

**OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**Ashton Avenue, Rainhill, Merseyside, L35 0QQ**  
**Tel:01744 678410 email: oakdene@sthelens.org.uk**

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

An enormous THANK YOU to all Parents / Grandparents / Carers who have been wearing masks from yesterday morning when dropping children off and picking them up. This was put on social media and the St Helens Star website late on Wednesday night and it was superb that we could implement it so quickly. This policy will be continued until we hear otherwise from the Council or Government. Please pass on our thanks to everyone who comes to school at any time. Thank you to everyone for social distancing on the playground. Unfortunately, cases in St. Helens seem to be rising very rapidly and we want to do everything we possibly can to try and avoid a local lockdown.

We are very pleased that the children have settled so well into school life. The Reception children have stayed for school dinners this week and have coped well with all the extra precautions we have put in place. All the other year groups are settled and we have been working with them on talking about the continuing virus, emotions and the need to carry on with hand washing etc. We know they have been out of the normal school routines for a long time and we are so pleased that they are getting back into the swing of things. One thing we are noticing is how tired the children are as we increase the pace of learning in classes. Please try to ensure your child has enough sleep and that they are ready for learning every day.

Collections and drop offs

As previously mentioned we are delighted that so many of you have taken on board wearing masks. Masks also need to be worn for clubs that take place before and after school. If you forget your mask in the morning please ensure that your child is safe on the playground and leave as soon as possible. If you forget for after school pick up, please ensure that social distancing is undertaken at all times. Our spots are 2 metres apart but please try to mitigate the risk of infection by keeping away from other people.

PLEASE can I ask you to remind whoever is picking your child or children up of the times for collection? There are a lot of elderly people who are waiting a long time on the playground as they don't know the time to pick up or the year group the child is in. This could mean them standing around for a lengthy period of time which would be hard for them in the winter months (these procedures look like they will be here for a long time!). If anyone is collecting more than 1 child please can we remind you that all your children come out at the later pick up time and can be dropped off at the earlier time? Children are being brought out earlier at the moment as the weather is so nice but when it is raining or cold they will be kept in class until the later time.

Class	Start time	Finish time	Collect or drop off siblings from :
Rec	9.15am	3.15pm	Can collect siblings from Y 1, 2, 3, 4, 4, 5, 6
Year 1	8.55am	3.05pm	Can drop off siblings in YR, 4,5; can collect siblings from Y2,6
Year 2	8.45am	3.00pm	Can drop off siblings in YR, 1,3,4,5
Year 3	8.55am	3.05pm	Can drop off siblings in YR, 4,5. Can collect siblings from Y2,6
Year 4	9.05am	3.10pm	Can drop off Rec children; can collect siblings from Y1,2,3,6
Year 5	9.05am	3.10pm	Can drop off Rec children; can collect siblings from Y1,2,3,6
Year 6	8.45am	3.00pm	Can drop off siblings in YR, 1, 3, 4, 5

A reminder that your child will be marked as late in the register if they are in 10 minutes later than their start time. This is why we have said siblings can be dropped off at the earlier time.



### Update on need for testing

There has been a lot spoken about testing this week and the lack of testing facilities. The council have urged us to pass on the message that only people with symptoms within your household should be tested. This guidance has changed from what some people have been previously told. As you will be aware it has become increasingly difficult to secure tests but I do urge you to persevere if anyone in your household has any symptoms. Currently your child should still be tested if there are any one of the following symptoms:

- A high temperature of 37.8 degrees or above.
- A new continuous cough (this is now defined from NHS as: coughing a lot, for more than one hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If you usually have a cough, it may be worse than normal).
- A loss / change to your sense of taste or smell.

If anyone in your household is waiting for a test or is waiting for a result, all the people in the household need to self-isolate until the test comes back. If it is negative, everyone can come back to school. If it is positive all household members need to self-isolate for 14 days and get a test if they develop symptoms. If you have a positive case in your household please inform school. We are putting work together that can be done if children need to self-isolate. Obviously if it is the child who is ill, no work will be set as they will be too ill to do the work. If a child who attends Oakdene tests positive please inform us right away. If the test comes back in the evening or weekend, please email the school ([oakdene@sthelens.org.uk](mailto:oakdene@sthelens.org.uk)) as well as leaving a message on the school answer machine. If it is during the school day please contact the school office (01744 678410).

In order to reduce the risk of Coronavirus spreading we would ask that you continue to observe social distancing at all times, that you think about the number of people your children are mixing with outside of school and you follow the self-isolation guidelines if anyone has symptoms. We know we will have cases in school and we want to deal with them as effectively as possible when this occurs.

