

# Parent update 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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# At Colebourne we C.A.R.E

#### **DIARY DATES**

Sum	mer Term 2024	
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October, 8.50am	Years 4-6 Celebration assembly – Parents Welcome	
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October, 2.30pm	Reading with your child session RT class	
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Nursery Parents' Evening 1</b> Please book your appointments via Arbor	
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> OctoberReception Parents phonics wor RN - 9am-9:45RT - 10-		
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	<b>Nursery Parents' Evening 2</b> Please book your appointments via Arbor	
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October, 2.30pm	Reading with your child session RN class	
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Parents' Evening – Reception to Year 6 Please book your appointments via Arbor	
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October, 8.50am	Celebration assembly – Years 1-3 Parents Welcome	
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of the half term	
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	YEAR 6 CHILDREN DEADLINE FOR SECONDARY APPLICATIONS	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Staff Training Day – School closed to children	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Children return to school for Autumn 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half term	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Scarecrow Festival Week see information later	
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Remembrance Day</b> Children who are part of a uniformed organisation (e.g. scouts, guides, air cadets) may come to school in their organisation uniform.	
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Children's Flu Vaccines	
FULL TERM DATES CAN BE FOUND IN THE SCHOOL TERM DATES SECTION – PLEASE AVOID BOOKING HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME		

#### OFSTED Inspection

Thank you for all your lovely messages of support during our OFSTED inspection which took place on Tuesday and Wednesday this week. We should receive the report within 30 days and will share this with you once we have it. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to share any information about the inspection with parents until we receive the report.

Thank you also for all those who completed the Parent View questionnaire.

#### <u>Staff Training Day – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November</u>

Reminder, that school will be closed to pupils on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November as this is one of our planned staff training days

Parents evening – new dates

Due to our OFTSED inspection, the parents evening from this week was postponed.

The new dates are:

Nursery	<ul> <li>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 3pm – 4.40pm</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 3pm – 4.40pm</li> </ul>
Reception to Year 6	<ul> <li>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 3.20pm – 6pm</li> </ul>

#### Slightly earlier pick up on Wedneday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (where possible)

As we are starting at 3.20pm, we will be dismissing the chidlren from 3.10pm on Wednesday. If you are able to collect at 3.10pm we would appreciate it.

#### How do I book?

Please log onto Arbor to make your booking. Please ensure that you leave a 10 minute gap between appointments to allow you to move around school to reach other classrooms. This will appear near the top of the log in page under the Attendance section in the Guardian Consultations box.

Please contact the office if you have any problems with the booking system.

#### Where do I go?

#### **Nursery** (Monday and Tuesday)

**3pm – 3.30pm appointments:** please come in via the pedestrian entrance and through the Nursery playground.

**Appointments after 3.30pm:** please walk via pedestrian entrance and come via the school office

#### Reception to Year 6 (Wednesday)

**3.20pm or 3.30pm appointment**: please come straight into school after picking up your child....

- **Reception:** Wait on the playground for the other children to be dismissed and you will be invited in.
- Years 1-2: Via the Main office doors (pedestrian side)
- Years 3-6: Through the top doors by the tree.

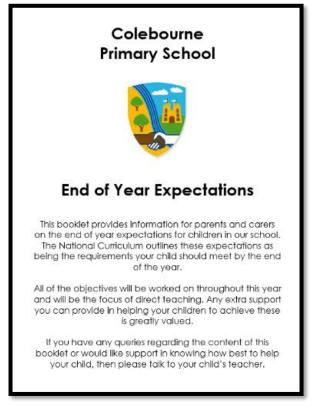
Appointments after 3.30pm: please walk down the vehicle entrance and come to the Main office (car park side)

# What else will be happening on Wednesday evening?

There will be CGP books for sale / to order.

We will be conducting our annual parents survey

You will also receive a copy of the year group specific expectations for Reading, Writing and Maths



#### Year 2 Victorian Day

What an amazing day! The chidren and staff in Year 2 had a fantastic day learning about the Victorian era as part of their History work. The children got to experience a day in the life of a child in a Victorian school. Huge thank you to the staff for making the day so special and also for the parents for the costumes.

