

## Finham Park 2 News Updates

July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015 Issue 5



### Message from the Headteacher Designate, Russell Plester

The summer holidays are finally here, your children have said their fond farewells to their primary schools, and most parents will already be getting organised for the new term ahead! I hope you have chance to enjoy your time together.

Since the last edition we have continued to be extremely busy: we had a successful 'Ready to Open Meeting' with the Department for Education in London and a fabulous Transition Day and New Parents' Evening. Thank you to everyone that sent us positive messages about Transition Day. It was a pleasure to meet all the children again and wonderful to see the whole school together! I was most impressed with their maturity, good manners and behaviour. It was also great to see so many of you again at our New Parents' Evening- your continued support is much appreciated.

There are lots of important messages in this Newsletter to help prepare your child for September, so please read carefully- I hope you find it useful.

With best wishes,  
Russell Plester

### Summer Reading Project- *important!*

Reading is extremely important for learning and a key building block for most lessons. To help prepare for starting secondary school both Finham Park and Finham Park 2 are setting a short reading project for new Year 7s to complete over the summer. In summary all students will need to read a book and choose from a list of activities to complete based on the book.

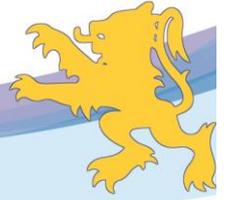


For more details go to: <http://finhampark2.co.uk/images/files/transition-project.pdf> (in the 'parent and student/ other info' section of our website).

In addition, the Summer Reading Challenge is available at all local libraries. See here for more details: <http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

### Enrichment Programme- *also important!*

Your child will have the opportunity to experience our Enrichment Programme which has been designed and planned to enhance and supplement the traditional subject offer for all students. We believe that this is an exciting program that has proved a positive experience with students at Finham Park School since 2011. The



subjects students can opt for will help them develop new skills that we believe will help them in other areas of their school life.

As part of the programme all year 7 students will study Mandarin for one term as we hope that those students with high linguistic abilities and that enjoy it will choose to study Mandarin at GCSE in years 9, 10 and 11.

The Enrichment Program will run as a single lesson each week. Students will study one subject per term in mixed ability groups. As well as Mandarin, students will need to choose the 2 remaining enrichment areas that they study - please complete an option form to tell us of their choices. This is available on our website at <http://bit.ly/1Kkzlo0> - in the 'parent & student/ other info' section (if you do not have internet access please write to or email Mr. Plester- students will need to make 2 choices PLUS 2 reserve choices in case those subjects are already full). Information regarding each subject is below (these are subject to change). The deadline for option choices is **August 20th 2015**. Please be aware that students that have not opted for subjects by this deadline, will be placed in groups based on availability of places.

## Mandarin

### What will I learn?

You will learn:

- About the Chinese characters and Pinyin
- A basic greeting in Mandarin
- How to introduce yourself and family
- How to say different colours and understand the cultural differences in colours
- How to talk about nationality
- Everything about the Chinese New Year (Spring Festival)
- How to make Chinese origami and paper cutting
- About the Chinese traditional art styles and the contemporary art styles
- How to order food and drink in a Chinese restaurant
- The differences and similarities between the Chinese and British cultures

### What will I do?

You will:

- Take part in a variety of workshops to develop your communication and team working skills in mixed age and ability groups
- Research a topic thoroughly to be able to produce some display work, e.g. a poster, a presentation
- Conduct a role play to practise your language

### How will I be assessed / know how I am doing?

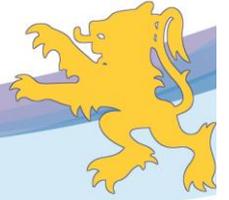
At the beginning of each lesson, there will be a quiz or vocabulary test on what you learnt in the previous lesson. Also, at the end of the term, there will be a speaking and reading test.



