

OAKDENE PRIMARY SCHOOL
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2nd October 2020

Dear Parents,

Many thanks once again for observing social distancing around school and for wearing masks or visors on school property. We are very grateful that each and every one of you is helping to keep each other safe by wearing a mask or visor. If you do forget your mask or visor in the morning it is possible to drop your child at the gate so you do not have to enter our one-way system. If you forget your mask or visor in the afternoon please stand away from other Parents / people collecting their children as we do not know who is vulnerable on our school site at that time.

As you will know, cases of Coronavirus are still rising in St. Helens and new regulations come into force tonight. Child care remains unaffected (ie: someone from another household can collect your child on a consistent basis). The guidance from St. Helens Council is as follows:

People looking after children as part of a childcare bubble, or vulnerable adults, can continue to do so when it is necessary for caring purposes and is a regular arrangement. This does not cover playdates or parties.

A childcare bubble is where someone in one household can provide informal (i.e. unpaid and unregistered) childcare to a child aged 13 or under in another household. This must occur on an exclusive basis - always the same two households.

The only other people who should help you with childcare in your home are people you live with, people in your support bubble, or registered childcare providers including nannies.

Outside of these measures, friends or family who do not live with you must not visit your home to help with childcare.

We must ask that you limit the number of children your child comes into contact with outside of school in order to mitigate the risk of the infection spreading. We will be unable to allow your child to go to multiple different homes if you ring and ask them to be collected by someone else unless this is an emergency.

Please can I also remind you that we are still instigating the guidance that states **only one Parent / carer to collect 1,2 or 3 children** from the school site. One person should stand on a red spot to ensure social distancing is carried out on the school playground. We know that we have vulnerable people dropping off and collecting children and we want to ensure everyone's safety on the school site.

Collections and drop offs

The process of dropping off and collecting your child from school has worked really well and I hope this will continue. The drop offs are continuous but I would ask that **we do not have any other children other than Year 6 and Year 2 (and siblings) at school before 8.40am**. The rest of the school coming in is working really well but we do have a number of very keen children and adults who are having to wait on the pavement and causing congestion. Once again can I remind you to ask **whoever collects your child to adhere to the times for collection**. We are still having people waiting for a long time on the playground not knowing what time the child they are collecting is coming out of school.

| Class | Start time | Finish time | Collect or drop off siblings from : |
|--------|------------|-------------|--|
| Rec | 9.05am | 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 |

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|--------|--------|--------|---|
| 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 the start time in the register. This is why we have said siblings can be dropped off at the earlier time. The gate onto the playground will now be closed at 9.05am.

Parking

Whilst talking about collecting children, I would like to bring to your attention that we have had a complaint from residents about cars parking up from just after 2.30pm with engines running. Registration numbers have been shared with us and I hope this can be nipped in the bud. The Highway Code states:

You **MUST NOT** leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running or leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road'. Generally, if the vehicle is stationary and is likely to remain so for more than a couple of minutes, you should apply the parking brake and switch off the engine to reduce emissions and noise pollution.

Please help all our children, parents, carers and residents by switching engines off and not parking across driveways.

Staffing

In order to ensure that we reduce the risk of infection even further we have changed a couple of support staff around. Mrs. Green will be staying in Rec, Year 1 and Year 2 and Mrs. Evans will be in the Junior classes to cover the Teachers whilst they have time for planning, preparation and assessment as well as Leadership time for members of our Senior Leadership Team (Government requirements). They will also be providing support in these classes. Miss Woods will be moving from Year 1 in the morning to Year 3, Mrs. Cross remains in Year 2 in the morning and all other Learning Assistants will remain in their 'morning' classes for the full day. These changes will come into effect as soon as possible. Year 1 have welcomed a Trainee Teacher into their class this week. Miss. Fernley will be helping in the class and will teach some lessons before Christmas. Miss. Fernley will be with us for most of the year and I am sure the Year 1 children will get to know her very well.

Parents Evening

As you will be aware, we will not be able to have the normal Parents Evening that we usually hold in November. These meetings are to assure you that your child has settled in and what you can help them with at home to improve their learning. As we will not be having physical meetings, we will be sending out a short summary of what is going well for your child and what your child needs help with. These will be sent out on 13th November via email after school. If a Teacher is concerned about a child they will ring you in the week commencing 9th November or week commencing 16th November. If you have concerns after you have received the summary then please email school and your Child's Teacher will contact you. Alternatively, print off the form when it arrives and send it back to school via the post box on the playground. I am so proud of how all the children are coming into school and settling in their classes. This year is a very different learning experience for them and we are grateful that they have taken everything on board so well. The children have been very chatty since September which we were expecting but we thought this would have reduced by now. Please remind your children about being in class to listen and learn especially when adults are talking. Thank you.

