



FOUNDATION STAGE ONE NEWSLETTER

OWLS

AUTUMN 2 Term 2020



NEWS:

Baby news! Mrs Henderson would like to announce that she is expecting a baby in February! We are sure that you join us in congratulating her and her family on this fantastic news and we will keep you updated.

We are now asking adults coming onto the school grounds to wear a face mask. Staff will also be wearing a mask on the door at the beginning and end of the day. Staff are not wearing masks during the day when we are with the children. More information is available at: <http://www.brinsley.notts.sch.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

This half term our topic is titled 'What happens when I fall asleep?' We will be exploring night time, talking about the dark and looking at different light sources. We will look at nocturnal animals, space and the planets, people who help us at night time and how important getting rest is to our bodies. Our British value for November is 'Friendship' and for December is 'Respect'. In maths, we are continuing our focus on numbers, looking at different numbers in depth each week. Alongside this, we will look at shapes around us and patterns.

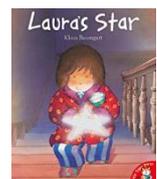
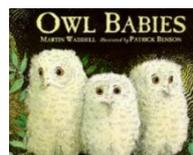
There are a few dates this half term listed below which include an Odd Socks Day to celebrate what makes us unique for Anti-bullying Week, and a 'Can you see me?' Non-uniform Day to celebrate Road Safety Week.

This term we will learn about Bonfire Night, Diwali and will end it with the retelling of the Christmas story, along with lots of crafts and fun! We are working on a replacement for the traditional Nativity, which we will let you know about once we've worked something out! During this half term, we will be sharing different books, some of which are listed below.

Owl Babies - M. Waddell

How to catch a star - O. Jeffers

Laura's star - K. Baumgart



Applying for a Reception place for September 2021 (also called first admission)

The time has come for you to begin thinking about school places ready for next September 2021. You have from November 9th 2020 until January 15th 2021 to apply. We would normally be advising you to visit as many schools as you can, to have a look around, however this isn't currently possible. We would advise putting more than one choice of school down on your application as you are not guaranteed a place in your catchment or if your child currently has a place at Brinsley. We do understand how this is a difficult decision if you haven't seen the rest of school. With this in mind we have filmed a short video of different parts of our school and this will hopefully be available over the next few weeks. Otherwise if you wanted to talk through anything related to school places, please send us a message on Dojo. Please find the attachment at the end of this newsletter, giving you more information, including dates and how to apply. There is also more information at <https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions/when-to-apply>

Other important Information

Library Books: Please return library books **every Thursday**, along with your child's reading diary. If this book does not fit into your child's rucksack, please return it in a named carrier bag.

Winter Weather: Please ensure that your child comes to school with a warm coat and when necessary hat and gloves. Ideally if it is a wet day they could do with a coat that is waterproof. The weather is changing and whenever we can get outside, we will.

Independence: We know that mornings can be a stressful time getting to school, it's the same when we're getting ready for home time. To help with this, please encourage your child to put their own coat on and begin practising to zip it up. We would also ask, that where possible your child carries their own bag and lunchbox into school. We are trying to minimise touching the things your child brings to school.

Class Dojo: Dojo continues to be the best place for us to be in contact with each other. Please be aware that staff may not get back straight away during the day as we are teaching. We will do our best to get back to you as soon as possible during school hours.

School lockdown or isolation of our bubble: We are really grateful for how last half term went and whilst other schools have had to isolate some classes, we have managed to avoid this. We are not complacent though. In FS1 we are continuing to remind children to use their arm if they sneeze and washing hands regularly. We have talked about personal space and not getting into our friend's faces. We are still not having sand or playdough in our provision as it is difficult to clean and can harbour germs easily. We do have individual pots of playdough and have started using this to build up hand muscles and creativity. We are changing the water in the water tray regularly and wiping down touched surfaces and equipment during the day.

We wanted you to know that in line with the school plan, if there was to be a bubble closure or your child needs to isolate, we have a paper pack of activities ready to send home, and would support home learning using Class Dojo. Class Dojo has a feature called Portfolios that other classes use. For children who were with us before September, this is already set up, however we are eager to get the September children ready to use this feature, in case we need to move online. The 'Portfolio' part of Dojo is a good way for us to keep in touch with you all individually and to see what you are doing. So, if your child has to isolate, then you can add photos, videos and posts on their Portfolio for us to see. (Only the approved parent, Mrs Williams, Mrs Henderson and Mrs Meakin can see the portfolios). You will be sent an invite to access this.

