



Oastlers School

Flockton Road, Bradford

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Parents/carers

May I once again start by saying how immensely grateful I am for your continued patience, support and encouragement during what can only be described as an extraordinary period in the life of your school. I have never felt so humbled by your kind words, letters and messages of support and inspiration as we work through some extremely difficult challenges.

Once again, I am hopeful that we are tackling this disease to the best of our ability and that while we have had a number of people falling victim to it, they are beginning to return to school and work, of which I am amazed at their individual resilience and dedication.

Your support remains the most aspect of all this, I am eternally grateful to you all.

Some important matters to bring your attention to however. You may have heard the government has indicated that schools may close one day early. I am confirming that we will not be closing one day early. School will close on Friday 18 December and will re-open on Monday the 4 January 2021 as planned.

What is important is that for the period between **Friday 18 December and Thursday 24 December** it is vital that you maintain contact with us if you need to report your son/daughter becomes unwell with COVID-19 and has a positive test. This is so that we can ensure that track and trace agencies are kept informed along with the Local Authority Central Team.

I have arranged for members of the school's senior leadership team to be available for you during this period. All you need to do is contact your designated person via telephone call, text message or voice message at any point during this period to report COVID-19.

For all Oastlers reports please contact Duncan Beckley on 07860771628

For all Oastlers @ Anerley Street (including learners accessing Bradford College) please contact Robert Fairbairn on 07546309194

For reporting after the 24 December and up to the 4 January 2021 please leave a message on the school landline 01274 307456.

This information will also be on our website, should you lose this letter.

The reason this is important is due to the fact that anyone proving to be infectious may well have been infectious whilst at school and this six day period will allow us the opportunity to ensure any contacts can self-isolate or indeed get a test and be made aware so families can respond appropriately.

For the period after the 24 December, if your child becomes unwell with COVID-19 and is tested positive, please inform track and trace agencies as you would normally.

That said, I would still appreciate a message being left on any of the numbers, including the school central landline, so that we can support you if needed when school re-opens.

Like you, I am sure you all celebrated the introduction of the vaccine so we can perhaps begin to hope that life will indeed return to some kind of normal during 2021.

I know many of you will be worried about lost learning time but be assured; we have plans in place to provide individuals with the necessary support they need to catch up on lost learning. You will begin to hear your son/daughter talk about booster sessions in the workshop, 1-1 sessions for English and mathematics specifically and mentoring support.

I also realise the huge impact this has had upon mental health and our counsellor Mr Phil Parr will be working closely with many individuals to help them come to terms with this troubling period. Additionally, the school has its link Education Psychologist, Dr Joe Wilson and our new speech and language therapist joining us in the New Year so help is certainly on the way. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you believe your child would benefit from a specific response. Now, more than ever, working closely together is crucial.

I understand that the swimming pool refurbishment is now complete and we hope to resume lessons in the New Year. See our separate flyer about this. Our swimming lessons have been much missed! Equally, as we develop our Forest School, there will be greater outdoor education planned for 2021. This will be led by Sean Regan who is currently developing plans for our enhanced PE and outdoor education offer. More to follow on this.

We fully intend to enjoy a Christmas Dinner together, arranged differently this year with sadly no visitors in attendance. This will be held on Wednesday 16 December. Despite the arrangements being different, to allow for social distancing, I do hope our learners enjoy the festive meal nevertheless.

Much is different this year; there is no Oastlers Got Talent but, hopefully, this will be a spring or summer terms treat to look forward to.

Finally, the government has announced that summer 2021 examinations will go ahead, with adjustments to allow for lost time such as seen resources, known books ahead of the examination or other such amendments to make the process smoother for children in Y11 who will no doubt become worried about exams as they approach. We will discuss this in more detail with you during our planned parent/carer consultation events and when we have sight of the detail in the government's announcement re exams.

For now, at least, the letter leaves me only to wish you all a very safe and peaceful Christmas break and a peaceful, healthy New Year and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2021.

With my very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyndsey Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Lyndsey Brown
Headteacher