

Finham Park 2 News Updates

July 1st 2015 Issue 4



Message from the Headteacher Designate, Russell Plester

What a month! Such a lot has gone on during June that this is a bumper issue!

Finham Park 2 staff have met on two Saturdays during June to start their training. This is to ensure that we hit the ground running with exciting and challenging lessons, with the highest expectations of our new students in terms of behaviour, uniform and effort in their lessons and with homework and making sure it is FUN! Speaking of staff, this issue also includes more information about two new members of the Finham Park 2 Team- Kerri and Lesley as well as our co-opted governors. We are also delighted that

Mr Hudson and Mrs Coltman, both from the PE Department, will be our staff governors. Over the next few weeks we will add to this impressive team with new parent governors, so watch this space!

It was marvellous to talk to so many of you again at our tea and cake afternoon- we truly appreciate your support and giving up your time to ensure your child could take part. Finally, I would just like to wish the pupils a very happy end to their education at our fabulous primary schools, and wish you all a safe, fun, and hopefully sun-filled summer holidays.

With best wishes,
Russell Plester

Year 6 tea and cake (& rounders!)

Supportive parents + excited pupils + FP2 staff + cake+ sun+ rounders = fun day!

We would like to thank all of the parents and pupils who made the time to visit Finham Park for our tea and cake transition event on Saturday 27th June. Mrs Rose bought enough cakes to feed a small army (which were soon demolished by the children.....plus a few parents!) and served tea and squash all afternoon. After Mr Plester's brief talk where he thanked parents for their support and talked about the exciting future of Finham Park 2, Mr Hudson & Mrs

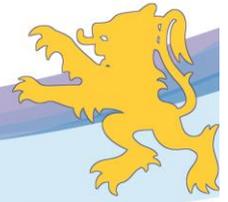
Coltman organised pupils and parents into a an extremely competitive game of rounders- Mr Braim (Science) was delighted to score his very first rounder for FP2- he's one to watch for the future. Transition for any year 6 parent or carer can be a worrying time so we were very pleased to hear from parents how useful the afternoon was to meet and talk to staff and ask any questions or raise any concerns they had. Many parents thanked staff on the day and several have since contacted the school to send their thanks. Several pupils also commented how much fun the afternoon was. Other comments from the afternoon:

"The Finham Park 2 staff seem really lovely and very helpful."

"It's been great coming to Finham today, we've felt really welcomed."

"We've had a great time and are really pleased we've chosen Finham Park 2."





Ofsted!



On 18th June Ofsted visited The Finham Park 2 Team for our 'Pre-registration Ofsted Inspection'. Clearly it is impossible to do a 'normal' inspection on a school that hasn't yet opened, so the aim of this inspection was to see if everything is in place for us to open in September. The inspector looked at important areas like having all the correct policies and procedures in place, plans for the site and that our website is up to date with correct information for parents/carers. We were delighted that Ofsted said that all criteria were fully met.

Site and buildings updates

Temporary site updates for September 2015:

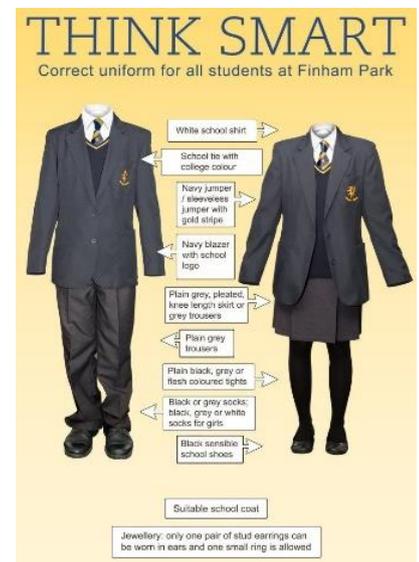
As mentioned in our previous newsletter there is not much to see on site at the moment, as most of the work happens off site regarding the construction of the modular building, however, work will move at a pace over the summer holidays. As mentioned to parents at our tea and cake event on Saturday 27th June, we do have a 'backup plan' if any building work overruns. This would mean that FP2 students would still be taught in their own block- using one of Finham Park's smaller teaching areas, as well as being taught in specialist Finham Park classrooms for ICT, Food and Music as normal.

