



Oaklands Junior School

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers for Parents

Do I have to send my child in to school?

- Yes. From 8th March the government have made this mandatory, so attendance will be monitored along with Wokingham Borough Council reinstating fines.

What about breakfast club, after school club and extra-curricular clubs?

- Breakfast Club and After School Club will begin from 8th March. They operate their own "bubbles" and will be sharing those with parents/carers.
- Extra-curricular clubs will not begin until after Easter.

Will parents be able to drop off /pick up and enter the school site?

- With the scientific advice from Government indicating that adults are more susceptible to passing on COVID-19 to another adult, for the time being, we really must limit the risks to you and our staff by limiting visitors on our school grounds. I appreciate your support in doing this.
- Drop off and pick up: Only 1 parent/carer (from the same household) to drop off/collect their child from the Butler Road entrance each day. A member of staff will be at the pedestrian gate (at a safe distance) to welcome children each day and again at the end of the day as they leave school.
- Wherever possible, younger or older siblings not in school should not join parents/carers for drop off or pick up to minimise risks.
- Please do not linger outside of the school grounds once your child is in school. Please pick up or drop off and then leave the school grounds.
- Morning drop-off and collection times will be staggered to prevent large groups forming.
- It is very important that children are on time for their drop off period and that parents are there to collect at the allotted collection time unless the children will be walking themselves safely home. If it is the latter, children must go straight home and socially distance from other children/adults the whole way to and from school – please encourage your child to stay safe.
- If your child is allowed to walk home by themselves, please do make sure you inform us of this decision.
- If your child is going to be late for their staggered start time, parents must contact the office by telephone to let them know. Office staff will then inform your child's teacher. Your child will still have to enter the school via the Butler Road pedestrian gate.
- As is normal, please do not expect to drive on to site at any point in the school day.
- If you need to speak to someone in school about your child, please phone, email or send in a note with your child, as no parent/carer will be allowed access to the school grounds/building.

Will Infant parents be able to continue collecting junior children from the red bus at the end of the day?

- No. We do not have the staff capacity to be able to take children to the red bus and we cannot allow children to leave their classes alone for safeguarding reasons.

Will I be able to drop off my junior child at the same time I drop off my infant child?

- Yes, if you can allow your junior child to walk independently across the junior playground.
- Parent/carers must then leave via the Ellis Road exit.

So, what will school look like? How will it function?

- We have maintained/refreshed signage and markings inside and around school, reminding everyone of social distancing.
- The group your child is in will not be mixing with any other group. Adults will also not be mixing in other groups.
- The classrooms will be set up very differently, in rows facing the whiteboard and your child will be expected to sit at their individual assigned table in their time in the classroom
- Children will be told that they must not share stationery/equipment that they use in the day with another child. Any resources, such as i-pads will be wiped daily, following use.
- Every child will have their own pack of equipment needed for the day.

What can my child bring to school?

- Children may only bring a small bag with their coat, trainers, sun hat, snack, lunchbox, water bottle & a pencil case with everything we will need to write and draw. In addition, a personal, named pocket hand sanitiser would also be useful, but not absolutely necessary.

How do you ensure social distancing happens?

- The truth is that we can only do our best, and reinforce 2m distancing with guides on the pathway, playground, corridors and through instructions/reminders and being there with the children.
- For the vast majority of the day we will do our best to be as far apart as possible but the realistic picture is that this isn't going to be possible at all times.
- The children will not be mixing in other groups and each group will be self-contained and separated by zones at breaktime and lunchtime with the supervision of an adult
- We will of course be talking to all children about social distancing, explaining to them about their group and measures in place to keep them safe within that group.
- We won't be able to have whole school assemblies or similar events in the hall but we will have assemblies via Teams.
- Wherever possible, the staff will keep a social distance. If a child becomes ill, of course we will support and help as we do normally in a kind, caring community – this is where social distancing will not work.

How will classrooms be kept clean during the school day?

- Cleaning throughout the day will take place both in classrooms and throughout the school multiple times a day. Teaching teams and our cleaners will be cleaning the school throughout the day.
- During the day, we use the anti-bacterial wipes, paper towels and cleaning spray in each classroom for surfaces and equipment used.
- Our contract cleaners will continue to thoroughly clean the school, following current guidelines, with greater emphasis on the areas that have been used, at the end of each day once children and staff have left.
- Hand washing regimes for all children and staff will continue as previously on arrival and any changes of activities, leaving class or returning.
- The children will have their own set toilets that only their group are allowed to access.

What will break time and lunch time look like for my child?

- Break times in the playground/field will be staggered so that children have as little chance of mixing as possible.
- Children will remain with the rest of their group in a normal break time.
- Children will still be able to bring in a snack which will stay in their bag until breaktime. Please ensure that this is only a piece of fruit or vegetable snack; no cereal bars
- Lunch will have to be eaten within each group's classroom, not in the main hall.
- There will be hot meals, provided by Cucina if ordered.
- Packed lunches can be brought in from home. Our 'no nuts' policy still applies which also includes Nutella

What will the teaching/curriculum be like?