### Bits and Pieces

Please note - a few points to help school life run more smoothly:

- **Individual hand sanitisers are not allowed in school** due to safety issues. Children are able to use the class sanitiser any time they wish to.
- Please do not send any snack in a lunch bag or box. We do not have room for all lunchboxes especially if it is just a snack of a piece of fruit etc.
- Snack **can** be a piece of **fruit or a cereal bar (no nut ingredients)**. **Not** yoghurts, crisps, sachets of food, popcorn, sweets etc. One piece of snack needs to be able to fit in the school book bag. Please be aware that infants already have access to a daily piece of fruit that is provided by the school.
- Only water is allowed in water bottles which should be clear (preferably our school ones which fit under our water coolers more easily). Metal and large plastic ones are causing lots of flooding in our corridors. Juice is supplied with school dinners. Evidence shows that it is only water that hydrates the brain which is what we want for active learning 😊. Please send in a clear water bottle with water in and it will be re-filled at lunchtime.
- Sunglasses are allowed IF your child suffers from hayfever. We are having a wonderful array in school but children do get upset if they get broken.
- Please make sure your child has a coat in school every day. We do go out when it rains and a small pac-a-mac in the book bag is useful.
- Navy leggings are acceptable for PE at the moment, if your child wishes to wear them.
- If you bring a dog to school please ensure that people can still get past on the pavement. We have a lot of dogs being brought to school now and many children are having to stand in the road to get past. Also,

please make sure you pick up any mess they make. We have had a number of cases of children coming in having just stood in dog poo.

### Exciting Things to Look Out for

Our **online payment facility** is going live imminently. This service is provided by "SchoolMoney" and you will shortly receive a text and/or email with your logon details. Please test these out as soon as possible and check you can log on and see your children listed. Get in touch with school straight away if you have any problems doing that. Initially there will be no payments listed. Gradually we will roll this payment option across the range of things you might send money to school for, starting with Out of School Club in the very near future.

**Out of School Club** information will be posted today on the school website. If you are considering using this service after it opens on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, make sure you read the letter and the Terms & Conditions carefully and raise any questions you have with the school office as soon as possible.

### Earrings in School

Earrings are not allowed to be worn in school and if any children have them in they will not be able to do PE or play out on the playground. If children are wearing the plastic spacers, that are becoming more common when children have recently had ears pierced, we will ask Parents if they are happy for their child to undertake PE with these in and be responsible for any injuries that may occur. If normal earrings are left in they will not be able to do PE at all. If the children have spacers in (until 6 weeks after they have had their ears pierced) we ask you to sign a disclaimer (below) saying that you will take responsibility for any damage caused to the ear. These will be expected to be removed after 6 weeks. If this form is not received and your child has spacers in the ears, your child will not be able to play outside or do PE. We have sought advice from the British Physical Education Association and this guidance is in line with their recommendations. This is always an issue at the beginning of the School year and does reduce as the year progresses. Please either print off and sign the disclaimer below (return via box on the playground) or electronically sign and email back to school ([oakdene@sthelens.org.uk](mailto:oakdene@sthelens.org.uk)).

### School Holidays 2021 - 2022

The new school holidays have been set by Governors. These start with effect from NEXT September 2022.

<u>School Opens</u>	<u>School Closes</u>
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022

A reminder of the holidays for this year 2020 - 2021

<u>School Opens</u>	<u>School Closes</u>
	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2021

**THANK YOU**

We are all working hard in school to reduce the risks of the virus spreading. Handwashing, cleaning routines, entry and exit procedures, sanitising, classroom layouts and procedures have all changed and we know we are doing everything that we can to keep your children safe. Thank you for being so understanding when we have to change things and we hope you realise that we are doing it for the good of all our children, staff, parents and our wider community. We know that cases are rising and we do not want to have to close class bubbles but if we do it will be to ensure the safety of everyone. We will have work available for children who are self-isolating for 2 weeks or if a bubble closes so please ensure that you keep school informed of where you are up to in terms of Coronavirus tests being taken, results being waited on, test results and self-isolation. We will help you in any way possible to keep you and your families safe.

Yours sincerely



H. Lee  
Headteacher

**Plastic Spacers in Ears**

Name of Child..... Year Group .....

My child has recently had their ears pierced (within the last 6 weeks) and I have been advised to put plastic spacers in the ears to help with this process. I agree to my child being on the playground and undertaking PE but if any injuries occur to the ears I will take full responsibility for allowing my child to undertake these activities.

Signed..... (Parent / Guardian) Date.....

If this form is not received and your child has spacers in the ears, your child will not be able to go outside or do PE.

If your child still has earrings in their ears we require that the earrings are covered with plasters and children will not be able to play outside or do PE.