Why not get started over the summer? [www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/)

# Finham Park 2

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Chair of Governors: Catherine Colby-Johnson



## **Dance**

### **What will I learn?**

Learn dance steps and routines, develop choreography skills, interpret music through dance and analyse the impact of professional dances, and also use professional dances as sources of inspiration.

### **What will I do?**

Watch performances, discuss meaning conveyed through movement, experiment with new dance steps, learn routines, choreograph dances, rehearse, perform and evaluate.

### **How will I be assessed / know how I am doing?**

Dance will be incorporated into PE, where students will be marked from 1-10 on their competence of dance routines performed. Students will set initial targets at the start of the term and review their performance with teacher guidance at the end of the term.

## **Drama- theatre in action**

### **What will I learn?**

You will learn:

- How to work as a team with new people
- How to develop your leadership and management skills
- How to engage an audience in performance
- What 'Theatre in Education' is and how it is used
- How to create and deliver a project from the page to the stage

### **What will I do?**

You will:

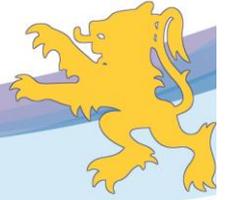
- Take part in a variety of fun and practical workshops to develop your communication and team working skills
- Create a piece of drama from scratch with lighting / sound and costume ideas
- Perform your work for a local primary school audience

### **How will I be assessed / know how I am doing?**

We will share our performances regularly and use verbal feedback to push your play forward. Peer and self-assessment will help you to boost the quality of your work with Star Stickers awarded for hard work and energy!

## **NEW: Technology- Robotics**

As this is a new course more information will be available in September. Students will learn how to programme and see what our little robots can do!



## Philosophy for Children

### **What will I learn?**

You will:

- Consider questions about life you may not have thought about yet.
- Reflect on your own ideas and the reasons for having these.
- Develop the confidence to ask questions and challenge ideas and investigate new ones
- Improve your communication skills.
- Co-operate with others and explore ideas different to your own in a respectful manner.

### **What will I do?**

You will be part of class discussions using 'Circle Time' where you will develop questions and answers, with others, to a variety of philosophical issues.

You will have space to personally reflect on your ideas and opinions.

### **How will I be assessed / know how I am doing?**

Following every lesson you will fill in a Reflection Sheet where you can explain the new ideas you have encountered and how you have begun to think differently. Your teacher will then ask you a probing question to develop your reflection and philosophical mind even further.

## Music

### **What will I learn?**

You will learn:

- Some basic guitar skills.
- Some basic piano skills.
- How to play chords.
- How famous songwriters have used chords in their songs.
- How to structure a song.

### **What will I do?**

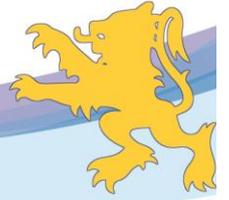
You will:

- Learn to play a song on the guitar as part of a whole class of guitarists.
- Learn how to play different types of chord on piano and guitar.
- Discover how protest songs have helped to solve some major world issues.
- Work as part of a group to create your own protest song.
- Record a performance of your song for inclusion on a CD.

### **How will I be assessed / know how I am doing?**

Your final recording of your protest song will be assessed. We will be looking for good use of chord sequences, lyrics, melodies, structure and instruments. You will gain credit for all contributions to the song including composing and performing it. You will also be assessed on your contributions to discussions about the music we listen to.





## Staffing update

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Our staffing is now complete! We are delighted to have appointed Debbie Campbell who currently works in the Finance Office at Finham Park School to be our new Office Administrator. We have also appointed two Level 3 apprentices that will be working in our Special Needs department and in the School Office. All 3 are a fantastic addition to the FP2 Team. We will share more information about these most recent appointments with you in September.

## Transport- UPDATED ROUTE

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Thank you for the feedback you have sent us regarding the school bus route. We have made several changes, particularly at the start of the route, so it is important that you check our website for more details (in the 'parents and students/ other' info section).

