



Oakhurst Community First & Nursery
School
*'From Little Acorns Mighty Oaks
Grow'*

9th July 2020

Dear parents and carers,

End of another academic year!

I seriously can't believe we are now at the end of the academic year and what a year it has been! Every single one of us has faced exceptionally challenging and unusual times and we've all had to adapt to changes very quickly. I do believe one positive that has come out of this is how it has brought the Oakhurst Community closer together. I cannot express enough my gratitude to all the staff here who have worked with such positivity and dedication to do our absolute best for everybody. I am so proud of the work that they have done; they really have gone above and beyond to ensure everybody has felt safe and supported. We have managed to return 80% of our children back into school safely which is a huge achievement. We really do have a fantastic team here at Oakhurst and I couldn't be more grateful.

My thanks goes out to all of our families too for working so closely with us, for being so supportive and following all the new systems we've had to put in place. You've all been great!

I cannot leave it there without saying a huge thank you to all our wonderful children. They have come back so positively and enthusiastically and have taken all the changes and new ways of working totally in their stride. They really are a credit to you and us!

Later today you will receive your child's end of year report. These are more slimmed down than usual and as no formal assessments have taken place this year and the children have had several weeks out of school, we have not commented on their progress or attainment as we usually would. Instead we have given you an ideas of coverage for each subject as well as a personal comment about your child's learning dispositions and attitude in school. You will receive the report via your class email and if you have any questions or wish to make any comments please also do this via email.

Goodbyes

We are very sad to inform you that Kim Mould and Emily White will both be leaving us at the end of the term. They have both been extremely valued members of our Nursery team and they will be greatly missed. We wish them both lots of luck and happiness in their new roles.

We must also say goodbye to our lovely Year 4 children. We are sorry your time in first school has ended in this way and that you have missed out on many of the things that makes Year 4 extra special. You have been amazing and we wish you every success in your new schools.

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The Heath Academy Trust
St Ives Primary School
St Ives
Ringwood BH24 2LE
Company Registration
Number 098098095

Staffing for next year

In September we are delighted that Abby Collins will be joining our teaching team and we are very hopeful that Jo Simpson will be fit and well enough to return to us (our fingers are very tightly crossed).

The teaching arrangements for September are as follows:

Nursery- Miss Kayleigh Hollis

Pine Class- Mrs Vicki Uphill (Mondays and Tuesdays) and Mrs Emma Stirk (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays)

Willow Class (Year 1) – Miss Jenny Foot

Beech Class (Year 2) - Mrs Ros Monaghan

Maple Class (Year 3) - Mrs Jo Simpson

Oak Class (Year 4) – Miss Abby Collins

At this stage the arrangements regarding support staff are not fully finalised due to a number of factors. However I can inform you that Mrs Jayne Lovegrove will be working full time in Year 3 to support Mrs Simpson. Mrs Simpson is likely to be on a phased return in the first instance and as Jayne is a fully qualified Higher Level Teaching Assistant she will be able to step up and lead the class should this be necessary. Mrs Lovegrove also worked in Year 2 for the most part of this year so is very familiar to the children.

Next week the children in school will get the opportunity to have an outside story session with their new teacher as, obviously, we cannot do the normal transition days we usually do.

Thank you

We must say a massive thank you to the volunteers from Pinehurst Chapel who spent last Saturday morning doing some work on the school grounds; including painting some of the woodwork and clearing some of the weeds. We are so fortunate to have amazing grounds here and they have a lot of potential. Unfortunately we do not have the time, money or manpower to make the most of this, so are very grateful to the people who came to help us out. We are hopeful they will be able to come back and do some more.

Government guidance for September 2020

As I'm sure you are aware the latest Government guidance for schools opening fully in September was released last week.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

In light of this, we are delighted that we will be able to welcome back all year groups to full capacity from September. The children will still have to remain in 'bubbles' however there are able to be back to full class sizes. We have updated our risk assessment and this will be published on our school website.

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The following timings and arrangements will be in place for September:

Pine class- 8.30am-2.30pm using the main pedestrian gate (Red gate)

Willow class- 8.30am-2.30pm using the side playground gate, along the side of the Parish Playground (Blue gate)

Beech class- 8.40am-2.40pm using the main pedestrian gate (Red gate)

Maple class- 8.40am-2.40pm using the main pedestrian gate, along the side of the Parish Playground (Blue gate)

Oak class- 8.50am-2.50pm- using the side playground gate, along the side of the Parish Playground (Blue gate)

Nursery- Morning session 8.50am-11.50am, afternoon session 11.50am-2.50pm using the main pedestrian gate (Red gate)

Please ensure that only one person brings your child/children to school and that you ensure social distancing measures outside the school gates. Please make sure that you arrive promptly at the correct start and finish time and avoid gathering outside the school gates.

From September school attendance will revert to being compulsory, therefore you will need to notify the school office by ParentMail or via email to register your child's absence due to sickness by 9am.

Older siblings are able to enter and exit school at the same time as their younger sibling and we would encourage this rather than having to wait outside.

We will need to continue to limit what the children are transporting to and from school. They only need to bring a water bottle, packed lunch if you have not ordered with Chartwells (this does no longer need to be in disposable wrapping), coat, sunhat (if required) and their book bag (with only their school reading book and reading diary). Please DO NOT allow your children to bring anything else into school. On the first day back your child will need to bring in their PE kit (please make sure this is named) and this will then stay in school for the half term.

For next half term in the first instance the children will be continuing to eat their lunch in their classroom (or outside in fine weather) and therefore we will not be offering hot school meals at the moment. If you wish your child to be provided with a packed lunch you will need to order this through Chartwells. You can order your child's meals online from 29th July. Please also be mindful that meal orders must be placed with Chartwells by 23rd August for the first week back.

We will be opening breakfast club and after school club from Monday 7th September. Please contact the school office via email for more details on how to book this.

If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough, high temperature or has a loss or change in smell or taste, they must stay at home and a Covid-19 test must be arranged by visiting the NHS website or calling 119. Government guidance must be adhered to regarding self-isolation for the whole household until the results have come back. Where the test come back negative the child or staff member is able to return to school if they are feeling well enough to do so. Where the test comes back positive Track and Trace procedures and requirements will be followed. It is vitally important that we all take this seriously, responsibly and do the right thing. Should it

be necessary for a whole class to self-isolate or the school is required to go into local lockdown remote learning will be provided quickly for those at home.

Term dates and Inset for 2020/2021

Please see separate attached letter regarding term dates for next year. Our term starts on Thursday 3rd September when Years 1-4 are expected to return full time. Reception will have stay and play sessions on those two days and will then start full time on Monday 7th September. Nursery will start back on Monday 7th September.

The uncertain times has affected staff training and therefore we have made the decision not to set Inset days throughout the year. Instead we will block our five inset days at the end of the academic year so the children will finish school on Friday 16th July 2021 (rather than the 23rd July).

Wow! That is an awful lot of information, I am sorry! Thank you for taking your time to read it all. If anything is unclear or you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office via email.

As you are all aware, the situation is constantly changing and may very well change again prior to September. If this is the case I will keep you as fully up to date as I can. In the meantime I hope you all manage to have an enjoyable summer break and I'm really looking forward to seeing you all back, and for a little more normality in September.

Thank you all once again.

Much love and take care

Ann