

24<sup>th</sup> October 2019



Dear families.

What an incredibly busy half term!

The children have really settled into school life well; it is a pleasure to see how happy they are coming into school.

We continue to work closely with transport to try and get the best provision for our children that we can. We are limited with what we can do as many of you will know, but we do report concerns directly to them and there are a number of Councillors who are getting involved to try and support the necessary changes. Travel Assists main number remains 0121 303 4955 and their Email: [travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk)

There is also a new helpline for parents to communicate with Travel Assist regarding their child's application/appeal. The telephone number is 0121 303 9586. If parents are unable to get through there is an answer phone facility for them to leave a message and for someone to call them back within 24 hours.



We have had some huge successes already this year, possibly the biggest one is our amazing allotment that is almost finished now! This week we saw the fence installed which has not only made our plot look fantastic, it also means that it is a safe working area for all of our children. Special thanks have to go to Cleo and her family—our in-house experts, planners and labourers, Tracey O'Brien and family for securing lots of support and

putting in the hours, Malcolm McDermott for prepping the area and giving us free labour and materials, Patsy Hussey and John O'Connor for completing some work for us of exceptional quality and competitive costs, and of course thanks to everyone that has raised funds or made a donation to this project. It really is something special.



Another big success has been the after school clubs that we have been able to offer. It is always difficult for special schools to offer extended opportunities for the children but this year, thanks to a dedicated staff team we have been able to achieve this. The clubs are proving to be popular and well supported and they can only run because of the support of the staff – who are giving up their own time to run these. I am sure you join me in thanking them!

We have been lucky enough to have some additions to our playground, the flicker scooters have been a huge success as have the benches! Some of our children are really enjoying having the chance to just sit and chat! We have also had a basketball wall installed and some wall games. As a school we are really looking at ways in which we can increase opportunities for pupils during less structured times of the day. Moving forward we are exploring the possibility of having Yogabugs in weekly to run some lunchtime yoga and relaxation clubs.



As you will be aware on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 6-8pm** we are having our annual Monsters ball. All profits from this will be spent on developing wet play resources for the children (games, a table tennis table etc.) This is always a lovely event and well supported.

**£1 entry on the door**

**50p guess the name of the sloth (teddy complete with treat basket!)**

**25p (5 for £1) treat tombola**

**50p delicious samosa / spring rolls**

**Cakes and drinks**

**50p Face painting – (a cheek motif!)**

**20p – decorate a biscuit**

**Raffle 20p per ticket.**

This time, the raffle will be drawn **after the disco** and prizes will be sent home after half term with winners notified via text / Dojo. This was an idea put to the organisers by a parent as sometimes the disappointment of not winning can ruin what has been a lovely event for the children.

This term we have said a temporary goodbye to Faith and Shemina, both of whom start maternity leave. We wish them both well and look forward to meeting the new additions! We are also saying goodbye to Mark who has been successful in getting another job. We are going to miss you all!

Have a safe and happy half term, school reopens on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

Best wishes

Emma Pearce