



Oaklands Junior School

Learning to think - Thinking to learn

NEWS UPDATE 15th January 2021

Remote Learning

Parents and children – YOU are all AMAZING and we are very proud of you in all that you are managing to achieve in yet another lockdown. **Please remember to be kind to yourselves and please have realistic expectations for what you can physically achieve, as some days may be better than others.** Although we always like to receive children's work submitted to a high standard with neat presentation, we also know that we are living in difficult times. Many parents are working from home whilst also attempting to support remote education, often with several children to teach! You may find that it is not always possible to complete all tasks. **Quality rather than quantity is always best and YOUR BEST is absolutely good enough, so be proud of your achievements.**

Please concentrate on English and Maths if you find you cannot achieve all the tasks and also please stop work at a reasonable time. No-one is expected to work long into the evenings (although I do know that my staff are working very late to prepare remote learning and to mark work). Teachers are finding that they too are juggling work, with all that is needed in providing remote learning for children at home, or being in school to teach the key worker/vulnerable groups. In each year group, one teacher prepares the work/records the videos and marks all the work from the whole year group, whilst their teaching partner is in school. This is in addition to responding to the Q&A part of Teams and providing drop in video sessions for anyone who needs clarification on the tasks set each day.

Please may I ask that you do not expect every piece of work to be marked in detail as this is impossible with up to 64 tasks in maths and 64 English tasks daily, without all the foundation subjects and the preparation that is needed for the next day – staff are working far longer hours than they would be if they were teaching in school daily. In school we use our marking codes and you will find that some pieces of work will have a teacher's comment, while others may have the very best marking code possible of **OA** which the children know means **Objective Achieved**.

Part-time Key Worker/Vulnerable groups in school: Please may I request that if your child only attends on certain days in school, that they are up-to-date with the core subjects when they attend. In school they are completing exactly the same work that is set for remote learning and it does make it very difficult for teachers if the children are not able to continue with the work the rest of their group are doing on the days they attend. Thank you.

Mrs. H. West

Community Thanks:

We have so many good people in our community and we would just like to thank the people that you may not realise have been working behind the scenes to support us:

Crowthorne Trust

Crowthorne Trust regularly supports schools in our catchment area, funding Educational Activities. On many occasions they have been kind enough to grant our applications for families who have needed financial support with residential trips. Due to a lack of



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applications this year, the Trustees have instead awarded each school in their catchment area, a share of the £10,000, using the published number of pupils on the school roll. This will help schools with both the loss of income and the additional cost caused by Covid-19. Thank you to **Richard Price, Hon. Secretary and Trustees of the Crowthorne Trust** for your generosity and for all you do for our community.

Safesite Fencing

Over the Christmas break we had new fencing installed to replace the fencing around our playground. This was part of a project to make our playground safer and to open up the grass area which will now give the children more areas to play. Our contractors, as part of this project, also kindly replaced the low level fence around our Daisy Garden at no extra cost. Thank you **Jon Bennett** from **Safesite Fencing** for your excellent work, kindness and generosity which is very much appreciated.

Computer Technology Changes in School during Lockdown

In order to ensure every child in school has access to a device, whilst keeping everyone safe by not sharing equipment, we have made changes to accommodate the four year groups for key worker/vulnerable children. This has been up and running from the beginning of this week. Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude go to our IT Team who have worked tirelessly to provide all that we have needed during both lockdowns, not only online for remote learning & video drop in sessions but also within school too. **THANK YOU Mrs Skelton & Mr Griffiths** – you are amazing in how you respond so quickly to our needs, especially as your workload has increased so much.

As you will see in the 'before and after' pictures in the attached PowerPoint, the Library and the IT Suite have changed. Two year groups now have their own computers either in the Library or the IT Suite. Allowing iPads to be allocated to the other two year groups.

Covid-19 Risk Assessment for Pupils & Staff

As is usual with our changing circumstances and this term's lockdown, our Risk Assessment was updated at the beginning of this term and is available on our website to view [here](#). We are due a visit on Friday by our CEO of the Trust to check our safety measures in place. Our latest risk assessment has already been approved by our Bracknell Health & Safety Adviser.



Mental Health Matters Did you know that the school web site has a 'Covid-19 Wellbeing' link? There's one page for children and another for adults. There are links to the latest news on BBC Newsround; picture-books to help explain what's going on; and child-friendly calming-activities, such as breathing, yoga and interactive computer games. For adults, leaflets and links are available to help with managing your own stress; having conversations with children; managing online use and dealing with loss. Some resources are from national organisations, such as the NHS and Childline, and some are

from local, such as Wokingham Borough Council. Why not spend ten minutes having a browse around to find out whether there's anything useful for you? <https://oaklandsjunior-school.org.uk/covid-19-wellbeing/>

Stay Safe and Please Take Care of Yourselves