



The weather for the last couple of weeks has sadly not been with us and the evenings are certainly drawing in. Happily, we have had lots of enjoyable activities going on in school to brighten our days, and although the children have not been able to get outside to play every day, our PE sessions have kept everyone active. Winter evenings give us a lovely opportunity to snuggle up with our children and share a good book, so please take time to read at home every evening with your child and encourage them to talk about the books they have been reading in school as well!

Safe parking and driving

Your child will have come home with a letter this week regarding parking and driving around the school, following a number of complaints from our own families and members of the local community. Please ensure that if you bring your child to school by car you read through this letter and always ensure you park and drive around school in a safe, legal and considerate manner, for the safety of our children and the good of the community. Please also ensure you are aware of the laws around children wearing seat belts and using appropriate seat restraints in cars which changed recently. If you live near to the Academy, please walk your children to school wherever possible.

Festive fun activities in school

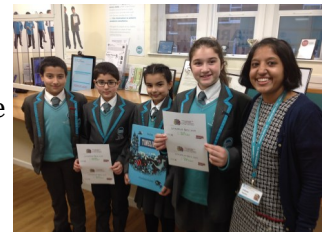
We are looking forward to a very busy and fun-filled December! Look out for letters over the next couple of weeks with further information about the following:

- 16th December - Festive film night (all years)
- 17th December - Nativity (Reception and Nursery)
- 18th December - Christmas Fair and Christmas Discos (all years)
- 19th December - Christmas lunch (all years)



Historians take the silver medal

Huge congratulations to our amazing historians May, Anah, Abdullah and Qasim who came second place out of a huge range of 25 teams from across Birmingham and Solihull, in The Little History Quiz. This was organised by King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys. There were a number of rounds with some tough historical questions, but the team performed brilliantly and narrowly missed out on first place. Thank you to Miss Sinha for arranging for us to take part and supporting the team on the day. We are so proud of you all!



Commando Joe's visits

We are delighted to welcome Commando Joe into school this half term. Commando Joe will be working across the year groups, running a variety of activities based around our core values and encouraging positive friendships, self esteem building, self discipline and working together to support others. The pupils are already thoroughly enjoying their time with Commando Joe and we look forward to seeing their development over the coming weeks.

Dance workshops

It has been lovely to have Sam from Hazelle Stage School on Moseley Road with us for the past two weeks, introducing our pupils to forms of dance they may not have encountered before, such as street dance and ballet, and giving them an opportunity to express themselves through the Arts.

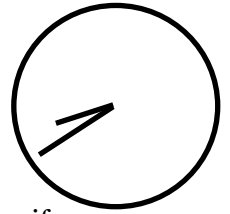


Scholastic Book Fair

As we continue to promote reading in the Academy this term, we are happy to say that the ever popular Scholastic Book Fair will be back in school from today until Thursday 5th December, and at this Fair only, **all books are half price!** Pupils will have the opportunity to visit the Fair with their class during the day to look at the range of books on offer, but if you would like to buy a winter read, come along to the Fair after school each day in the Bowen Studio (via the entrance on Cromer Road) from 3:15-3:45pm.

Late arrivals

We have seen a marked increase in pupils arriving late to school over the past couple of weeks. The bad weather obviously has an impact on traffic, so if you drive to school, please leave home a few minutes earlier to ensure that your child does not miss out on essential learning time. Please remember that school starts at **8:40am** and pupils should be in school at that time. If you arrive at school after the playground gates have closed, you **must** bring your child into the Office. For your child's safety, they should not be left to walk in to the building by themselves, as if there were an emergency in school, there may not be anyone in the Office to let them in.



Boots

Just a reminder that boots are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn around school. If you would like your child to wear boots to school in bad weather, please provide them with proper school shoes to change into when they get here, along with a bag to put their boots into, and ensure everything is labelled with their name.



Attendance spotlight

Every week in our Celebration Assembly we congratulate the classes who have achieved the best attendance that week and there are two highly coveted trophies awarded! So far this term, our attendance champions are **4 Nottingham, who have a fantastic 98.4% attendance overall** - well done 4 Nottingham. Our Attendance Target is 97% in each week, so please help us to reach this by ensuring your child is in school every day, that holidays are only taken within the designated holiday periods and that you do not book appointments for your child during school hours. Every second of learning counts in giving your child the best possible start in life.

Term dates

Please note the Academy term dates for this academic year are as follows:

Autumn Term: Monday 2nd September - Friday 20th December 2019

Half Term holiday: Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November 2019

INSET days (school closed): Monday 4th November 2019

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2019 - Friday 3rd January 2020

Spring Term: Monday 6th January - Friday 3rd April 2020

Half Term holiday: Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2020

INSET days (school closed): Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th January 2020, Friday 14th February 2020

Easter holiday: Monday 6th - Friday 17th April 2020

Summer Term: Monday 20th April - Monday 20th July 2020

Half Term holiday: Monday 25th - Friday 29th May 2020

INSET days (school closed): Monday 20th April 2020, Friday 22nd May 2020, Friday 3rd July 2020

Please note that INSET days are subject to change.



Safeguarding Information

Our Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all of its pupils. We believe that everyone has an important part to play in child protection. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing or safety of any child, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads, Miss Francis, Mrs Mockbil or Mrs Ivins. For your information, our Nominated Governor is Fiona Parkes, the Interim Chair of Governors is Clare Campbell and the Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) are Nora Malik, Salma Shabir and Tracey Johnson. Our Safeguarding Policy is available on the Academy website.