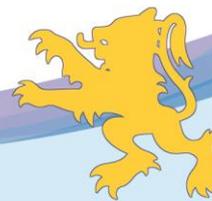
Uniform

Parents should have already received the uniform list as part of the second transition letter pack. Details will shortly go onto our website with links to our suppliers. On Parents' Transition Evening (8th July 6.30-7.30pm at Finham Park) fliers with uniform offers will be given out and Mr Plester will share more detail about what is and what is not appropriate for our school uniform and appearance.

Answers to some questions we've been asked already (see the school website for our complete uniform list):

- ✓ Only black sensible shoes can be worn- boots, black trainers or pumps are not appropriate (if they have a sole that looks like a a trainer/ pump or has any logo on e.g. Nike, Adidas, Lonsdale etc, then it will be a trainer and won't be allowed!)
- ✓ Skirts need to be to the knee and pleated
- ✓ The colour of trousers and skirts are what the uniform shops call 'Harrow Grey'- if in doubt check with them
- ✓ Make up and nail varnish are not appropriate for school
- ✓ Hair should be natural colour; extreme haircuts are not appropriate i.e. no tram lines, dyed hair or very short hair
- ✓ Jewellery that is allowed: one small ring, one pair of stud earrings in the ear and a watch





Staffing & Governor update

The staffing update section of our newsletter has been particularly well-received by parents and children alike. We believe we have a fantastic team of staff and are confident they will provide the very best experiences and opportunities for our pupils.



“Hello! My name is Kerri Coltman and I will be teaching Physical Education at Finham Park 2. Having represented Warwickshire County at Netball, Athletics and Gymnastics, I pride myself on having high standards. When I’m not at work I love spending time with my family, running or playing netball (normally not at the same time!). Having worked in 2 secondary schools, I feel really privileged to have been asked to work in a primary school for the last 3 years. I believe this insight has made me well equipped to support our year 7’s in their transition, enabling them to settle well and feel nurtured. I am really excited about meeting you all and embarking on this very exciting journey!”

Most of you will already know that Mrs Lesley Rose will be Mr Plester’s PA, but how much do you know about her?

“To those of you I have not already met or spoken to, my name is Lesley Rose. I have worked at Finham Park for 12 years – 6 of which have been with Russell Plester as his PA. I am delighted to continue supporting him as his PA in his new role as Headteacher at Finham Park 2. I am looking forward to working with the Finham Park 2 Team, which of course includes you as parents/carers, our students and staff. My family are very important to me; I have always been a ‘working mum’; and now as a Grandma of 4 I still have little time to myself but I wouldn’t have it any other way. We enjoy reading, music, cooking, crafting, cheering leading, football and, of course, doing homework together. My time with family is always precious and believe you me they still teach me a lesson or two (I’m sure I’ll learn lots off the students at Finham Park 2 as well)! Looking forward to seeing you all in September.”



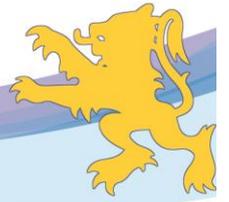
GOVERNORS



Christian Warden has lived in Coventry all of his life, he went to Blue Coat School before becoming embarking upon a career in engineering, starting at Peugeot Motor Company, before moving into external and government affairs, specialising in skills strategy, policy and development. Christian is Director of Engineering Skills at EEF, the manufacturers’ organisation. Christian has worked at and with the highest levels of industry and government. He sits on many government, national and sector boards and groups, including LEP’s, Catapult’s, government and sector leadership boards and has chaired many sector groups and Regional Councils and regularly represents advanced manufacturing on a number of government select committees. Christian is currently leading on the Government National College for Advanced Manufacturing initiative, which will be instrumental in shaping higher level vocational education. He has regular contact and meetings with No 10, Ministers and all areas of government representing manufacturing. As a leader in his field, he regularly appears in print and broadcast media and is a regular speaker at conferences and events. He is delighted and excited about joining the Finham Park 2 governing body and hopes his experiences will help the school reach its aim of becoming ‘World Class’.

Finham Park 2

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“My name is Mandy Wilding and I am excited and enthusiastic to join the governor team at Finham Park 2 to support this unique opportunity to create a new ‘World Class’ secondary school. I am currently the Assistant Head Teacher and Science subject leader at Finham Primary School. I have been a Teacher Governor for 12 years and have had the chance to see the school evolve into the successful position it is in today. I have been in education for 30 years and have worked in a variety of different schools across different authorities and am driven by the importance of transforming learning and opportunities for children and young people. It is an honour to be part of the process of creating a new school and I see amazing opportunities to develop and maintain links between primary and secondary education, as well as supporting Finham Park 2 by offering a primary educational, transition and holistic perspective. My husband and I have two sons aged 21 and 18, who are currently at university at Loughborough and Southampton respectively so I know how important ‘Learning for Life’ is.”

