent before half term, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the parents' meeting will take place remotely via Showbie using your child's iPad. If your child is in class 5B and you have not booked a parents' meeting slot, please refer to your child's class page on the school website where you will find a video tutorial that takes you through the steps for the parents' meeting. The booking facility will be open until Monday 9th November at 12pm and **you MUST download the Arbor app in order to book a slot.**

### **End of term parents' meetings for children in all classes except class 5B:**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the end of term parents' meetings will take place remotely via Showbie using your child's iPad on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th December, 3:30pm-6:30pm.(We will be emailing you a separate letter about this.) All parents' meetings will have to be booked in advance and in preparation for your child's parents' meeting they will be shown how to join the 'Parents' Meeting' Showbie group and the steps involved whilst in school. We will also provide a video tutorial on your child's class pages on the school website which will take you through the steps for the parents' meeting. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact your child's class teacher via Dojo beforehand. The online booking facility will become available on Monday 16th November at 12pm and **you MUST download the Arbor app in order to book a slot.**

## Admission for Reception class and Secondary School - 2021

We would like to remind parents of the dates / process for applying for admission to Reception class / Secondary school.

### Reception Class Admissions 2021:

If your child was born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017, your child is due to start Reception in September 2021. You can complete your application online at <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/primaryschool-places> The closing date for completing your application is by **15 January 2021**. Whilst next September seems a long time away, it is important you complete your applications by the closing date as places fill up very quickly!

### Secondary School Admissions 2021:

If your child is in Year 6, you should have submitted an application for secondary school by 31st October 2020 (details for this have already been provided separately.) If you have not completed your child's application for secondary school, please email [admissions@bolton.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@bolton.gov.uk), and someone will respond as soon as possible.

### Allowing children to walk home by themselves:

A number of parents have requested the opportunity of allowing their child(ren) to walk home from school by themselves. Having consulted with local schools and the Local Authority's Safeguarding team, we have produced an updated policy to allow parents this option. In doing so however, **we are only able to allow pupils in years 5 and 6 to walk home by themselves - provided they are not tasked with taking responsibility for any younger siblings in the process**. If you would like your child to be allowed to walk home unaccompanied, please get in touch with our school office by emailing [admin@theolivetreeprimary.com](mailto:admin@theolivetreeprimary.com) . Please note, we are unable to agree for children in the other year groups to be allowed to go home without an adult.

### Changes to our remote (home) learning processes:

A big 'thank you' to all of our parents, pupils and staff members for ensuring the success of our home learning processes whilst children have been self-isolating due to COVID-19. Moving forward, we have made further updates to our systems so that children can access their learning simultaneously whilst the teacher is teaching them through Showbie live video conferencing. In the event your child is required to self-isolate, please refer to the Pupil, Parent and Staff Code of Conduct for Remote Learning (attached to the email). This information is also accessible on the school website, along with instructional videos, using the following link:

<http://www.theolivetreeprimary.com/home-learning.html>

**And finally...**

Please continue to support our joint-efforts to minimise the risk of infection from COVID-19 by adhering to the Government's 'Hands-Face-Space' approach.

**In the event that your child or anybody in your household is displaying COVID-19 symptoms, please DO NOT send your child to school until they have completed the required period of self-isolation.**

