

Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Having reached the end of a most unusual summer term, I would like to congratulate you all on getting this far and in all that you have done for your children over this difficult time. It has not been easy and no-one knew that this would have lasted so long. We hope that you can take pleasure in knowing that you and your children have done their very best – that is all anyone can ask and we are proud of you all. I am also in awe of my amazing staff in all that they have achieved over this time too, so I am sure you would like to join me in praising staff for all their hard work. They are such a dedicated, fun-loving group of people who always go that extra mile for the children and this school. This could have been such a different story had any of my staff been unwell but luckily we have not had to close any of our groups through illness. You and they deserve a relaxing summer break to refuel and recharge batteries for September.

Through all of this we have welcomed back a total of 211 pupils into school with children having the opportunity to meet with their current teaching team, as well as many seeing their new teaching team too. It has been wonderful to see how much more confident the children became, having had this opportunity with us in school, seeing their friends and their teachers, from their nervous first steps through the school gates. It has been a real pleasure to also welcome our new Y2s in this final week as part of transition, meeting their new teachers and seeing their new classrooms. At the beginning of September we will do some further work on transition for our current Y4s, Y5s and Y6s along with their teaching teams from this year, as they settle into their new year groups. We would welcome sight of the home learning books back in school on our first day back, to celebrate all that the children have done during lockdown and also award merits.

Staffing Update for September

We are very sorry to lose Alex Gunn as a TA in Y5; we will very much miss him as part of our team. However, he is leaving for a very good reason, to follow training to become a teacher and we would like to wish him every success for the future. We had a lot of interest in this vacancy and having interviewed we can now confirm that Rebecca Mooney has been appointed as our new Y5 TA. We look forward to welcoming her as part of the Y5 team from September.

PTA

Our PTA have been so creative in fundraising for Oaklands Schools during this difficult time, including running an Usbourne Books sale online, as well as setting the Oaklands' Challenge for children. I was very proud of my staff in joining the children and setting themselves a challenge, whilst raising money for the PTA. Many of you will have seen the pictures that were requested by the PTA to celebrate their achievements. It is a shame that there seems to be a malicious rumour that Mr Holland was playing golf in school time - he was playing a round of golf with a member of staff who took this picture at 7.16pm in the evening.

Y6 Leavers

All our Y6s, who were in school over these last few weeks, were able to have an end of term shirt signing within each group and view our PowerPoint presentation of their time with us – there was laughter and tears for photos shared from Y3-Y6 and lots of lovely messages from members of staff. This was also shared on Teams for those who were not able to be in school. The whole Y6 team were in school to wish the children well on their journey to secondary school with ice pops, a round of the Leavers’ song, and a few favourite songs. The traditional end of an era award winners were named with their names currently being engraved on these awards. Huge congratulations to:

Waller Oracy Cup	Samika J
Teale Trophy	Vladi M
Sports Shield	Alice K & Ethan S
Outstanding Sports Award	Charley B

Thank you to the PTA for organising a card for all the Y6 leavers, with their photos in hoodies on the front and messages from staff; something to hopefully remember their time at Oaklands Juniors. As I have already said, this is not goodbye as in the autumn term we will be planning a social BBQ event for parents, children and staff so that we can suitably celebrate our Y6s time with us.

September Opening

Following the new guidance for schools from September, we have planned for a full re-opening from Wednesday 2nd September with **all** year groups returning full-time. Our groups or ‘bubbles’ will be able to be much larger, as whole year groups, with no social distancing for the children within their year group. However, year group ‘bubbles’ will not be allowed to mix, meet or play together and must at all times be kept separate. Staff, however, will still need to remain at a 2m distance or 1m+ with appropriate measures in place.

In order to ensure year groups remain separate, there will be a staggered start and end to each day.

Year Group	Arrive	Depart
Year 4	0830	1505
Year 5	0840	1515
Year 6	0850	1525
Year 3	0900	1535

Children will need to enter school alone at the **Butler Road gate only, no parents are allowed into school.** at least for the first half of the autumn term. The 2m markings on the pathway into school will only be applicable for adults, as each year group bubble will be allowed to be closer together. Staff will be at the gate to meet the children in the morning and take them to their classrooms and will also walk them to the gate at the end of the day to be collected.

We would ask you to keep to the times above as we need to keep every year group bubble separate to avoid possible cross-contamination and as you will see there is only 10 minutes difference between each year group arriving/leaving. Entry and exit will only be via the Butler Road pedestrian gate. If there are any parents with children in both schools, we will do what we have done throughout this lockdown, I or a member of staff will meet the junior child at the edge of the junior playground (near the end of the driveway and the infants’ entrance) and they will enter school with us, while the parent returns through the same Ellis Road gate. If you are collecting a child from the infants at the Ellis Road gate, we can be flexible in you collecting a junior child but

only within close proximity to the red bus. You must then exit via the Ellis Road gate. This is by agreement, which means you must let the office know if this is the case, so we can be there to meet your child in the morning and at the end of the day to send your child to the bus to meet you.

If you have children in more than one year group, you may feel this creates difficulties waiting for your children. We can have a degree of flexibility if needed and suggest that you take the earliest times for drop off e.g. if you have a child in Y3 and Y5, drop both at the earlier time of 0840 and collect at the earlier time of 1515, with the child that arrives earlier than necessary waiting in their class for the others in their year group to arrive. If you feel this would help, please do contact the office, so that this can be arranged with a note on the respective registers.

Assemblies: There will be no whole school assemblies in the hall but these will take place via Teams in classes. Year group assemblies may however be possible in the hall from time to time.

Breaktimes: These will also be staggered so only one year group bubble will be out to play at any one time.

Lunchtimes: There will be no hot school dinners provided, but packed lunches will be available from Cucina. All lunches will be in classrooms. Each year group bubble will have a separate area of their own to play in, either on the playground or on the field, with no mixing of year group bubbles. Two year group bubbles will have their lunches first, whilst the other two year group bubbles go out to play and then we will swop over. Each year group bubble will have adult supervision and each bubble will have their own separate play equipment.

Facemasks: These are currently optional for staff and children, but guidance may change. We would ask that these are named and are the responsibility of the child. They must not be put down on any surface and if taken off, should be immediately stored in their own bag. It is mandatory for staff to wear full PPE if dealing with a sick child.

Handwashing: This is still be very important at the beginning of the day and throughout when changing activities, still at the recommendation of 20 seconds washing with soap and water. You can send your child into school with their own named hand sanitizer, but your child must take responsibility for its safe-keeping.

Risk Assessments: These will be regularly reviewed and updated. I will be meeting with my Senior Leadership Team and governors in August before we return to school to review our plans, risk assessment and any new updated guidance. We will of course inform you if there are any changes.

If you have any problems or specific queries, please do let us know so that we can work together to hopefully resolve any issues.

We hope you and your family have a lovely summer break. Stay safe and well and we very much look forward to welcoming you all back to school in September.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. H. West
Headteacher