













Weekly School Newsletter — 10th July 2020









# Dear Parents/Carers,

Last week, the Government sent lots of guidance out to schools, instructing them on how to re-open for all pupils in September. I am working very closely with my staff and Governors on wider re-opening for September. I will be writing to you in a lot of detail about this next week so please look out for this information.

In today's newsletter, please find important updates and reminders as well as some brilliant photographs that shows what the children who are in school have been up to.

## Free School Meals (FSM) Vouchers

The Government have said that, in order to support families financially, they will be funding Free School Meal (FSM) vouchers for the six week holidays. Families who are entitled to benefits-related FSM will receive a £90 food voucher for each child that they have who is eligible for FSM. Next week, Mr. Douglas will be writing to families who have this entitlement in more detail.

# **Home Learning**

Since school closed in March, we have been sending weekly home learning to our families. At the moment, this learning is for Years 2-5, as Reception, Year 1 and 6 are in school. Of course, with the summer holiday here soon, next week will be the last week of the home learning that is sent out. The class teachers here are really looking forward to meeting the children in September and getting on with some great activities and learning in school.

### **Collecting Pupils' Books and Belongings**

It has been absolutely lovely to see so many of the children return to school with their parents this week. Many of you have been coming onto school site to collect books and belongings. It was a great opportunity for the children to say a 'Hi and Bye' to the teachers and support staff that they were with for the first half of this year. Year 6 parents: remember that your slot is on Monday 13th July at 2.30pm until 3.30pm. (If your child is already in school, they will bring their books and belongings home with them).

If your child's books and belongings are still in school because you missed your collection slot, you need to telephone the school office on 0121 675 9740 or email Miss. Lacey at j.lacey@feathstn.bham.sch.uk to arrange a time to come and collect them. Wednesday 15th July is the last chance to collect them. Any uncollected books/belongings will not be stored over the six week holidays and will be disposed of.

#### **Food Bank**

Erdington food banks (George Road Baptist Church and also Six Ways Baptist Church) have been doing some great work recently for families in the local area who need support. Before the coronavirus, the food banks needed around 30 bags of food per week to support the Erdington community. During the lockdown and coronavirus, the food banks have needed a whopping 400 bags of food every single week because so many more people are relying on it just to get by. In the last few days of term, we are asking our parents and families to donate something—even if it is one single item—to the food bank, who are really desperate for our help. Donations of canned food, tinned goods, packets of dried foods and toiletries are most welcomed by the food banks and will certainly help those in need. Thank you in advance for your support.

#### **Welfare Phone Calls**

Families who we haven't seen in a while will receive a welfare phone call next week from Miss. Williamson or Mrs. Blair. This will be our chance to say 'hi' to you and your child and wish you well before the holidays.

### **School Summer Holiday and September Reminder**

The last day for children will be on Thursday 16th July 2020 at 2pm. We will re-open for all pupils on Monday 7th September.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr. E. Gaibee

Headteacher.

# High Achievers Before and after-school provision

In-line with latest Government advice (full opening: schools (2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020) from Gov.uk), we have determined that it is now safe to re-offer before and after school provision (wraparound). Featherstone's before and after school provision provider is 'High Achievers.'

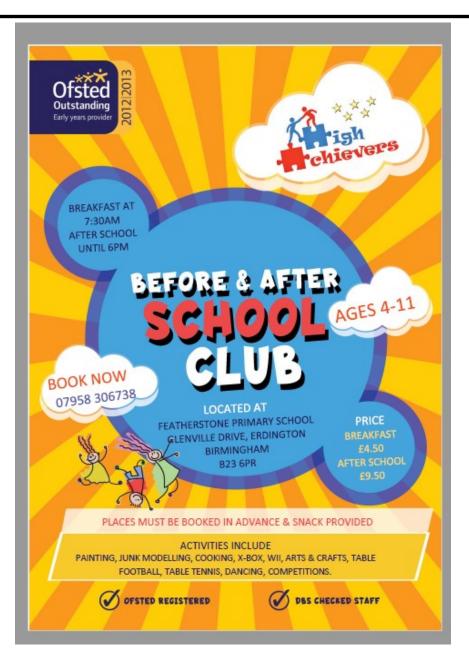
We are working closely with High Achievers to ensure that, wherever this is possible, the children who attend the provision are consistent. Please can you re-register with High Achievers. This is so that High Achievers have an up-to-date registration of families as individual circumstances may have changed.

The Government states that, Where parents use childcare providers or out of school activities for their children, schools should encourage them to seek assurance that the providers are carefully considering their own protective measures, and only use those providers that can demonstrate this.

High Achievers, who are <u>our preferred provider</u>, will be operating on school site and so we are aware of their measures.

If you are looking at using another provider, please do consider the above advice form the Government, particularly about mixing with other settings.

Finally, since our closure on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, we welcome Nicky and her team back to Featherstone (you have been missed!).



The Reception children designed, made...and ate lots of delicious cakes. Yum yum!



Embroidery, weaving and artwork from our key worker children.

