

# Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very good start to the Autumn term and I cannot believe how much we have covered already in our first two weeks. I have great pleasure in sharing some of this with you now. We have been working hard to develop new ways of working in these unusual times, so the following will give you a taste of what we are currently doing and what we are in the process of planning for the future.

## Parent Forums

In the autumn term, we would normally invite you to a Parent Forum where firstly there would have been a whole school presentation in the hall to update you on our school and anything new for this year. Mr Holland and I will therefore create a PowerPoint on our Recovery Curriculum for you, with further information on our plans for Remote Learning which will be fully in place by the end of September.

Following this, you would have then gone to your year group teams to learn more about expectations for learning along with routines. As we are not able to invite you into school at this time, staff are currently working on presentations in their teams. Early next week we will be linking these to an embedded survey for any questions you may have, once you have access to these presentations. Staff can then gather any FAQs and respond to all parents with any further information needed. Further details will follow in a separate letter. Our updated Autumn Curriculum booklet will also be shared with you next week.

## Assemblies

As we cannot all be together in the hall at the same time due to social distancing in year group bubbles, we are finding new ways to be together:

**Whole School Assemblies:** These take place every Monday on Teams, led by Mrs West.

Certificates are announced and presented, along with any other whole school information needed.

Our children have been told if there is anything they would like to share from something they do outside of school e.g. medals, trophies, certificates, badges etc. these can also be shared at that time.

**Year Group Assemblies:** New assemblies now take place once a fortnight in the hall taken by Mrs West or Mr Holland. This week Mr Holland held a Y5 assembly and Mrs West held a Y3 assembly. Next week it will be Y4 and Y6 on separate days.

**Internet Safety Assembly:** On Wednesday this week, Oaklands Junior School hosted a bespoke LIVE online assembly with Google and Parent Zone. The assembly was a wonderful, interactive educational adventure through the world of Be Internet Legends. Classes interacted with the presenters during the assembly, sharing their thoughts about online safety, both with the team and other classes in the school. As well as having a lot of fun, the children learned a lot about how to be safe online with quizzes, discussion of different scenarios and listening to very clear safety messages delivered by the team. There are some useful resources and games to support online safety from Google and Parent Zone at: <https://www.parents.parentzone.org.uk/>

**School Council Assembly:** Today a whole school assembly will be held in the playground to share the results of the School Council elections. Each year group will have their own separate part of the playground so that they will be at a social distance from other year groups. Lots of fabulous posters have been seen throughout the school with 'Vote for Me' giving really good information about the candidates! An exciting end to our week, with of course Jeans for Genes day too.

**Harvest Assembly:** We will shortly be asking for donations of tinned/packaged food for a school Harvest display which will then go to the Crowthorne Foodbank at the beginning of October. A separate letter will give details shortly. Unfortunately, we cannot invite you into school but we will find a way to share each year group's contribution towards this assembly.

**Hot Chocolate Friday:** This has returned in a different format with just one year group each week, rather than children joining from all year groups. Year 4 were the first to join Mrs West last week and today it will be Year 5's turn. Four children are chosen by the teachers for this reward, as a change from our previous eight. Next week Y6 will have this opportunity, followed by Y3 on a continuing rota. This is a lovely end to the week.

### **Virtual Author Visits**

Mr Lee has been busy looking for exciting live events with authors for every year group and this week Jenny McLachlan presented a LIVE interactive broadcast to Y5 about her love of creativity and her inspiration for writing, based on games she played with her brother at their age and a lot of imaginative play with Playmobil and Lego characters. Year 5 enjoyed hearing about "The Land of Roar" and seeing her dragon! Years 3 and 4 will have experienced a virtual author visit today with Louie Stowell and "Where Stories Come From", so please do ask your children about this experience. Further virtual author visits will take place for all year groups over the coming weeks.

### **Covid-19 Plan for Future Remote Learning**

We are currently finalising our plan for remote learning, along with gathering a bank of suitable resources; our target is to have this in place by the end of September and when this is finalised we will of course share this with you. This will be based on situations relating to:

- Scenario 1 – Some children self-isolating
- Scenario 2 – Bubble self-isolating
- Scenario 3 – Lockdown – whole school closed

As part of this, we will be asking you to complete a survey very soon to share what you would like to see included in remote learning. This survey will also ask questions about the availability of IT equipment in your home and whether children have suitable access to this for their home learning during the school day.

Please note that year groups will begin embedding the use of Assignments in Teams over this half term, so that work can be set and shared in this way. Children will be able to return finished work through Teams; staff will then have the opportunity to mark and give feedback. We are all learning new skills and preparing for a new way of working which will be included as part of our remote learning.

### **Clubs**

At present we cannot return to extra-curricular clubs due to staggered lunchtimes as well as not being able to mix year group bubbles. We have considered homework club which will remain on our wish list for the future. However, the following are back:

- Beehive Breakfast Club and After School Club
- Berkshire Maestros
- Dance Club coming soon with further details on our website.

**NB Please note that the school office will only be manned until 4pm every day from next week until further notice.** We extended the office hours to 4.30pm previously when clubs were running after school but as staff are not able to run clubs at present, this is not needed at the present time.

### **Break & Lunchtimes**

If girls are wanting to wear shorts in their break/lunchtimes, this is perfectly ok but please could we ask that they do not come to school already wearing these under their clothes. They have plenty of time to change, which is far healthier than sitting in them all day. Thank you!

In other news, Y6 are very excited about being able to use the tyres on the field at break and lunch! These were used to keep a tarpaulin over the sand for the long jump at the bottom of the field but we have given Y6 the privilege of using these and they have really enjoyed using them in their games or for just sitting on in their groups! They can only be used by one bubble, which is why this can only be for Year 6.

### **Absences**

I would like to thank you all for keeping us informed of any absences/illnesses in your families. It has been a very frustrating time for some families who have tried to book a test or have been awaiting test results. Please remember that a test is only necessary if you feel a member of your family has symptoms. You can check this here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>. Once a result is known, please inform us too; if it is negative children can then return to school, providing they are feeling well.

Finally, please remember at drop-off and pick-up to remain socially distant from other adults and children who are not in your family. Together we can control this virus and keep everyone safe and well with these two measures being most important: social distancing and a lot of hand-washing!

Enjoy your weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. H. West  
Headteacher