Thank you to those parents who were able to attend in the afternoon too!







### COLEBOURNE SCARECROW FESTIVAL COLEBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL SCARECROW COMPETITION

# We would like to invite all our families to be part of our scarecrow festival.

### Theme: Children's Books

**When will the festival will take place:** Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November (afterschool) to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November

Scarecrows will be on display down the main pedestrian entrance.

#### What are the rules for making your scarecrow?

- It can be anything related to the Children's books (Characters etc)
- You are encouraged to use recycled materials
- You can use props or accessories as required
- It must be made from scratch and be able to withstand weather conditions!
- Please give your scarecrow a name and provide a board with a title or description plus the name of the child/ren and class who have made it!
- And the most important rule have lots of fun making it!

#### Where should I put my scarecrow?

Bring it into school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November and set it up on the pedestrian driveway between 8am – 8.40am.

#### When does the competition finish?

We would ask that all scarecrows are taken by their owners by 4pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November.

#### Judging:

Will be done by invited dignitaries and will take place in the afternoon of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Each scarecrow will be judged and awarded either a 'bronze merit', 'silver merit' 'gold merit' or 'best in show'. These will be attached to each scarecrow.

**Any questions?** Contact Mr. Guest – 0121 675 8500 option 1 or email <u>s.guest@colebourne.bham.sch.uk</u>

#### STUCK FOR IDEAS?

http://www.makescarecrows.com/ https://morningchores.com/how-to-make-a-scarecrow/

Also: YouTube has many ideas and tutorials to help!

GOOD LUCK







### Half Term Challenge – Catch a falling leaf

It's that time of the year again where we try one of our favourite 50 Things activities: **CATCH A FALLING LEAF.** 

This sounds simple but it can 'leaf' you feeling frustrated.

Your challenge, should you wish the accept it, is to **get a video** of you **catching a falling leaf** and then send to Mr. Guest.



- 1. <u>Capture a video</u> of you *catching a falling leaf*
- 2. <u>Crop the video</u> to show just the part where you are *chasing and catching* the leaf (*a few seconds*)
- 3. Email the video to Mr. Guest: s.guest@colebourne.bham.sch.uk -
  - please put the subject: as catch a falling leaf
  - please put your childs full name and class in the subject or the body of the email

# If we have enough videos, I will try to put them together in a short video to share with you after half term.

Why not go on an autumn walk to a park and catch the leaf there?

Out top local parks and walks are:

- Stechford Hall Park Stechford Rd
- Cole Valley back of the school access on far side of the Raven
- Hodge Hill Common
- Glebe Farm recreation ground 116 Middle Leaford

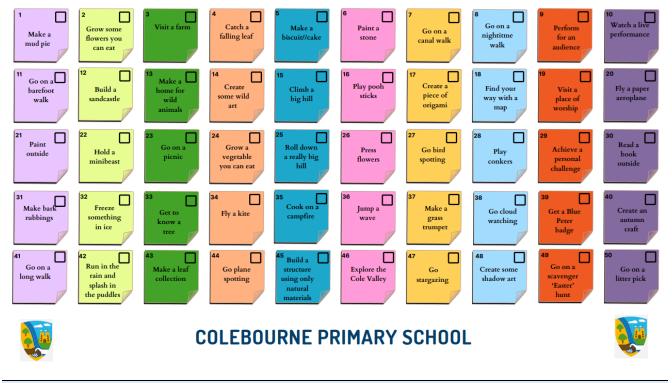
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You can see more about our 50 Things on the school website: <a href="https://www.colebourne.bham.sch.uk/50-things/">https://www.colebourne.bham.sch.uk/50-things/</a>

Here is a list of the full 50 Things. How many have you already done?

How many can you do over half term?

Colebourne's 50 things



Parent Coffee morning and Reading Workshop

Thanks to those who attended the reading workshop with Miss Nelson, Mrs. Wren and Mrs. Taylor; we hope your children enjoy the free books.

