



Oakfield CE (Aided) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Vikki Reader

February 28th 2021.

Dear Parent Carers,

Everyone is very much looking forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 8th March.

We are well aware just how tough this latest lockdown has been for everyone, in particular in relation to people's mental health and well-being. At Oakfield, supporting children's mental health and well-being is always high priority. We would like to reassure our families that when the children return, we have planned extra opportunities for them to socialise with their friends, have daily outdoor learning, extra lessons focussed to the Arts and being creative and in addition, every class will have a weekly forest school lesson.

You may have seen in the news, reference to children needing to 'catch up' and concerns about children 'falling behind'. It is important to remember that all children across the country have experienced this. Currently, individual schools, the Department for Education and Ofsted are all working hard to review the current curriculum and assessment expectations to make sure that they are fit for purpose following the extraordinary year that we have had. It is also important for me to stress that many children have learnt a huge amount during their time at home and have continued to make progress as 'expected' and so I have spoken with the teachers about the fact that we mustn't make any negative assumptions prior to the children returning.

What is likely is that if children have not regularly completed the work set each day by their class teacher throughout lockdown, they are likely to have gaps in their learning. Teachers will be finding out as quickly as possible which gaps each child has in their knowledge and whether they are similar for groups of children, or specific to your child. This will help the teachers plan whether the children need to 'catch up' through 1-2-1 time or if group interventions would be more beneficial. This approach will continue throughout the summer term.

Finally, in response to the parent questionnaire sent out, we will be arranging virtual parents' meetings for the week beginning 22nd March (more details to follow). Please make sure you book an appointment (when they are released) because your child's teacher will be able to share with you any catch up interventions that are in place and anything essential that your child needs support with at home in order to get closer to, or meet, age related expectations. It will also be a good opportunity for you to ask any questions.

Key information for returning to school on Monday 8th March.

- Children will remain in class/key stage bubbles and will not mix at break times etc.
- Early Birds Club – A Parentmail form will be sent out next week. If you would like to book your child into Early Birds' club, please complete and return the form asap.
- Start time 8.40 (Magic Breakfast) Finish time 3pm - please use the same entrance/exit/waiting spot that you used before lockdown. We would like to respectfully request that unless you are exempt, ~~that~~ all parent/carers continue to wear facemasks whilst on site (when dropping off and collecting).

- The school's reception office remains closed but we are hoping to be able to open this after the Easter Holiday. Staff are still unable to have face to face meetings with parent/carers, but please don't hesitate to email your child's key stage email if you have a query or question and they will get back to you asap.
- We have listened to families and decided that children can wear PE uniform until the end of the summer term, meaning that you do not have to purchase new full school uniform now (and then possibly have to buy a new one again in September when they have grown!). However, if your child would like to wear summer uniform when they return, they are welcome to, but they must come to school dressed in their PE kit on PE days (teacher's welcome back letters will state what days this is). We hope that this gives families the financial flexibility to buy a full school uniform when you feel it is most appropriate. It is important that your child does not mistake this as an option to wear MUFTI. All children must be wearing smart school uniform whether it be a PE uniform or summer uniform. Parent/Carers will be asked to bring correct uniform to school, should your child arrive at school wearing a hoodie or camouflage joggers for example etc.
- Please provide your child with a healthy snack for breaktimes, we are still unable to open the tuck shop but our fruit bowls will continue to be put out for the children.
- After school club – This is being provided by KNL childcare. Please contact 01983 564030 and speak to Cara regards costs and booking a space etc.

In addition to the above, please be aware that the usual rules and procedures around school attendance are back in place from 8th March, meaning that attendance is compulsory. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the school to discuss this and we will seek advice from the educational welfare officer/school nurse who will also be able to speak to you regarding this. Teachers are not expected to provide a remote offer to any children not in school from the 8th March and so it is essential that all children who can be back in school are back in school to minimise any further impact to their education.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire staff team. Firstly, the teaching team for the huge effort they have put into providing and juggling such high quality remote and on-site education to all of our pupils during these national restrictions. Secondly, an awful lot happens behind the scenes and the wider team have worked tirelessly, in communicating regularly with families, organising school meal vouchers, photocopying paper packs of home learning, keeping the school spotlessly clean, arranging PPE, keeping the website updated, organising lateral flow testing for staff and co-ordinating the much appreciated top up table every week etc. What a team; thank you all!

We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on Monday 8th March at 8.40 am.

Best wishes,



Vikki Reader
Headteacher