- Social distancing requirements make normal teaching very difficult! We will however work hard as a staff team to make the most of the situation and will plan the curriculum as creatively as we can within the constraints we have before us.
- Until social distancing is relaxed we will not be able to plan lessons like we did prior to lockdown. Group/team work, experiments/investigations, practical tasks, whole class/group activities will have to be adapted so that they can be done individually as much as possible.
- Our curriculum will have to be narrowed in the short term until social distancing measures are eased further.
- The children will have limited access to our normal range of resources and equipment due to possible cross contamination and social distancing measures that need to be in place to keep us all safe.
- The adults will be teaching more from the front of the class with less movement around the classroom.
- We will be teaching outside as much as possible. We are hoping for good weather!
- Teachers will be using verbal feedback to children during lessons.
- We will be ensuring that we are providing our children in school plenty of opportunity to share their feelings/experiences from lockdown and provide sessions that are supportive of children's mental health and wellbeing through PSHE sessions or P4C sessions.
- We will focus on the positive outcomes from lockdown and how life may change for the better in the future.

What if a child or adult displays symptoms of Covid-19?

- If children become unwell with known symptoms, they will be removed from class and parents phoned immediately to collect as soon as possible. The unwell child will be taken to the hall. An adult will remain close by until collection. Please ensure that this is as soon as possible and within 20 mins.
- Surgical PPE masks may be worn by staff caring for the child; 2m may not be maintained.
- All areas that children have accessed will be cleaned as soon as possible, and all other children in the group will wash their hands thoroughly.
- If staff members fall ill with symptoms, they will go home immediately.
- If your child, you or anyone in your household develops Covid-19 symptoms, you **MUST** inform the school and self-isolate for the benefit of others.
- Please do not send your child into school if they are unwell.

What if there is a confirmed case of Covid-19?

- The child or staff member must self-isolate for 10 days and their household for 10 days.
- **If there is a positive result in a group, the rest of the group will be sent home for 10 days to self-isolate.** Households do not need to self-isolate unless the person/child begins to show symptoms.
- The classroom and all areas used by the group will be closed for thorough cleaning.

What if a member of my household is 'clinically extremely vulnerable' and shielding?

- The government advise that all children need to attend school from 8th March 2021.

Can my child wear face coverings?

- Staff are advised to wear a mask/face covering and this is perfectly ok to keep themselves safe. They may wear one from our supply or they may provide their own, which may also be a home-made face covering.
- If you feel you want your child to wear a face covering. Your child must also be responsible for wearing it, along with safe keeping.
- Staff will wear an apron, gloves and a surgical mask if dealing with bodily fluids. They will also wear it if a child displays symptoms of Covid-19.

Will my child need to wear uniform?

- Uniform is required as it has been with key workers/vulnerable children. However, we understand that it might have been difficult to replace school cloths/shoes that have been outgrown. In the interim please ensure that your child wears clothes of similar school colours until replacements can be bought. Likewise with shoes/trainers.
- Please wash clothing worn at school each day as soon as they arrive home and ensure they wash their hands thoroughly.
- We ask that all children wear fresh clothes to school each day to limit the spread of infection

What about dealing with accidents/first aid?

- Children will be children and there will be bumps and scrapes. We will aim for social distancing as much as possible but will care for your child as we would normally do.
- Each class will have their own first aid kit so that minor incidents can be dealt with within the classroom.
- In more serious cases e.g. nose bleeds that won't stop, a serious bump etc a designated first aider will support. These staff will wear PPE if dealing with bodily fluids, including gloves, apron and a surgical mask.
- If your child has medication in school, this will be kept in their classroom, as has always been our policy.

What about the behaviour policy, I have heard that this needs to change too?

- In light of the need for children to behave differently when they return to school, and follow any new systems we have put in place to support that, the Government has advised us to amend our behaviour policy temporarily – please see this addendum on our website.

Our children must:

- follow any altered routines for arrival or departure
- follow school instructions on hygiene, such as handwashing
- follow instructions on who pupils can socialise with at school (only children in their group)
- move around the school as per specific instructions (social distancing and stepping aside to give way)
- tell an adult if they are experiencing symptoms of coronavirus or feel unwell
- follow amended expectations about breaks/play and lunch times, including where children may or may not play
- follow rules on the use of toilets

What about the home learning for the children self-isolating and not in school?

- Our weekly Home Learning on OWL (school VLE) will continue to be produced for children at home with 10 days of English, maths and foundation subjects for any who need to self-isolate.

What about safeguarding?

- As always, safeguarding our children is paramount and we are remaining vigilant to all safeguarding and child protection matters during these unprecedented times.
- We will ensure that children have safe spaces to talk about their experiences during the lockdown. We will ensure that all children have access to trusted adults who will listen to them and are ready and trained to respond to them effectively.
- We have an addendum to our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy and this can be found on our website
- A trained Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will be on site at all times during the school day to support staff with any concerns.