There was such positive feedback from the meeting and the request for a similar one for writing, that we will arrange this.

Comments included:

- Such a useful session, thank you to you both
- Thank you all it was a great session
- Thank you for the reading list, some great books on there.
   Looking forward to reading them too
- Thank you all , it was very useful!

A copy of the presenation can be found via the Parent Workshops page on the school website: <u>https://www.colebourne.bham.sch.uk/parent-</u>workshops/

#### Harvest Collection

### Please send any final donations

### by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.



This year Birmingham Clty Mission are particularly low on tinned fruit, tinned veg, rice puddings, coffee, tinned spaghetti, tinned hot meat, pasta sauces, and men's toiletries. But please donate any long-life / non-perishable items that you can. Thank you. Current Year 6 children (Year 7 Admissions - September 2025)

# Is your child in Year 6?

# The deadline to apply for a secondary school place is

# **31 October 2024.**

# Parent should always include at least one of the very local secondary schools.

If you are out of catchment for all of your choices - you are unlikely to get one of them; if this happens the local authority will offer your child a place at the next nearest school with a place – this could be miles and miles away and does not have to be one on your list!

Parent/carers resident in Birmingham should apply through the Birmingham City Council website

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you need any help completing the forms – please ask.

#### Free Webinar: Supporting Fussy Eaters

Maximus, Birmingham's Family Weight Management provider, is offering a **FREE online webinar** on **Supporting Fussy Eaters**.

Date: Monday, 21 October 2024 Time: 18:00 - 19:00

#### Webinar Topics:

- Understanding what fussy eating is
- Exploring the causes of fussy eating
- Identifying the types of fussy eaters
- Providing practical solutions to manage and improve fussy eating

Who Can Attend: This session is open to school staff and parents of children attending schools in Birmingham.

How to Sign Up: Please follow this link to sign up: <u>Supporting Fussy Eaters</u>

For any questions, please contact <u>HealthySchools@birmingham.gov.uk</u>.

#### Free Family-Friendly Events During Half-Term at the Midlands Arts Centre

The ESRC Festival of Social Science is an annual UK-wide celebration of the social sciences. This year, the University of Birmingham is hosting a programme of free events from 21 October to 11 November 2024.

#### **Events of Interest to Families:**

- <u>'Eco-Explorers AI Empowered Green Adventures: Recycling, Upcycling</u> and Consumption
- <u>Responsible Digital Sharing: Creating Digital Artefacts</u>

These events will take place during half-term at the Midlands Arts Centre, located in the family-friendly Cannon Hill Park, on the afternoon of Monday, 28 October.

For more information about the events and their schedules, please visit: <u>ESRC Festival of Social Science - University of Birmingham</u>

#### Items from previous updates:

Attendance update

Just a reminder that if your child is unable to attend school, parents must inform school of the reason. This can be done by calling the office or completing the online attendance form:

https://www.colebourne.bham.sch.uk/reporting-a-pupil-absence/

#### **Reception admissions for Sept 2025**

Applications are now open for Reception class entry for September 2025. The closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

If you would like your child to get a place in our reception, you need to make an application directly to the local authority where you live – for most people this will be Birmingham.

### Apply via the local authority website

### https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

You must apply on time. If you apply late, you are less likely to get offered a place at any of your preferred schools. Applications received after the closing date will be classed as late applications and will not be processed until after the offer of places which usually take place in mid April

- attendance at a nursery class does not give a child automatic priority for a place – you MUST still apply via the Local Authority
- do not wait until your child is 5 years old, or your preferred school may already be full

You can list up to 3 preferred schools when you apply.

Visit <u>http://birmingham.gov.uk/school-admissions</u> for more details.



Colebourne Primary School Stechford Road – Hodge Hill 0121 675 8500 option 1 www.colebourne.bham.sch.uk "Working together to achieve success for all"

# Reception Admissions for September 2025

## Parent information meetings (in person or via Teams)

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024, 9.30am Thursday 9th January 202<mark>5,</mark> 9.30am



<u>Our School Aim</u> Providing children with a secure, happy and stimulating environment, inspiring them to become confident, life-long learners, and responsible members of society.

