



Oakdene Primary School
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Headteacher: Mrs. H. Lee

NEWSLETTERS can be found on the "Information for Parents" page of our website.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new School year and a warm welcome to our new Parents who have children starting in Reception and throughout the school. We hope you will be very happy as part of the Oakdene family and hope that you will ask any member of staff about any queries you have.

We welcome new and returning members of staff this term. Miss. Poland is covering Mrs. Whittaker's Maternity Leave in Year 4; Mr. Aggrey is covering a vacant post in Year 5 for the Autumn Term; Mrs. Johnson has become Ms. Holmes and Mrs. Fagan & Miss. Power have joined our school. We know that everyone will be an asset to our team and I know they will help your child in any way they can.

I am so impressed by how well all the children have settled back into school life this week. Many children have been unable to attend school since March and they have been amazing in how well they have picked up the routines and extra procedures we have put in place to help everyone at Oakdene. They have settled in very well so THANK YOU for preparing your child so well in coming back to school. These are still unprecedented times we are in and our main focus at the current time is to keep everyone in school safe and to integrate the children back into school in a calm and secure way. We are focussing a lot on the Personal and Social aspects of the curriculum as your children return, as well as ensuring that we cover any gaps that your child may have in any subject.

A lot of information regarding this term has already been given to you via the website. The letter dated the 14th July and the FAQs put on the website on 28th August will, hopefully, answer many of your questions. Please refer back to these letters for a lot of information (see "Back to School" page of our website).

Your child may not have received a reading book yet or it may be a similar level to what they were on in March. Bear with us - we need to assess all the children to see where they are now and that does not mean children are doing any tests now. They are being assessed in normal classroom practices and in 1:1 situations to ensure we know how much progress your child has made and where they need help.

Social Distancing in School

With so many Adults on site now at drop off and pick up times, we are having some teething problems so please bear with us (again) whilst we run through options to keep every adult and child safe at Oakdene.

Can I remind all adults that the current Government social distancing rules are as follows:

You should still ideally stay 2m (6ft) apart. If that's not possible, you can stay 1m (3ft) plus apart - with extra precautions such as face coverings

Home time Procedures

We have limited the number of classes coming out of school to ensure that Parents can adhere to social distancing rules and mitigate the risk of passing on Coronavirus. Without social distancing of 2 metres we may have to bring in the wearing of masks for Adults who are on the school site. PLEASE can I ask you to keep to the following rules for school:



- PLEASE ensure that whoever is picking your child up knows the YEAR GROUP your child is in
- PLEASE tell them the time that your child / children needs to be collected and ask them not to come onto the playground before that time.
- PLEASE ENSURE that the person picking your child up knows they cannot enter the site unless their year group is called.
- PLEASE ensure that whoever is collecting your child adheres to social distancing. We have red markers on the playground for each adult to stand on when they enter the school site. This makes it easier for Staff and children to see Parents too.
- PLEASE leave the school site as soon as you have collected your children.
- Earlier finishing siblings will be kept in class until the later child goes out.
- PLEASE note that we can only have ONE ADULT collecting your child - no older children are allowed on the school site. This is to ensure that Adults can safely distance on the playground.

We are all learning new routines and procedures and we thank you for helping us to help everyone to stay safe. We may have to change the way that Parents leave the school site and we will inform you as soon as possible of any changes.

Parking

Please consider our residents when dropping off and picking children up. Theoretically, parking should be easier as there are less cars for each time of drop off but we know some people are eager to be at school!

- PLEASE ask whoever drops off or collects your child not to park over people's driveways. We have already had a complaint about this and it is a never-ending problem around school.
- PLEASE ask whoever drops off or collects your child not to keep their engines running when they are waiting. We know some people like to get to school very early and constant engine noise may be annoying for our residents.

Letters & Money coming into School

We have always asked that any money or letters coming into school is sent in a labelled envelope to limit mistakes and losses. During this pandemic, it is more important than ever to do this for practical and safety reasons. Any envelope will do, but we sell small school money envelopes at £1 for 15 if they are useful to you. **Please place any letters, money, requests for water bottles etc or completed forms into the white basket labelled "OFFICE" on the edge of the playground each morning.** Thank you for your support in this important matter.

School Spider

Our website is hosted by a company called School Spider and it has an accompanying app (the app has been updated over the summer - make sure if you use it, you have the latest version and the notifications turned on). As well as supporting our website, it is also our channel for emailing large groups of parents and relies upon your child's priority 1 contact having an up-to-date email address on our school records. We still have some Parents having difficulty logging on to access forms for lunches etc. If you are having issues with this then **please** tell us straight away. Many Parents have reported that it has 'never worked properly' so we need to know that you are having issues so we can resolve the matter quickly. Moving forward we will be using the website and emails as our preferred way of communication so we need to know that you can successfully log on to the site to complete forms. If you are having trouble with your password then please let us know.

Also, please look at the website regularly. As there will be a lot of information uploaded onto the site it will be worth looking at it on a weekly basis - there won't be a letter every week though!