1. Please check your messages for an invite to access your child's portfolio. (This will be sent by Friday 6th November 2020.)
2. Follow the link and log on to your child's Portfolio.
3. Your child can customise their monster here.
4. You can add photos, files, videos and drawings here and send us written messages.
5. Wait for your posts to be approved by one of us. Once approved, only parent accounts connected to your child can see those particular posts!
6. We can comment and let your child know how amazing they are by giving them a point for their work.
7. We will give points for activities that are linked to our current topic, (from the weekly activities that are posted), so that they don't miss out whilst they are off school.

Beep, beep Day for Road Safety Week



On **Friday 20th November** we will be having a 'Can you see me?' Non-uniform Day. We want to see bright, fluorescent or 'stripy like a zebra crossing' clothes!! Your child is also welcome to bring in their bike or scooter **AND A HELMET**. If you are dropping your child off yourself, bikes and scooters can be left outside each classroom. If they are coming from The Nook, leave them in the school bike racks, near the office. If your child brings a bike or scooter they **MUST** bring a helmet, which can be brought inside and hung on their peg. We will be learning about how to keep safe near roads and in cars.

Dates for your Diary

Please look out for whole school letters by email or text reminders.

16/11/20 - Odd Sock Day (School uniform but odd socks for Anti-bullying Week)

20/11/20 - Beep Beep Day - 'Can you see me?' clothes and bikes/scooters

18/12/20 - INSET

4/1/20 - First day of the Spring term

Unnamed clothing

Spare clothes, school uniform and coats **MUST** be labelled with your child's name. This makes it easier for us to match up your child, with their clothing, not easy with 3 and 4 year olds in unnamed clothing! If your child is sent home in our spare clothes, please return them once washed.

Helping at Home

- ❖ Encourage independent skills, e.g. toileting, putting on and fastening their own coat, putting their things on their own peg. When you have time, please give them the time to try and do it themselves. It really helps us in school when they can do this.
- ❖ Read/share a book with your child every evening for a few minutes.
- ❖ Practice holding a pencil.
- ❖ Practice counting - count the stairs you climb/the plates at tea time.
- ❖ Talk to her/him about their day at Nursery. A good way of getting something out of your child is to ask the question: What was the best thing about today?



Rhyme of the Week

We are continuing to sing nursery rhymes each week. These are available with a video clip at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwgdwx>

Week 1- Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

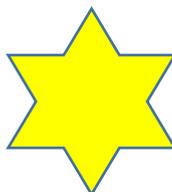
Week 2- Golden Slumbers

Week 3- Rock-a-bye Baby

Week 4- Hey Diddle, Diddle

Week 5- Sleeping Bunnies

Week 6- Ten in the bed



WOW Moments

We would love to hear about any recent achievements, news or exciting activities that you and your child have to share. Just let us know on Dojo and we will put your child on the WOW wall and they can have a prize from the goodie box.



Apologies for the vast amount of information in this newsletter! Thank you for your support.

The Foundation 1 team



First admission (reception) and transfer to junior/primary school (year 3) – September 2021

If your child lives in Nottinghamshire and you require a school place for September 2021 you must apply through Nottinghamshire County Council, your home local authority. You can check your home local authority at www.gov.uk/find-local-council. This applies to children who are 5 years old between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 or transferring from an infant school (year 2) to junior education (year 3) in September 2021.

[Admissions to schools: Guide for parents 2021-2022](#) contains a wide range of useful information and advice about the admissions process.

Key points:

- apply before the closing date (15 January 2021)
- read the oversubscription criteria carefully for your preferred schools
- use all 4 preferences.

Parents sometimes think that making only one preference will ensure that a place is allocated at that school, that is not the case and it is very important that you apply on time and identify 4 preferences.

Applying late significantly reduces your chances of your child being allocated one of your preferred schools as places will have been allocated on National Offer Day to people who applied on time.

Last year:

- more than 92% of parents who applied on time were offered their first preference school
- over 98% of parents who applied on time were offered a place at one of their preferred schools
- of those families that were not successful for any of their preferences some had only expressed a single preference:
 - 58.3% for a reception place
 - 47.1% for a junior place

Making an application

[Apply online](#) before the closing date.

You will find information to help you through the registration process, if you do not have an email account, you will need to set one up.

If your request to defer your child's admission outside the normal age group was approved, you will not be able to submit an application online, please contact us to make an application.