#### Extreme Weather Response

At Colebourne we have an extreme weather policy which supports us in ensuring the safety of pupils, staff and families.

You can see the full policy via the policies link on the new school website parents section: <u>https://www.colebourne.bham.sch.uk/parents/</u>

This policy outlines our procedures and actions in response to extreme weather conditions, particularly when yellow and red warnings are issued by the relevant authorities. Please note the following information regarding how we communicate any changes with parents:

#### Please note:

- School is **open** unless a message is sent to say otherwise.
- We will always announce any unexpected school closure via Class Dojo AND direct in-app message via Arbor. If there is no message – there is no closure.
- Parents should not need to call the office or message staff to ask if we are open or closed – they should check messages first.
- We DO NOT typically message parents to say school is open, UNLESS there is significant snow and we wish to be clear regarding school being open.

#### Important Attendance Information

At Colebourne, we aim to provide as much support as needed to ensure our pupils can attend and understand that some children have various needs which may need additional support.

We work in partnership with parents and children to support any specific needs and offer a support first approach to attendance.

All parents should be aware of the new guidance around school attendance that came into force in August 2024.

You can find the full guidance here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-toimprove-school-attendance

Please also see below information from the local authority about the new attendance procedures

#### Local Authority Attendance Letter for parents



July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

#### Re: National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence

I am taking this opportunity to write to inform you of some important changes the Department for Education is introducing regarding school attendance and the issuing of penalty notices when children are absent from school.

A new National Framework for Penalty Notices has been being introduced. The new regulations will come into effect from the 19th of August 2024. The aim is to improve consistency in the use of penalty notices across England.

The national framework includes:

- A single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered of ten sessions (usually equivalent to five school days) for any unauthorised absence within a rolling ten school week period. The 10-week period may span different terms or school years. For example, two sessions of unauthorised absence in the summer term and a further eight during the autumn term.
- An increase to the rate of a penalty notice from £120 to £160 if paid within 28 days and £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days. If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling three-year period, the notice will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at £80.
- A national limit of two penalty notices that can be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling three-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another tool must be considered (such as prosecution or another attendance legal interventions).

This means that if you have applied for a leave of absence to take place from September 2024 and the school has not agreed to authorise it, you may receive a penalty notice at the level prescribed by the new framework.

Please be aware that new legislation does not allow schools to authorise any holidays in term time or authorise leave retrospectively.

The local authority is in the process of consulting with schools and partner agencies to develop a revised local code of conduct. The document will be published on Birmingham City Council's website. The Council believes good attendance is essential to support your child in getting the most out of their education and we thank you for your continued support.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact the school who may be able to offer support for your child and family.

Yours sincerely

Sue Harrison

Sue Harrison Strategic Director of Childrens and Families



# Attendance FAQs

#### National Framework for Penalty Notices for school absence Birmingham City Council FAQs for parents – July 2024

#### Why has the Department for Education brought in a National Framework for penalty notices?

There was concern that penalty notices (sometimes called fines) were being issued inconsistently across the county with some Council's issuing multiple penalty notices to a family within a year and some issuing none at all. This created a postcode lottery for families, so the framework has been introduced to ensure more fairness and consistency.

#### What is a penalty notice?

A penalty notice allows parents to discharge an offence by paying a one-off penalty without the matter being referred to court where they could receive fines of hundreds of pounds and a criminal record.

# I've already applied for authorisation of leave this term but for a holiday in September 2024. If the school don't authorise the leave, will I have to pay £80 or £60, as I applied this academic year?

The new law will require any unauthorised absence from  $19^{th}$  August 2024 to be dealt with under the new regulations so it would be £80 for each child and each parent. For a family of four with two children, that would amount to £320 if paid within 21 days of receiving the penalty notice. If paid between day 22 and 28, it would be £640.