Packed Lunches

Please can I remind all Parents to be vigilant regarding what is put in their child's lunchbox? We have a number of children with allergies so we request that you do not send in any products containing nuts (for all children). We also closely monitor dairy products in the school hall so please be careful when including yoghurts etc - ensuring they are sealed well etc. Contact with these products could cause serious consequences for some of our Children and we hope you can show understanding in this matter. We do not allow sweets / cakes in School for birthdays or from holidays etc for similar reasons. We are also promoting our healthy living policy by not allowing children to have fizzy drinks, chocolate or sweets in lunch boxes. There are many occasions when children eat fruit in school but tell us that they don't eat it at home so we hope to encourage more fruit eating. Unfortunately, we cannot accept fruit donations from home as they may have pesticides on them which some children may be allergic to. Please can I also ask that your child's **Packed Lunch box is labelled with their name?** We have many lunchboxes which are the same and we cannot match them up with their owners if they are not named.

Healthy snack for morning break

As we are not having toast in the mornings we have said that children can come in with a healthy snack which is preferably fruit. If your child does not eat any fruit then a healthy cereal bar can be sent in (again, with no nut ingredients). We do not want children taking yoghurts or crisps from their lunchbox at playtime. If possible please ask your child to put their snack for playtime in their book bag - this makes it a lot easier for your child to get their snack. Also, **ONE** piece of fruit **OR** one cereal bar is enough. We seem to be having picnics at morning break!

Religious Education and Assemblies

All Parents have the choice as to whether their child undertakes Religious Education and participates in Collective Worship in Assemblies. Throughout our Religious Education Syllabus we study a range of Religions instilling in the children a sense of empathy, understanding and tolerance for many different world Religions. If you **would not like** your child to be involved in Religious Education please send a letter to your child's class teacher indicating this preference.

Back to School Meetings

As many of you are aware we normally hold back to school meetings at the beginning of the year which Parents are invited to. Obviously we cannot do these in school and so Staff are putting extended Powerpoints onto the website with information relevant to your child's class. At this meeting you would normally receive a pack of forms to complete. We will not be sending forms home. Any information required from you will be sent via email or will be on the school website. If you have had any recent contact detail changes (especially mobile phone numbers and email addresses) please ring the school office as soon as possible so that your details can be updated.

Macmillan Coffee Morning / Afternoon Tea

As you may know in previous years, we have held a Coffee Morning or Afternoon Tea for the wonderful charity that is Macmillan Support. We have tried to think of ways we can support this charity this year whilst keeping everyone safe. We have decided to 'Go Green for Macmillan'. So, children can green up their uniform on Friday 25th September. From bobbles to socks, a green PE t shirt to a green hoodie - whatever your child wants to wear that will go with their uniform please let them wear it. This is not an own clothes day and we just hope to go green for this worthy cause. If your child wants to participate, please send in a donation of at least £1.00 and we will have buckets on the playground for any donations to Macmillan on that day too. We love our annual Coffee Morning or afternoon tea and will miss seeing you all but we know we cannot hold the event this year. Fingers crossed for next year.

Parent Helpers in School

We value all the support that Parents and Grandparents give to us with their time and expertise and we are always grateful for offers of help. Unfortunately with the current situation we are unable to have Parent Helpers in school. As soon as circumstances change we will let you know.

Parent Events in School

In the Autumn term we have a large amount of events for Parents which will all look different this term.

Unfortunately some events are cancelled, some have changed format and some are postponed for the moment. See below for what will be carried out:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Alternative in Autumn 2020</u>
Year 6 SATS meeting and PGL meeting	Information will be on the website
Reception Workshop	Information will be on the website
Class Assemblies	Postponed until further Notice
Values Assemblies	Cancelled. Parents will be informed if their child has won a Values Award and this will be presented in School. A celebration may take place at home too 😊.
Nativity	Cancelled
Christmas Church Service at St. Anns	Cancelled
Choir performances at Whiston Hospital and Care homes	Cancelled
Parents Evening	A short report will be given to you about your child. If you have any concerns you will be able to contact your child's class teacher and if the Teacher is concerns about your child they will contact you.
Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents	Some tours of the school will be available for Parents who do not already have children at the school. Details at a later date.
Friends Events	Postponed

Fundraising

I am sure you will know that our Summer Fayre was unable to go ahead this year and we missed out on vital fundraising for our school. However, a group of intrepid (and slightly mad!) staff embarked on a gruelling bike ride from Rainhill to Southport and back on the wettest day of the holidays (yes - even wetter than the first day back at school!). They were amazing and even at the half way stage were determined to get back in the rain to return to Rainhill. They raised a fantastic £2000+ for books for our children and I would like to tank Mrs. Blennarhassett, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Garton-Pope, Mrs. Graney (and Fiona), Mrs Hamlin, Mr. Hodgkinson, Mrs Hughes (and Andy), and Mrs Hurley (and Liam). Well done to you all and thank you for putting yourself through that pain and damp for all our children. Last but not least, a huge thank you to everyone who donated and made it all worthwhile.

If anyone has any ideas for fundraising whilst we are in these difficult times then please let us know. I am sure there will be something sponsored for your child to do in the near future. We are still in need of replenishing many of our books and so the fundraising will carry on in one form or another.

Out of School Club

Thank you for your understanding about the temporary closure of our Out of School Club. Deciding how we can move forward with this service during the pandemic, is an extremely high priority for us - as we know it is for so many of our families. Please look out for communications in the coming days.

Once again, thank you for preparing your child so well for coming back to school. Any queries or concerns please call the school office and we will endeavour to contact you at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



H. Lee
Headteacher