



Aston Fence J&I School

Newsletter

April 2024



Ofsted – Message from the Chair of Governors

Dear Parents and Carers

Following our recent Ofsted inspection, which was shared with you via email, I am delighted that Team Fence has retained its status as an **outstanding** school.

To maintain the outstanding judgement under a much more rigorous inspection framework, with a different leadership team in place and following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is a phenomenal achievement.

Therefore, as chair of the school's governing board, I would like to formally thank the headteacher, Mrs Dawson, the senior leadership team, all the staff and my fellow governors for their continued efforts in providing the best education for our pupils, but most importantly, I would like to thank your children who are at the heart of everything we do as Team Fence.

The comments from the inspectors regarding your children were exceptional and filled us all with great pride at the conclusion of the inspection. I hope you can join us in celebrating their success in being the calm, inquisitive and well-mannered pupils they are to all who have the pleasure of meeting them.

Inspectors recognised that our progressive curriculum, which strives to ensure all children are meeting their full potential and teaches them skills that are not just educational but lifelong, is one of the unique qualities of Aston Fence. Here, every child is somebody and their uniqueness is celebrated!

I also wish to thank all of you - the parents and carers - who supported the children in enabling their voices to be heard in the Ofsted survey about their school. The number of responses received was overwhelming and this was noted by the inspectors in their feedback to school. This also applies to the parent survey, where again the number of responses and comments were overwhelming. So, thank you all again for making your voices heard too!

I hope you will join me in continuing your support for Team Fence and enjoy the community we have within our school which nurtures our young people for the future.

Kind regards

Louise Ward
Chair of Governors

Memory Garden

Many of you will now have seen that work on our school's 'Memory Garden' began over the Easter break. Mr Clogg and his wonderful team have transformed the area into a beautiful space which our children will be able to enjoy in the not too distant future.

You may have already spotted the wonderful bug hotels in the shape of sunflowers. There are three in total and they represent the Aston Fence pupils whose lives have ended too soon but who will always remain in our hearts. They were made especially for us and we think they are a very beautiful and poignant addition to the garden.



Our next step is to add colour to the garden with flowers and planters; then we will hold a special assembly for our children to celebrate its opening.

We have only been able to create this important space in our school thanks to your endless support for all our fundraising endeavours and kind donations from local companies and Jude's mum and dad. Without you all, this would not have been possible – thank you!

Easter Raffle & Disco



Thank you to everyone who bought tickets for our Easter Raffle. You helped to raise the fantastic amount of £346.65. In addition to this, an amazing £355.50 was raised following our successful Easter Disco. The money will help us to raise funds to organise for a theatre company to visit school.

Staffing Update - Welcome and Goodbye (for now)

We would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Miss Butterley to our SMSA team and to congratulate her on her new role in school.

Mrs Robinson will begin her maternity leave at the end of this week and we hope you will join us in wishing her lots of luck as she starts her new adventure.



School as a Polling Station - Thursday 2nd May

We have been informed that school is required for use as a Polling Station on Thursday 2nd May but we will remain open to pupils on that day. Our FS2 classroom will be used as the polling station for the day but members of the public will not have access to any other part of school. FS2 pupils will be taught in the school hall on that day. If your child is in FS2, please bring them at their normal time via the main entrance. Thank you.

Leave of Absence

We respectfully request that parents/carers are open and honest about any holidays taken during term time. Therefore, we would be grateful if you could complete a leave of absence form and we will respond accordingly. It is important that we are certain of the children's whereabouts for safeguarding reasons. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.



Dates for Your Diary

APRIL

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MAY

Wed 1 FS2 Visit White Post Farm
Thu 2 Polling Day – school open
Mon 6 School closed - May Day
Tue 7 Y2 Visit Victoria Quays
Wed 8 SEND Coffee Morning 9.00-10.15am
Mon 13-Fri 18 Y6 SATs week (and possibly the week after)
Tue 21 Class Photographs
Thu 23 Y5 Family Learning (details to follow)
Fri 24 Last day of half term

JUNE

Mon 3 Inset Day
Tue 4 School open
Tue 4 Y1 Visit Ecclesall Woods
Tue 4–Fri 14 Y4 Multiplication Check
Fri 7 Y4 Family Learning (details to follow)
Mon 10–Fri 14 Y1 Y1 Phonics Screening Week
Fri 21 Sports Day
Fri 28 Inset Day

JULY

Thu 11 Y6 Family Learning (details to follow)
Mon 15-Fri 19 Y5 Bikeability (details to follow)
Wed 17 Open Evening 3.15-6.00pm - no appointments required
Fri 19 Macmillan Coffee Morning
Mon 22 Y6 Leavers' Assembly (details to follow)
Mon 22 End of Year Disco – all pupils invited
Tue 23 Last day of term