#### What if I have a family emergency or bereavement abroad?

Unexpected family emergencies do happen unfortunately and can be very upsetting. However, parents must notify the school themselves of the absence as soon as possible as messages from friends or relatives who don't have parental responsibility may not be accepted. Schools are not allowed to authorise leave retrospectively. Notifying the school doesn't mean the absence will be authorised though. In the case of a family emergency or bereavement abroad, parents are strongly encouraged to request authorisation from the school and ensure absence is no longer than 5 school days. The final decision about authorisation sits entirely with the Headteacher.

#### What if I receive a penalty notice and don't pay it?

The law states that the local authority must withdraw the penalty notices and prosecute the parents in court where they could each receive £1000 fine, a parenting order, a criminal record and various costs awarded against them.

# What happens if I pay a penalty notice for unauthorised leave next term but then take the children on another holiday the following year?

The new framework means that for a second offence within a three-year period, the discount of  $\pm 80$  per parent for each child won't apply. For a family of four with two children, that would amount to  $\pm 640$ . A third period of unauthorised absence within a three-year period means that the local authority will be unable to issue another penalty notice and may instead refer the matter directly to Court.

# I want to visit family abroad for six weeks next year. If the school don't authorise the absence, will I be issued with a penalty notice?

Any level of absence can have a serious impact on children's education, but lengthy absence can be particularly devastating. For that reason, it's unlikely that a penalty notice will be issued, and the matter may be referred directly to the Court instead.

#### What is 'good attendance' and why is it so important?

Generally good attendance is considered to be at least 96% for most children. Some parents think 90% attendance is good but that means a child will have missed at least 200 lessons over a year, lessons that will never be repeated. Since the pandemic, attainment and progress levels in schools have deteriorated along with attendance levels. This could mean that children today may leave school unable to be as competitive in the jobs market, so its important children attend school as much as possible.

Absence from school of any length can also have a negative impact on children's wellbeing, including their mental health. Worries about not being able to catch up, not understanding lessons, or impacts on friendships are all common where child in children who are absent from school.

Children are sometimes absent due to genuine extreme physical or mental health needs, requiring support. In those circumstances, attending school as often as they can be acknowledged and celebrated.

#### I'm struggling to get my child to school. What help is available to me?

Schools in Birmingham have staff trained in early help, special needs and mental health. Please contact the school and ask for a meeting to discuss your concerns. You can also access support for yourself and your family from Birmingham Children's Trust. You can find more details here: Early help for families | From Birmingham with Love | Birmingham City Council

#### My child has special needs and has lots of hospital appointments which I have evidence for. Will I receive a penalty notice?

No. Penalty notices can only be issued where there is unauthorised absence, and those absences will be authorised. If your child is going to school as often as possible as you are working in partnership with the school, you will be doing the best you can to ensure your child gets a good education despite the circumstances.

#### What happens to the money for penalty notices when they are paid?

Currently the law requires penalty notice revenue to be spent on the administration of penalty notices which generally means, for example, any online payment software, electrical equipment such as laptops for issuing penalty notices and staffing costs. From 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024, local authorities will be able to use the revenue to support school attendance more widely, including promotional materials, etc. Penalty notice revenue must be ringfenced for attendance and cannot be used for wider council funding.

July 2024

#### PDF versions of these letters can be found here-> <u>Attendance</u>

# Year 6 Parents: Important information about secondary school applications

Birmingham City Council have a useful video for Year 6 parents which gives some very good advice about how to complete the form and how to be realistic about which schools to put on the form.

Click here to see the video:

Bham City Co @BhamCityCo		
📢 Secondary sch September!	ool admissions for next year will be open from 1	
6 You can apply f	for up to 6 schools for your child.	
🗸 Do research an	d always be realistic.	
🗂 Closing date is	31 October 2024	
	]	
	DEADLINE	
	31 October 2024	
1:03	0	

https://x.com/BhamCityCouncil/status/1829088098740822228

#### Help raise fund for school

Parents and family members can easily raise money for school. These two projects cost parents nothing and just require a registration and then as you shop, school get donations from the companies.