You cannot apply online after the closing date, 15 January 2021.

Passwords

If you forget your password, you can reset it online by following the [forgotten password link](#).

Benefits of applying online:

- you will be sent an email confirming that we have received your preferences or any change of preference
- you can change your application any time **up to 15 January 2021**
- you can update your address if you move house
- you will be able to view your outcome on National Offer Day, **16 April 2021**.

Other ways to apply:

- contact our customer service team to make an application over the telephone or to request an application form
- download an application form from www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions

Remember, if you do not make an application online your outcome will be **posted 2nd class on 16 April 2021** and no outcomes can be given over the telephone.

- We recommend that you make **4 preferences**. This includes any schools you may wish to apply for that are outside Nottinghamshire.
- List your 4 preferences in order starting with the one you would most like your child to attend.
- Check whether there is a [catchment area](#) school for your home address
- Remember that living in the catchment area, attending a nursery or a linked school, or having a brother or sister attending a school does not guarantee that your application will be successful.
- We recommend that one of the schools on your application should be one where you are sure that your child will meet one of the higher criteria for admission.
- You should include all information that you want to be considered for each of your 4 preferences. This will help the admission authority to apply the oversubscription criteria correctly.
- Schools are not told the order of your preferences or the other schools listed on your application.

The popularity of a school may affect the chances of your child getting a place there. [Admissions to schools: School information 2021-2022](#) gives details of how many places are available and a breakdown of how places were allocated in Nottinghamshire schools last year, which you may find helpful.

Supporting information

Please check the admission oversubscription criteria carefully before applying, as some schools require additional information to support your application. Supplementary forms are available from the school or at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions

This information must be submitted before the closing date.

If you have written evidence from a doctor, social worker or other relevant professional stating that your preferred school is **the only school** that can cater for your child's needs, you will need to submit this at the time of application. This will help admission authorities to consider your application fully.

If your child has a physical disability that affects their mobility you should speak to the headteacher of the schools you prefer, before making any final decisions. Alternatively, you can contact the Integrated Children's Disability Service for further advice (0115 804 1275).

Delayed admission

If your child is summer born and you are considering delaying their admission to school, you should read the Department for Education's [Summer born children – advice for parents](#)

How places are allocated

If a school has more applications than places available, the admission oversubscription criteria are used to decide how places are allocated. These criteria and some definitions will vary from school to school, so it is important that you check on our website www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions for full details of your preferred schools.

Late applications and changes of preferences received after the closing date will not be considered until all on-time applications have been dealt with.

If it is not possible to offer any of your preferences, the County Council may make an offer of a school place that is further away from your home address. This will be at a school where there are still places available after all on time preferences have been considered.

Home address/moving house

The address you give on your application must be the one at which your child is permanently living on the closing date for applications. You should refer to the admission arrangements of your preferred schools to check their definition of home address.

It is your responsibility to let us know if you move house. We will need this in writing.

This is very important, if you move house after you have submitted your application it may affect how your application is considered against the school's admission oversubscription criteria. You may be required to provide evidence of your new address, so we can verify that your child is resident at your new property. It is important that we receive this information as soon as possible so that your application can be processed correctly.

If you do not provide this information, we will use the original address given on your application for the purpose of allocating a school place.

If your address changes after **Wednesday 10 February 2021**, the address given on your original application will be used for the purposes of allocating a school place.

We will investigate any applications where there are doubts about the information provided and we undertake random checks to verify that information provided by parents is genuine. If we receive an application where the address is proven to be fraudulent, any offer based on that address may be withdrawn.

Transport to school

Remember when considering your preferences that you are responsible for getting your child to school and applying for transport if you think you are eligible. Information on transport is available at www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

National offer day

Applicants using Nottinghamshire's online application service can view their outcome **on 16 April 2021**. All other applicants will be sent a letter **posted 2nd class on 16 April 2021**.

Remember, no outcomes can be given over the telephone and the application can **only** be discussed with the applicant or agreed contact.

General contact information:

Phone: 0300 500 80 80

Monday to Friday: 8am to 6pm

(Calls cost no more than calls to standard geographic numbers (01 or 02) and will also be included in inclusive minutes and discount schemes).

Email: enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk

Website: nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Relay UK: hearing and speech difficulties, contact us using www.relayuk.bt.com. Download the Relay UK app or using your existing text phone prefix our dedicated text Relay number with the Relay UK code (18001) 01623 434 993

Phone 0300 500 80 80 if you need the information in a different language or format.