



# Oaklands Junior School

*Learning to think - Thinking to learn*

## NEWS UPDATE – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been very enjoyable being part of a whole school again as we approach the end of our second week back in school. Hearing the buzz around school and seeing the excitement of children enjoying being back has been wonderful – teaching teams have also been very pleased to be able to see their classes again in person, rather than through Teams.

A highlight for me has been the games that have been played in the playground at break and lunch times in class bubbles with boys and girls playing games together in mixed teams, rather than solely boys or girls playing against each other – to see boys and girls working so well together as a team and clearly enjoying games such as football has been wonderful to see and hear! There are none of the usual arguments about who has the ball or not playing to the rules. In addition, if the ball goes over into another play area, the children are so good at not going over to get it and the group in that area always kick the ball back without touching it with their hands. They do this so very quickly without even being asked which is lovely to see. An added bonus is that with less children on the playground/field at any one time, there are less bumps and grazes.

Following my last update where I shared the disappointing news that we are yet again being used as a polling station, despite my best efforts and the support of our Trust, I had a lovely email from a parent offering to help and this has resulted in a petition which will eventually be shared with Wokingham Borough Council and the electoral team. This will hopefully show the strength of our parent community in not wanting education to suffer for yet another day and it is high time that other venues are sought so that the education of our children at Oaklands Junior School, Oaklands Infant School and Acorns Under 5s is not disrupted. If there was a way we could open safely, we certainly would but we cannot risk having the main gates wide open all day long whilst we have children on site and the public wandering in and out. I feel very strongly about this and think it is absurd that we are always used as a polling station, affecting all our children and their families who then need to take time out of work for child care. If you also feel strongly about this, I hope you can join with me and other parents in signing this petition, the link is here:

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/move-the-wokingham-without-polling-station-for-6th>

Let us see if together we can make a difference for our children.

*Mrs. H. West*



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## Importance of Self-Isolating

Wokingham Borough Council have asked if we could share this information with you all:

We understand that parents and carers are keen to get their children back into school, but it's very important that we keep going with the right behaviours.

If there is a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 in your household, you must all stay at home for the full self-isolation period and children should **NOT** go to school. In fact, you should not send your child to school if they:

- Have symptoms or live in a household with someone who has symptoms
- Have tested positive themselves, even if they do not have symptoms
- Live in a household with someone who has tested positive, even if that person does not have symptoms
- Are a close contact of someone who has Covid-19
- Are required to self-isolate for travel-related reasons

As a reminder, self-isolating starts from the day of initial contact, plus the 10 full days following this. This is very important for stopping community transmission – thank you for your help.

## Longacres Bagshot Garden Centre – PRIZE TO BE WON



With your help we could win a Zest 4 Leisure planter, Westland peat free compost and a selection of Suttons seeds for our children to plant. All you need to do is to follow the link below and nominate **Oaklands Junior School** in the comments. We have until Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April when the winner will be picked. Remember that the more nominations we get, the greater the chance we have of winning this for our children! Please share with family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues – let's see if we can **WIN** this for the children.

<https://www.facebook.com/141574909190735/posts/4318664538148397/>

## Mental Health Matters

There is no doubt that the lockdown and 'emergency-schooling' for children at home may have been stressful experiences. Now that children are back in school and homework is focussing on the basics, we are prioritising reconnection and the pleasure in being together again. Pam Leo, in her book 'Connection Parenting', says: "Actively playing with children is the most powerful way we connect." 'Tag' or 'It', hide-and-seek, piggy-backs, pony-rides, wrestling and tickling provide physical and emotional connection. "Even if playing doesn't come naturally to us, we can learn how to be more playful..." Now that evenings are lighter, the weather is warmer and it's easier to be outdoors, laughing together in some silly play is a powerful way of connecting with each other.

**Mrs Mullier, OJS Educational Psychotherapist**