

# NEWSLETTER



## Key dates:

29/11/21 - 17/12/21: Y2 pupils to complete Phonics Screening Check

13/12/21: End of term reports to be sent to parents

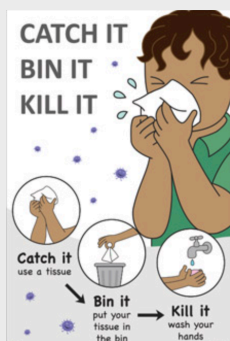
15/12/21: End of term parents' meetings, 3:30pm - 6:30pm

16/12/21: End of term parents' meetings, 3:30pm - 6:30pm

15/12/21 Virtual Nasheed concert will be published on school website

22/12/21: Break up for holidays at 3.20pm

06/01/22 School reopens for all pupils



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope your child(ren) 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).

Please do take a few minutes to read through this newsletter as the prevalence of COVID-19 still remains and we must continue to be vigilant in order to minimise the risk of infection within the community.

We continue to encourage our pupils to 'Catch it, bin it, kill it!' and our risk assessment has been updated and can be found on the front page of our website, as always. A separate letter will shortly be sent out with information about additional protective measures that have been suggested to all schools in Bolton by the Public Health team. Should you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19 please don't hesitate to email us on: [covidconcerns@theolivetreeprimary.com](mailto:covidconcerns@theolivetreeprimary.com)

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

We wish you a restful half term and look forward to seeing your child(ren) back in school on Monday 1st November.

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 month 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:**

Zain R (6B)

**Head Girl:**

Zainab B (6A)

**Deputy Head Boy:**

Muhamed Raees K (6A)

**Deputy Head Girl:**

Ameena R (6B)

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

Junior Leadership Team (JLT)  
Class Prefects  
Play Leaders  
iGeniuses  
Assembly Helpers  
Class Sports Captain

**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 the Government's suspension of statutory assessment. With this in mind, we have scheduled the PSC to take place between 29th November and 17th December 2021. 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 8th November, at the following link:

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

**Layering up for the cold!**

To ensure adequate levels of ventilation, we are continuing to operate 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:**

Our pupils in Reception class have settled in beautifully; a big 'THANK YOU' to all parents and school staff for supporting us with this! At the end of their Reception year we assess all children and

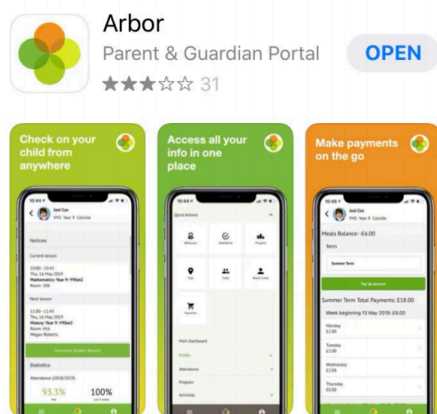
decide if they have met a set of early learning goals in different areas of learning. Last year, the Department for Education decided to change the early learning goals that are used to assess children and so from this year, we will be using the new early learning goals to assess your child's learning 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 - 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 **all** pupils:

Due to COVID-19, our end of term parents' meetings will continue to take place remotely. All appointment times will need to be booked in advance via the Arbor app.

For pupils in Reception class, their parents' meetings **will take place over the phone.**

For pupils in years 1 to 6, their parents' meetings **will take place via Showbie** using your child's iPad on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th December, 3:30pm-6:30pm. (We will be emailing you a separate letter about this.)

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 15th November at 12pm and you **MUST** download the Arbor app in order to book a slot.

### **Admission for Reception class and Secondary School - 2022**

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

#### **Reception Class Admissions 2022:**

If your child was born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, your child is due to start Reception in September 2022. You can complete your application online at <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/primary-school-places>. The closing date for completing your application is by **15 January 2022**. The offer date for a primary school place is on 16 April 2022. 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 2022:**

If your child is in Year 6, you should have submitted an application for secondary school by 31st October 2021 (details for this have already been provided separately). The offer date for a secondary school place is 1st March 2022. 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. Further information about secondary school admissions can be found at: <https://www.bolton.gov.uk/admissions/secondary-school-places>

#### **Allowing children to walk home by themselves:**

Occasionally, parents request the opportunity to allow 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@theolivetreepriamry.com](mailto:admin@theolivetreepriamry.com) . Please note, we are unable to agree for children in the other year groups to be allowed to go home without an adult.