



Oakhurst Community First & Nursery School

*'From Little Acorns Mighty Oaks
Grow'*

22nd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back

Welcome back to the Summer term. How did that happen?! Hope you all had a good Easter break and managed to enjoy a bit more normality. It is lovely to be back in school now and we are hopeful that restrictions will continue to ease so that we can have a smooth, uninterrupted end to the school year- fingers are very tightly crossed!

The weather is certainly being very kind to us at the moment. Please can you make sure that now it is sunnier and getting warmer that the children have a sun hat in school and that sun lotion is applied in the morning before they come to school.

Attendance and punctuality

Despite the current situation our school attendance has improved on previous years, which is great. However, we are noticing a handful of children who are arriving at school persistently late and being picked up persistently late. Due to COVID restrictions our staggered drop off and pick up times are quite rigid and need to be kept to as much as possible. In addition to this, children who come in late are often embarrassed about being late, feel anxious about coming into school once all their peers are settled and have begun their learning and are on a back foot with the learning and key lessons (phonics and reading) have already started. Please make every effort you can to be on time. For families where this is a particular issue we will be contacting you directly to discuss the reasons for this and if any additional support is required.

COVID

Just to remind you, if anyone in your household develops any of the COVID symptoms- new persistent cough, high temperature or loss of smell and taste, then those with the symptoms must have a PCR COVID test and the whole household is required to isolate until the test results come back. If the test results are negative then you can carry on as normal, if the test results are positive then the whole household needs to continue to isolate for the number of days as stated by NHS Test and Trace and you need to let the school know ASAP.

Lateral flow tests are now available to everybody free of charge and can be obtained at several local locations. Please click on this link to find out your nearest location. <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

School staff are continuing to complete a lateral flow test twice weekly.

PE kits

We are continuing to ask the children to come into school in their PE kits on the days they have PE. However, we are noticing a variety of sports kit being worn. Please ensure that your child is wearing the appropriate kit of a white T-shirt (with or without the school emblem), navy or black shorts or tracksuit bottoms, navy or black sweatshirt or tracksuit top or school jumper/cardigan and trainers. Also, please can we ask that children only wear trainers on their PE days. Otherwise they need to be wearing their black school shoes. Whilst we appreciate that up to now it has been very difficult to purchase items such as school shoes, now that non-essential retail is open again, we would ask that every effort is made to ensure the correct uniform and footwear is worn. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Staffing

We are very pleased to inform you that Miss Emma Damon will be joining our teaching team from September. At this moment in time teaching arrangements for next year are not yet fully decided as there are a multitude of things to consider when planning this, ensuring we make the best decisions for the children and also the staff's professional development. We will let you know this nearer the end of the school year which year group the teachers will be teaching in. However, we can tell you that as Kayleigh Hollis

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will be on maternity leave for the vast majority of next year, Abby Collins will be teaching in Nursery. Whilst Abby is currently teaching in Year 4, she has a wealth of experience in Early Years including previously being a nursery manager. Between now and the end of the year, Abby will be meeting with Kayleigh regularly to ensure there is a smooth hand over. We have made great strides in improving our nursery provision this year and are keen to keep that momentum going and the quality of education for our youngest children continuously improving.

Kind regards

Ann

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