

# Oaklands Junior School

Headteacher - Mrs H West

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Dear Parents/Carers,

## Welcome Back!

We hope that you have all had a restful, relaxing and healthy summer break with your families and we are looking forward to a more normal year ahead! A warm welcome to all our new Year 3s and new children in other year groups – all have settled well. Welcome back to Miss Bland who is now Mrs Broadhurst, following her wedding over the summer; her class will still be 6B! We also welcome Mrs Buckley who is joining our staff as Admin/Receptionist, along with Mrs McLaren. Finally, Miss. Dyer joins us in Year 3 as a one-to-one Teaching Assistant.

Thank you for all your support with our 'soft start' to the new term which worked well and allowed a more relaxed, quieter start for our new Year 3s having the junior playground without the crush of all year groups. Our Year 3s have also had the hall for lunches so that they could learn our routines.

From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September, normal times for all year groups will resume for the start and finish of each day, with no restrictions in the way of 'bubbles' or social distancing, or even regarding which gate to enter or leave our school. We are very much looking forward to all parents returning to being back on site at the start and the end of each day too. The gates will be open from 8.30am with the start time for all year groups 8.50am, and the end of the day for all being 3.20pm. It will be lovely to have you all back on site with parents being back on our playground again!

**At the start of each day**, we have a slight change to the playground with barriers to denote areas for parents and separate areas for the children; this is purely so that when the whistle goes, the children can line up independently and safely in their own playground space and be easily seen by staff, when they are collected at the start of the day. We have previously lined up separately as boys and girls in each class and this may happen for the first few days, but we will shortly be changing this. Each class will be discussing how they would prefer to line up – and classes may choose a different way, so watch this space and see if you can guess what each class has decided!

If the barriers still remain on the playground **at the end of the day**, please ignore them and freely use any part of the playground. This makes it much easier for the children to see you when they emerge from the classrooms. I and my Deputy Mr Holland, will try to be on the playground as much as possible at the beginning and end of the day, so please do feel free to approach us to chat. Unless urgent, please avoid catching the teachers at the beginning of the school day but do write in the school diary or send a note into school if there is a message for the teacher. Alternatively, please take the opportunity to speak to staff at the end of the day as they will have more time to talk.

**PE lessons:** Years 4, 5 & 6 will be able to continue to come into school in PE kit on the days they have PE – we have found that this really saves valuable PE lesson time and kit being lost. However, in Year 3, our youngest children benefit from being able to learn the life skills of dressing for PE and changing quickly so we will continue with Year 3 bringing in their PE kit for now. Please ensure that your child does have the regular Oaklands PE kit as part of their school uniform. If anyone is unsure what is required, please check our website for school uniform requirements.

**Face masks/LFD:** There is no longer any need to wear a mask, unless in a crowded area, or with people we would not normally be with. Staff at Oaklands Juniors however, may still wear a mask or visor if they so wish, according to their circumstances. Staff will also continue to take twice-weekly lateral flow tests.

**Hygiene:** Frequent and thorough hand-washing with soap and water or sanitising is still very important. If you would prefer your child to bring to school a small named sanitiser that they would be responsible for using and keeping safe, then this is absolutely fine. We do have our own dispensers in each classroom, so this is not absolutely necessary.

**Ventilation:** Classrooms will still need to be well-ventilated with doors and windows open. This will mean on colder days that children (and staff) may need to wear extra layers. We will try to keep the classrooms warm but obviously the heat will be going out of the windows and doors as we heat Crowthorne! Several layers of clothes or an extra jumper may be useful on those days.

**Covid-19 – Positive tests:** Please continue to inform us if you have any positive cases in your household where a PCR test has been taken and the result is positive. There is no longer the need for your child to self-isolate, unless they have symptoms or are feeling unwell, in which case your child should also take a free PCR test. On page 8 of the government's latest 'Stay at Home Guidance' it is confirmed that children no longer need to self-isolate if a member of their household has tested positive from a PCR test. Please see this criteria below:

**“Household contacts who are not required to self-isolate from 16 August**

*From 16 August, you will not be required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:*

- *You are fully vaccinated*
- **You are below the age of 18 years 6 months**
- *You have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- *You are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons”*

However, the household member who tested positive from a PCR test will still need to self-isolate while children may continue to attend school, provided they have no symptoms and are feeling well enough. School will no longer be required to trace close contacts as NHS Test and Trace will work with any positive cases to identify anyone else who needs to self-isolate.

**IFG/Scopay** - We understand that there have been a few problems transferring school lunch money from Scopay to the new IFG ordering and paying online. Please bear with us as this will be addressed in time with any money remaining being transferred to the new system or refunded.

We are very excited about this new academic year and getting back to normal with the return of daily assemblies, breaks and lunchtimes together, as well as inviting you into school to help with reading and other activities. Further information will be shared with you at our Parent Forums, when you can meet your child's teaching team and learn more about the curriculum and expectations. **Parent Forums** will take place in the hall for approximately 45 minutes:

Year 3: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 19h00

Year 4: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 19h00

Year 5: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 19h00

Year 6: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 19h00 (followed by an Osmington Bay meeting).

Have a lovely weekend and we will see you all again on Monday.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs. H. West  
Headteacher