



# Oaklands Infant and Junior Schools



Butler Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6QZ  
Infant School: 01344 774644  
Junior School: 01344 773496

25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **Oaklands Schools' Closure for Polling Day on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

We are writing to inform you that our schools will be closed on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May as once again we have been designated as a polling station.

Please be assured that every year we do express our concerns for this not to be repeated and plea for an alternative venue to be sought. It would not be quite so bad if we could share this with another school, so that it is not just us every time, as this does affect Infants, Juniors and Acorns Under 5s pre-school. This has been suggested but rejected. In addition:

- Governors have previously spoken with Wokingham and proactively sought alternatives.
- Corvus Learning Trust have joined us in meetings with Wokingham to support a change.
- Parents have also made representations to Wokingham with a petition.

However, although we are repeatedly told that other venues will be sought, nothing ever happens. Each time we find ourselves in the same position of needing to use this day as an INSET for staff training which is really inconvenient just before annual tests, as well as disrupting the week, our children's education and putting families in a difficult position of having to organise child care.

This decision is beyond our control and we invite anyone who has any strong objections to this, to contact the Local Electoral Registration Officer at Wokingham: [ElectoralServices@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:ElectoralServices@wokingham.gov.uk)

Please be advised that councillors have tried very hard over the last few years to resolve the problem but the decision can only be made by Andrew Moulton, the Electoral Returning Officer and main monitoring officer, a paid officer of the Borough Council. Despite long discussions with him, putting forward all sorts of possible options, in the end they have to legally abide by what he decides, based on the rules set by the Electoral Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H West  
Headteacher  
Oaklands Junior School

Miss E Weston  
Acting Headteacher  
Oaklands Infant School