

Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West

Butler Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6QZ

Telephone: 01344-773496

admin@oaklands-jun.wokingham.sch.uk

www.oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk



1st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you, your children and extended families are all keeping well. I know that this is a difficult time for us all with social distancing but each day we are getting closer to the time that this will all be behind us. If anyone is experiencing any difficulties, please do know that we are here for you. If we can help in any way, please do contact us and we may be able to help or put you in contact with someone who can.

Behind the scenes, we have been working on how we can best support our Oaklands Junior School community to keep a more personal contact with you and your children, mainly through our home learning, much of which has been new for staff as well as for you; keep going - you are doing a great job.

Teachers have been recording and sometimes re-recording their video messages and daily reading, to ensure that this is of a good quality and often this has been in their own time in the evenings, so I hope that you are managing to watch, listen and enjoy them with your children. Members of staff often have their own family needs too; some being involved in home learning from their children's schools, whilst still continuing to plan for their own classes and be on our rota of staff in school for our key worker children. Others are out of school but still completing various tasks that are essential to supporting the school community, including delivering essential items to staff and families self-isolating, or supporting home learning via the hls email; in addition to working on class/subject leadership responsibilities for our curriculum.

Teachers' Communication with Pupils

We are aware that children are missing communicating with teaching staff and staff are feeling the same. Therefore, we are currently exploring the possibility of using Microsoft Teams to organise a video call between teachers and their class, as we have been advised by Wokingham Borough Council that we should not be using Zoom for such meetings due to safeguarding issues. In the meantime, if your child would like to send a message, some work or a photo of something they have enjoyed during lockdown, then please use hls@oaklands-jun.wokingham.sch.uk to send an email to them. Teaching staff will be forwarded the message and will endeavour to reply. Please be aware though that this may take a few days to reply as they are also trying to work from home, come into school and possibly home school too.

Parents' Evening

We are very aware that we completed one evening before the second one needed to be cancelled due to social distancing, so teachers have not been able to meet with all their parents. Once we are back in school, there will be an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher if you would like to and we suggest that you contact them at that point to arrange a meeting. If, however, anyone would like a conversation before that time, please do email hls@oaklands-jun.wokingham.sch.uk and this message can be passed on to your child's class teacher who will send a response through the same messaging system to arrange a convenient time for a conversation over the phone, when that member of staff is in school.

When will School Re-open?

There is no real news on a date for a return to school but there has been much speculation in the press. All we can do, as a school, is to plan for an unknown return and hope that we are given sufficient time to implement the safe return for staff and pupils.

We believe that social distancing will still be in place in some measure for some time to come, even when we do have a date to safely return and I am discussing with my Senior Leadership Team a plan for a possible staged return, in readiness for that time. We will be looking at the timetable for each day, to include breaks/lunch also being staggered. At this stage, we may need a rota for different year groups being in school at any one time being taught by teaching staff, whilst other year groups continue with home learning, which will then rotate. There is no guidance for this as yet but we are purely looking at the logistics of how we can keep our children and staff safe. When we have a date for return, we will contact you with more details.

Your Family's Wellbeing

I cannot stress enough how important you and your family are to us. We miss you all and cannot wait for a safe return to school. If anyone is feeling isolated or feeling that we have not supported as you expected, please do talk to us. We are here to support or help in any way we can. Remember that some days will be better than others and please try not to stress over what has or has not been done or if, as we all do at times, get frustrated with the situation we are in. So long as you and your family keep safe and healthy, then that is **most** important.

If you can also find time to keep in contact with your extended family, who will also be feeling isolated, then messages, photos and online chats can just give everyone that little boost. I know my staff are all missing contact with you and your children, so a message to build them up too would be most welcome, as they are very much missing having that personal interaction. Also remember the wellbeing button on OWL is there for children to speak to Nikki Lenon if they would like to; especially if they are feeling anxious or just need to talk.

You may have seen on the front page of our website, we now have a new tab on the right for 'Covid-19 Wellbeing'. Please look every so often, as new resources will be added as we find further useful information for you and your family's wellbeing. Our Educational Psychotherapist, Mrs Mullier, has kindly taken ownership of this and will periodically add further information that may be useful for you and your family.

Friday 8th May – VE day

Just a reminder that this is a Bank Holiday which was changed this year to coincide with VE day, so staff will not be adding any videos, messages or learning tasks to OWL for that day – in effect, next week there will be four days of home learning. We will of course be open on that Friday, if needed by our key workers.

Keep healthy and stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. H. West
Headteacher