



Oastlers School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Once again, I want to start this letter with a huge thanks to all of you who are supporting our efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, and indeed stop it even entering our school if we can, by keeping your son/daughter at home when unwell and taking him/her for a test that is thus far proving to be invaluable. All those tested so far from school are negative which is so reassuring. I cannot thank you enough for this level of support in keeping our school safe.

Other updates:

In your pack today I have included a useful checklist for symptoms of other childhood illnesses that might help you decide when to send to school and when not. I hope this will be useful for you when making this decision. I have also added a leaflet about the new NHS COVID-19 app, which I imagine many of you will have already downloaded. The fact sheet is also on our website. It is a useful document explaining how the app works and what its purpose is in the fight against COVID-19. I have also provided you with the GDPR privacy notice as of course any information we may provide about those who test positive for example, will only be shared will be done because it is necessary for the public interest. We take the sharing of private or sensitive data seriously.

Regrettably we were unable to host our annual McMillan Coffee Morning but we did ask everyone to come to school in non-uniform with a contribution and £92 was raised to support such a worthy charity. It was nowhere near our usual amount but nevertheless I am sure it will be gratefully received.

We are now thinking ahead about how best to support those in our community and indeed our wider community who are in need of food support. It is our intention to seek your support with food contributions so we can support a local food bank. More to follow on this.

Another dilemma is how best to host our annual Christmas Dinner given social distancing rules will not allow for our usual whole community gathering in a single space. I cannot stress enough how COVID-19 impacts on every single detail of school life. We are thinking about how we can offer our learners their well-deserved rewards, trips and events that we know are crucially important to our culture.

We are really missing our daily assemblies. A decision has been reached to hold something of a daily gathering for small groups, socially distanced, so a sense of community of sorts can be achieved and those important messages shared. Our learners deserve to be celebrated for their weekly achievements and this we were able to do through our assemblies. Let's see how the small group gathering work out next week.

There will be no planned trips until further notice. While the guidance suggests trips and visits can take place, the matter of groups no more than 6 is not achievable so we will await a time when trips, residential and other visits can best be planned.

We did have a fabulous visit from the army this week who worked outdoors with groups of learners developing team building skills and fitness. The sessions were excellent and we sincerely hope we are able to work with the army in the future. Three soldiers from Catterick Garrison came to school and messages from their senior officer have been more than complimentary about our learners.

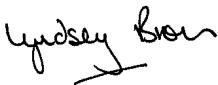
The Forest School continues to be hugely successful. This is something the school will ensure remains part of the offer even when the tutor has left us. Staff here are undergoing training to become Forest School leaders as we are deeply committed to its ethos and benefits to our learners.

Next week we are hosting remotely 'Bradford Manufacturing Week' for our KS4 and sixth form learners with a range of Bradford Employers providing information on careers and options. It will be interesting to see how our learners respond to this important event via video link! They have already begun to become accustomed to this new way of working through their consultations with our link Careers Advisor, Liz palmer, via TEAMS. The world is indeed a very different place.

Please could you complete the enclosed data sheet so that we have up to date and accurate records in school of vital contact information. Sometimes mobile telephone numbers change as do your emergency contacts so please help us to help you by completing the form and sending it back into school as soon as possible.

Finally, for those learners who are at home either unwell or waiting for test results, please know we are thinking about you and hope that you and your families are safe. If we can do anything to help further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Lyndsey Brown
Headteacher

Encs: Advice sheet – COVID-19
Advice sheet – is my child too ill for school?
Date collection document
NHS COVID-19 app leaflet
GDPR privacy notice