

# 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



4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Spring Term

I hope you have all had a relaxing festive break and are looking forward to a New Year with much better health prospects – the year when we will once again be able to go on holiday and meet our friends and relatives; we cannot be sure when this will be possible but let us be positive that it will happen during this year and something we can all look forward to. At least we have good news about vaccines to fight this virus; it will just take time before this is rolled out to all.

Please forgive the lateness of this letter, as I find myself in the same position as we have been previously at the start of a new term, awaiting further government guidance which is due to happen now much later today. We were initially told that primaries would be open, yet secondaries are due to go back a week or two later. We now hear that in London, primaries will not re-open as it is not safe to do so, with other local authorities following. When I look at the rise in cases in our area and that of London, both of us are in Tier 4 and have similar numbers, with no sign of a reduction in positive cases and the problem with this new strain of the virus being much more difficult to control. I am sure I am not alone in worrying about the safety of our whole school community in these very difficult times.

I would like nothing more than to be fully open and my staff and governors are all very supportive of this too but I cannot put anyone in our school community at risk. It is for this reason, alongside the difficulty we are facing with reduced staffing, that I am writing to you now to say that from Wednesday, we will move to remote learning for all our children. We will, however, be open daily for our key worker/vulnerable families who have been contacted by phone today. These parents will also receive a separate letter today, giving further details.

I hope you will agree that keeping our children, staff and whole community safe has to be our most important priority in these unprecedented times. At this stage, we see this as a temporary measure for the next two weeks and we will be reviewing each week to assess the situation and hopefully return as soon as we possibly can to full-time education back in school. In the meantime, I will send a further letter tomorrow as a reminder with regards remote learning for our current situation which will be taken from our Remote Learning Policy.

Happy New Year to all our families and please stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. H. West  
Headteacher