#### ASDA Donations for schools

Asda have launched the 'cashpot for schools'

Asda donate 0.5% of the value of its customers shopping to a primary school of their choice

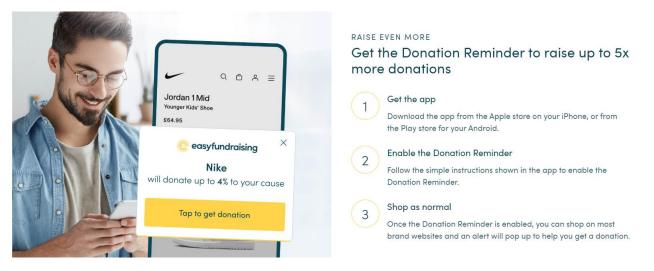


- every time they shop using Asda Rewards.

Click here to register: https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools

Easy fundraising: Raise money for Colebourne while you shop: https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/colebourneprimary

Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us, including all the big names like eBay, John Lewis & Partners, Argos, ASOS, Expedia, M&S, Just Eat, Uswitch and many more! This means you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. If you haven't signed up to support us yet, it's easy and completely FREE. These donations really help us, so it would be great if you could take a moment to get started! You can find our easyfundraising page here: <a href="https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/colebourneprimary/">https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/colebourneprimary/</a>



-21-

#### Use of email



We are regularly using the email system to send important information to parents.

For families with two parents / carers / guardians please check on your Arbor App to make sure we have a correct email address for both. This way, both adults will be able to receive the emails.

#### Current Year 6 children (Year 7 Admissions - September 2025)

Online admissions opened on 1 September 2024 for Year 7 applications.

All children in Year 6 requiring a place at secondary school must make an application.

Parent/carers resident in Birmingham should apply through the Birmingham City Council

website <u>https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions</u> up until the deadline of 31 October 2024. Further information as well as the admission arrangements to support parents with making their preferences can be found on our website.

We would encourage all parents to read the section on making a realistic application:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school admissions/1 778/apply for a secondary school year 7 place/2

If you require any help in this process, please contact us for support.

#### Key policy reminders

#### **Earrings**

Please ensure these are not worn on PE days or swimming days. If they are, children must be able to remove them themselves.

#### **Birthday class treats**

Please remember that we <u>do not</u> allow sweets or gifts to be given out in school for birthdays / special occasions.

#### **Labelling clothes**

We already have lost property. **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE write the child's name** on items of clothing – especially **jumpers, coats, lunch boxes/bags and water bottles**.

#### Water Bottles

Children should have a water bottle with them every day. Staying hydrated is extremely important for health and for concentration in school.

#### **Healthy Snacks**

If children are bringing a snack from home, please ensure this is a 'healthy snack.'

Children must not bring in crisps or chocolate items for breaktime. Please watch out for hidden sugars in certain cereal bars.

Top snacks ideas include: Fruits; Vegetable sticks; Dried Fruit

Home Learning Links				
Here are our core links for any home learning you would like to do.				
	Home learning grids These are for each half term for each year group and enable additional learning around the work the children do in class: <u>Home learning grids</u>			
BBC Bitesize	BBC Bitesize http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary/			
OAK NATIONAL ACADEMY	Oak National Academy <u>Oak National Academy</u>			

We also have some of our subscription services such as	
doodle maths   english   success	Doodle A great platform to learn and practise key skills for maths and English <u>https://www.doodlemaths.com/</u>
	Times Tables Rockstars Practice your times tables and quick maths recall skills <u>https://play.ttrockstars.com/auth/school/student</u>

#### **Core useful links for parents**

Year group expectation sheets:

Key expectation sheets

#### Email address for parents:

parents@colebourne.bham.sch.uk

#### Term Dates:

https://www.colebourne.bham.sch.uk/diary-and-term-dates/

Easy fundraising: Raise money for Colebourne while you shop:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/colebourneprimary

Free school meals checker:

https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/oefe/birmingham/provider

