



Oaklands Junior School

Learning to think - Thinking to learn

NEWS UPDATE – 25th March 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we get closer to the Easter holiday, we would like to thank you for all your support with entry/exit times over the last few weeks and keeping everyone safe by distancing from other adults and children at drop off and pick up. I can imagine how difficult it must have been at times with juggling all your drop off/pick up times for infants and juniors but we are extremely grateful for your co-operation in supporting us with your junior children arriving promptly and remaining in class until the official end of the day. This has helped our teaching team to teach right up until the end of the afternoon with small group interventions and whole class teaching, and no missed learning. THANK YOU – this has made a huge difference and for this we are extremely grateful.

Our plan for after the Easter holidays (returning on Monday 19th April) is to keep the same staggered times and for children to arrive in school on PE days, already in their PE kit. The only change, all being well, is that we plan to move to year group bubbles. We will be keeping a close eye on the news and any government announcements which may change our plans but we are hopeful that we will be able to move to year group bubbles, following an update from the government on 12th April to confirm their planned dates for their road map to recovery.

Before we reach the end of term, the children will be bringing home with them a named envelope. Inside will be a small gift from us – a sachet of hot chocolate and a packet of biscuits. I know how much the children enjoy Hot Chocolate Fridays but unfortunately this has not been possible this term, so they all deserve this treat at home. Please check that the ingredients are ok for your child if they have any allergies. It is usually my first question to the children when they join me. I have missed this on Fridays as it is always a lovely end to the week and I hope to be able to return to this very soon.

Finally, a huge THANK YOU to Mr Courtney for rehoming frogs with us this week but also creating a fabulous mini pond in an area that will soon become our new wildlife area – amazing!

Enjoy the Easter break and fingers crossed we have some good weather!

Mrs. H. West

Petition to move Polling Station to a more suitable venue

We are very grateful to our amazing school community for supporting this petition. A fantastic 489 people have signed their support. Below is the link, if you have not yet had a chance to view and join in:

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

We are stronger together in making a change for the better for all our schools.

Thank you for so much for your support and your very valid comments.



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Mental Health Matters

Have you read 'Play in Crisis: Support for Parents and Carers' by the International Play Association, available under the Covid-19 Wellbeing link on the school web site or via [this link](#)? Clearly written and laid out, it provides insights and tips for thinking about children's play, a vitally important part of their development and wellbeing.

Philippa Perry also writes engagingly about play in 'The Book You Wish Your Parents had Read' (pages 161-166). Her top tips for 'creating great play habits' are:

- Don't interrupt a concentrating child.
- When a younger child wants to play with you, start them off on the activity they choose. Then, when they get so absorbed they don't need you, back off.
- With older children, don't feel you must be the entertainments officer every time your child doesn't know what to do. When a child is bored, have faith and tell them you have confidence in them that they will find something fun to do. Boredom may be a necessary component of creativity.
- Do, however, put some time aside for enjoying yourself with your children by sharing activities you enjoy – board games, card, games, sports, singing or whatever you like.
- Children thrive with playmates of all ages.

While electronic devices are often a convenient choice, she advises: 'Screen should be used with caution. They can become addictive, but denying them altogether is another sort of deprivation.'

Mrs Mullier, OJS Educational Psychotherapist

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Let's get exploring this Easter!

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