Booklet coming home

You will be receiving a booklet today, 'All About Family'. Please can I assure you that where this has come from has instigated a bio-fogging service and we have quarantined these booklets for 72 hours before allowing them to go home.

Uniform Orders

We are sorry if you have not received your uniform that was ordered at the beginning of term. There is a backlog from various suppliers and our suppliers cannot get the items in stock. This is a nationwide issue with the current pandemic. As soon as the uniform arrives in school you will receive a text and we will get it out to you. We are still awaiting samples of a new tracksuit / jogging suit which we hope to have available to you very soon.

PE Days

As you have just got used to PE days we are making minor amendments to our PE timetable. Sorry! This is to ensure that all children can go in the Hall as the weather gets colder.

Rec PE days - Tuesday and Friday

Year 1 PE days - Monday and Thursday

Year 2 PE days - Monday and Thursday

Year 3 PE days - Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 4 PE days - Monday and Friday

Year 5 PE days - Wednesday and Friday

Year 6 PE days - Tuesday and Friday

Cold Weather and classrooms

As you may be aware the guidance for buildings at the moment is to have as much throughflow of air as possible to mitigate the risk of infection. Since the pandemic started we have been able to keep the doors and windows open in classes and the hall but as the weather gets colder we cannot do this constantly. We have had to turn the heating on this week so you will realise that we are stuck between keeping the classrooms with a free airflow and keeping the children warm. The advice we have received is that when the classrooms are heated the windows should be opened for a short amount of time every 20 minutes. This may mean that your child feels the cold (especially if they sit near a window). Unfortunately, whilst this pandemic is on-going this is what we will have to do. If your child does feel the cold you may want to put their PE top in their book bag to keep them warmer. Reception children are in and out all day and put their coats on when necessary so they will not need their PE tops. We are sorry about this but hope it reduces the spread of infection.

Bags in school

There are children who have a vast array of keyrings and adornments on their book bags at the moment. The children do not leave their bags anywhere in school where they have to identify their own bag (to further reduce the risk of infection). **Please limit the keyring etc to one on the bag**. Any more causes a space problem in our cloakrooms or for your child to fit them in their tray. Also, please can I remind you **that children cannot have individual hand sanitiser in school** due to us not being able to carry out a COSSH Assessment on it. We know that it may well be only used by your child but we do not know who may go and take a little sample from someone else's bottle. All our soaps and hand sanitisers have gone through strict health and safety assessments for use in schools.

Out of School Club

We are looking forward to the re-opening of our Out of School Club for a trial period from next Monday. We know that many people have made other arrangements during these uncertain times and we thank you for bearing with us whilst Out of School Club could not open.

Please can I remind Parents that there will only be **one drop off time (7.55am)** and **3 pre-booked collection times of 4.30pm; 5.00pm and 5.30pm?** You will be required to wear a mask or visor when collecting children. All children will be taken from you at the gate to the Out of School Club and brought out to you when you collect them (via the gate to the right of school when looking at the school building). The staff at Out of School Club

will know what time the children are to be collected and bubbles will be kept separate. No Parents will be allowed in the school building. Social distance markers will be on the path and we ask that you stick to these guidelines. Please leave the school site promptly as we may have a bottleneck if this is not done quickly.

I would urge you to tell your children about the different arrangements for Out of School Club if you haven't already done so. Most activities will be table top with some floor activities for Reception Year 1 and Year 2. The children will have some access to iPads but this will be limited due to the need to clean and quarantine these between groups. Food will also be limited to items which do not have to be prepared, eg: cereal bars and fruit for breakfast and bread sticks, rice cakes, fruit etc at After School Club. We would not want children disappointed next week when activities or food is not what they are expecting. We are sorry for this change but we need to ensure all steps are taken to reduce the risk of infection.

We need to see whether it is safe and viable to run Out of School Club and we will be assessing the situation as soon as possible. Many thanks for your understanding as we try to accommodate everyone's needs.

Friends Association

Our Friends Association have very kindly agreed to supply school with another set of class iPads as our small iPads are now becoming obsolete. We thank them for all the fundraising they carried out before lockdown to ensure our children have the best equipment to use in school. As many of you know our Friends raise money for much needed resources and pay for the coach costs for all trips. This helps Parents out enormously as the average cost for each child is £10 per trip just for the coach. Although Friends cannot have activities going on in school at the moment, they are still working hard to raise much needed funds and so they are ready to pay for trips when we can resume these. They have various events lined up for home and school and I hope you can support these fundraising events. Thank you to everyone who brought clothes for our clothes collection today. We know that every bag helps towards much needed funds.

Flu Vaccine

As you know all the children will be vaccinated against flu in school with a nose spray. The date we have been given is 10th December. If you have returned your consent form but now want to have your child immunised at your GP surgery earlier than this please let us know that this has occurred so we can inform the nurses who arrive in school.

THANK YOU - again

I just want to thank you again for all that you are doing to help reduce the risk of infection across our school community. 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