Here is a summary of the changes:

- ✓ The bus will start on Albany Road around the corner from Butts Road at approx. 7.13am
- ✓ It will stop in Earlsdon, opposite the Library
- ✓ It will go up to the Allesley terminus
- ✓ There will be limited bus stops (*the bus will not stop at every stop on the route*) - this is so the bus can get to school quicker! The stops are marked with a yellow star on the maps- please see website.
- ✓ The last drop off after school will be at 5pm on Albany Road.

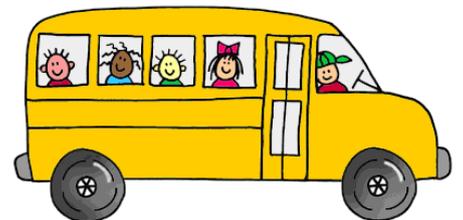
We understand that this will be a long journey for some of our students. We hope that as the drivers and children get used to the route it will become quicker- we will keep you posted if there are any changes to timings. Also it may be useful for your child to have something to occupy themselves on the bus, whether this be reading, listening to music or similar.

REMINDER: 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 were given a bus pass on 8<sup>th</sup> July. They will need to have this every day to get on the bus for September. There will be a charge for replacement passes.*

### Rules for the school bus (please remind your child of these!)

Students should:

- Show their pass clearly when getting on the bus
- Be sat down quietly at all times (unless all seats are taken!)
- Be polite and pleasant to the bus drivers and other children on the bus
- Not eat, drink or have chewing gum
- Not drop litter



Students have already been informed on Transition Day that any poor behaviour or failure to follow these simple rules may result in them losing their place on the bus.

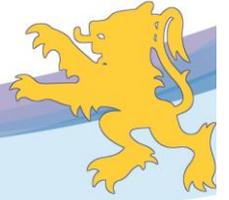
## Transition from year 6 to 7

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As Mr. Plester said in his introduction, we thoroughly enjoyed seeing the students on Transition Day and were extremely pleased with the feedback from students and parents. Here is just some of the positive feedback from parents from Transition Day and the New Parents' Evening:

# Finham Park 2

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*Just want to say thank you for an informative and reassuring meeting this evening. You have certainly ticked a number of boxes for me and I know my son enjoyed his time with you this morning! I fully understand the work that has gone on behind the scenes and want to thank you and all your staff for their help and support so far!*

*I enjoyed the parents evening tonight. Very informative. Well done FP2 team!*

*Thank you so much for letting parents know they are getting on ok. Nearly tears as my [daughter] boarded the bus this morning. Hard to see my youngest growing up. So thankful she will be with such a fantastic group of children and lovely supportive staff.*

*Great day...well organised, roll on September 😊*

*So happy to hear [my son] is loving Finham Park 2. Glad I made the right choice on sending him to this new school full of so many opportunities. The sign of all good things to come. :-)*

## Getting ready for September

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We know the holidays have only just started but we know Finham Park 2 parents like to get organised! Here is some information that might help:

- Uniform- girls can wear grey trousers, but remember they should be school trousers not stretch nor tight fitting, in Harrow (school) Grey- not charcoal grey or light grey!
- Stationery- all students will need a pencil case, pens (blue or black), pencils, colouring pencils, a ruler, eraser, a scientific calculator (wait to buy this as Miss MacDonald will tell you which are best in September!), protractor and compasses.
- Students should have a sensible school bag that is big enough to carry all of their equipment and books
- Ensure all uniform & PE kit is labelled with your child's name & 'FP2' - uniform is expensive to replace!
- Students are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school. However, if phones are seen or used during the school day without a teacher's permission, they will be confiscated (and handed back at the end of the day). Also it is important to note any expensive items students choose to bring in is **at their own risk**.

## Our next Newsletter

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As there is still lots of information to share before the start of September here is what's coming up in our next Newsletter:

- Information about the first day
- Building pictures
- Important dates for the first half term
- Attendance

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



[www.finhampark2.co.uk](http://www.finhampark2.co.uk)



Finham Park 2



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