



# Oaklands Junior School

*Learning to think - Thinking to learn*

## NEWS UPDATE 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

How are you all doing? We hope you are all keeping safe and well.

Remember that every day we are closer to a return to normality – please try to keep positive as you are doing a brilliant job in managing everything you have been required to do during this difficult time.

### **Remote Learning**

If you find at any point you are struggling with managing school tasks, concentrating on English and Maths is preferable, with anything else a bonus. If there are days when there are difficulties or none of this can be managed due to your own personal circumstances, please contact [Admin@oaklands-jun.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@oaklands-jun.wokingham.sch.uk) to pass on a message to the teacher, as contact with you and your family is most important during this lockdown and we cannot begin to know what everyone is dealing with daily – we are here for you and recognise that this can be a very difficult time for all sorts of reasons.

In addition, any work set should not be taking hours to complete for each subject, so please do have a set time for yourself / your child so that no-one is working for hours on any one subject late into the evening – there has to be a cut-off point. It is not good for you or your child's mental health to keep going until a piece of work is finished – so long as children have tried their best, whatever has been achieved in the time allowed is absolutely acceptable and not everything needs to be completed. Children do not always get to the end of every task in a lesson in school.

As a staff, we have been very worried about the amount of time that our children may be spending on computers – they would not normally be doing this in school, so please ensure that they do take breaks from a screen. I know some children are using paper, pens or pencils to achieve the same outcome and then scanning work to share with their teachers which again is perfectly acceptable. As part of our remote learning, we are also trying to include some tasks each week that do not require a computer, to give the children a break from the screen which should also help.

From next Monday, we will put a box of stationery out each day, just inside the Butler Road entrance, where you will be able to reach through the fence to take whatever you need between the hours of 9.15am and 2.45pm on days without rain.

I am in school every day if you or your child would like to talk with me. It can be about school and work or it can be just a catch-up chat about anything at all. I am here if you or your child needs me. If you would like a phone call, please contact the office. I will try my best to respond as soon as I can.

Enjoy your weekend and stay safe.

*Mrs. H. West*



# Oaklands Junior School

*Learning to think - Thinking to learn*

## **Spring Curriculum Booklet**

I hope you have all now received this booklet (sent out yesterday); a little later than normally shared, due to a greater focus on remote learning. This curriculum booklet is purely so that you can see what we have planned to cover this term in each year group and to help with an overview of topics; some of these topics are already being covered with our remote learning. It is also in readiness for a return to school when this is announced by the government, with reminders for things like an art apron/old t-shirt to be kept in school, PE kit, times tables tests, homework etc.

I would just like to emphasise that there is **no homework set during lockdown with remote learning** as you are already completing work at home for English, Maths and a foundation subject and the pressure is big enough without us setting homework too! Please remember the daily reading, spelling and times tables, all counts towards achievement in English and Maths, alongside the tasks set BUT there is absolutely no homework grid at present!

## **Wellington College – Laptops & chargers – Donate 4 Education Scheme**

Do you have any redundant laptops that are not needed or used, that could be re-purposed for pupils and students in our community who are struggling to access remote learning without such a device?

Wellington College are kindly offering to receive any such devices donated for this purpose that they will professionally wipe clean of any personal data (at their cost); these devices will then be re-purposed and distributed to partner schools for pupils and students who need them most.

Wellington have already kindly offered laptops to our Trust, so any help you can give with any such device that is no longer used or needed would be very gratefully received.

Wellington have offered to collect laptops & chargers from you, if you are able to help in this way; these will be professionally wiped of data and will then be distributed to partner schools.

If you are able to donate any such devices or have any questions, please contact Rachelle Kirkham at [rsk@wellingtoncollege.org.uk](mailto:rsk@wellingtoncollege.org.uk) THANK YOU to Wellington College for supporting us in this way and to all our community who are able to help.

## **Lateral Flow Tests**

The government have now extended this provision for staff at primary schools and our test kits have now arrived. Staff have received instructions and a video of how to use these test kits from home to get a result in 30 minutes. From Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January all staff in school have been invited to take these tests twice a week at home, before attending school.

**Stay Safe and Please Take Care of Yourself**