“I am Antony Hopker. I live in the area and when Finham Park 2 was announced realised it could be a chance to fulfil a long-held ambition of being involved in a school. I’ve worked in education communications for about 15 years, and now I’ve got two boys – aged 3 and 6 – I really enjoy going through the school doors and seeing what the children are enjoying and learning. Helping Finham Park 2 grow from an idea into a real thriving entity will be fascinating and rewarding. I work at the Education Funding Agency, which is based in Earlsdon, and my main other interests are also nearby – watching Coventry Blaze ice hockey team and tending to my rather overgrown allotment. I also play the euphonium, although not very well.”



Transport

The route for the school bus is now on our website (there is one minor change to be made that will take the bus deeper into Allesley and this will be updated shortly). In September, the bus will drop pupils off in the morning on Green Lane, right outside the entrance to Finham Park by 8.10am and will pick them up from the same bus stop at 4.15pm. This allows time for the children to go to clubs, use the Finham Park library, do homework or access any support or help they may need or request. *Pupils who have a place on the school bus will be given a bus pass on 8th July. They will need to have this every day to get on the bus for September, so it might be worth fishing it out of their bags and keeping somewhere safe over the summer!*

Transition from year 6 to 7

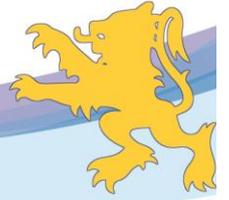
We have thoroughly enjoyed our visits to the vast majority of the 32 primary schools where pupils are transferring from and hope the children have had the chance to get to know us a little better. Apologies if we haven’t been able to get to all primary schools, but hopefully other transition events will make up for that.

Final reminders:

- **8th July- transition day** for pupils and **New Parents’ Evening** (This will start at 6.30pm and finish at 7.30pm)- parents are advised to arrive early to give time to park. Parents will be informed about final details and expectations as well as being given a pack of information that will help your child settle into life at Finham Park 2. It may be worth bringing a pad and a pen to jot down any useful notes.
- **September-** we know the summer holidays are not here yet but we’re almost ready for September! For your information we will have training days on 1st & 2nd September. Pupils will start on Thursday 3rd September. More details will be sent out over the summer.

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Last but not least!- Coventry Fun Run

Re: Coventry Fun Run – Sunday 4th October

As you may know, the annual Coventry Fun Run is taking place at the War Memorial Park on Sunday 4th October 2015 at **10:30am**. Organised by The Coventry Three Spires Round Table, the aim is to run or walk the 3 ½ miles through the streets of Coventry and raise money for charity.

At Finham Park School, each college has its own chosen charity. Northgate is supporting **Plan International**, Eastgate's chosen charity is **Macmillan Nurses**, Southgate is raising money for **Diabetes UK** and Westgate is fundraising for **Guide Dogs for the Blind**. We are hoping that we can raise more money than ever through this wonderful event. Before we decide on our own charities at FP2 we will contribute towards the charities above.

In 2013, Finham Park School fielded 100 representatives. This year we want to beat this, which is why we are asking for your help. Over the summer holidays, we are giving students the opportunity to begin collecting Sponsorship in preparation for the Coventry Fun Run. Letters will be available on Parent's Transition Evening on 8th July.

In September, we will be providing further information, including how to pay to register your child's place in the Coventry Fun Run. As we anticipate fielding over 100 students, we have negotiated a reduced price at £4.

If you would like to find out more information about the event, go to www.coventryfunrun.co.uk .



SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2015
10:30 THE RACE STARTS FROM THE WAR MEMORIAL PARK

COVENTRY FUN RUN

COVENTRY'S ONLY INDEPENDENT FUN RUN THAT TAKES OVER THE ROADS AND THE WAR MEMORIAL PARK. AND ALLOWS YOU TO HAVE FUN WHILST RAISING MONEY FOR YOUR OWN CHOSEN CHARITY OR GOOD CAUSE!

If you have any questions or suggestions, please get in touch:



www.finhampark2.co.uk



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