



Oastlers School

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Dear Parent/Carer

As with every other letter, I cannot express enough my heartfelt thanks for the overwhelming support you have been demonstrated during what can only be described as a deeply disruptive and uncertain period, due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

I can confirm we have had a small number of infections confirmed in the school but your responses to that information is so appreciated as I make those very difficult decisions whether to close classes or bubbles in an attempt to further stop the spread of the virus and indeed keep us all safe.

I really cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support and encouragement during this period. I absolutely know the impact on stress levels this is having on our learners, staff and you as families. We are doing all we can in school to keep our learners calm and reassured but I can see that deep down they are troubled, despite the bravado, and they need significant support to keep them focussed and on track. Please let us know if we can do any further to support you.

On to a few other reminders:

I have updated the risk assessment which is now version 9. It is available for you all to read on our website:

https://oastlers.com/assets/2020_oast_operational_risk_assessment_for_covid_19_v09.pdf

When anyone is self-isolating, or indeed absent from school for any other reason, your child should access our home learning programme which is populated with set tasks from your child's teacher to encourage continued learning. The VLE is also on the website along with guidance how to access the tasks. All our learners should by now have been taught in school, and practiced, accessing the VLE so they should be both confident and have the skills to access the site. They can leave messages for their teachers, upload completed work and ensure they have plenty of new tasks to complete whilst at home. We do have paper based packs ready for collection if that alternative is preferred. Please let school know if you need paper based work packs and if you have not been able to collect it for any reason so we can arrange for it to be delivered.

For all questions and support about our VLE please contact Mrs Raj Kaur at the school or by email raj.kaur@oastlers.co.uk

Considering the use of face masks in school is outlined in our risk assessment but I wish to share with you that while their use is actively encouraged, and children are reminded to use them properly and hygienically, there are people in school who are unable to wear masks without an adverse response. To be clear, your school is currently organised into 'bubbles' and there is much reduced contact between groups in order to manage social distancing.



our big secondary mainstream schools, we have been quite successful at maintaining social distancing along with other control measures (such as hand washing, sanitising etc) to keep ourselves as safe as possible.

In respect to masks, some staff and some learners wear them properly and consistently, others are exempt and some simply feel they cannot wear them without causing significant emotional distress.

All learners are required to wear a face covering in their taxi transport and I can see that almost all do but I can see that some are eager to remove them as soon as they alight the car.

I share this thinking with you because I do not want you as my valued parents/carers to think we are being trivial about this matter but please can we be reminded that many of our learners have significant social, emotional and mental health difficulties and for many, covering their faces for prolonged periods can in fact create distress and alarm which in turn exacerbates their already fragile emotional states. It is for this reason that we do not become confrontational about the matter. That said, we will continue to encourage the issue and ensure children understand the reasons for face coverings so that they can make positive choices, going forward.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss further. I am very keen to work with you on this matter.

On Friday 13 November we will raise funds in support of Children in Need. As usual it will be a non-uniform day at the cost of £1 which I am sure will be much appreciated by this worthy cause. Sadly, we cannot host our usual coffee and cakes!

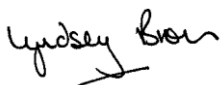
The Forest School continues to be hugely successful, I hear each week for the Forest School Leader how impressed she is with our learners and the manner in which they are working together collaboratively. It is amazing observing how our children grow and develop through this incredible medium.

Finally, you may be aware of our plans to develop a new site in Keighley, which I am hoping will be made available for us sometime in 2021. The site is close to Oak Bank School; we will be occupying the Low Fold Children's Centre which is currently being re-developed to suite our needs. It will be called Oastlers @ Keighley. This is an incredibly exciting development for us. In the meantime, some children already identified for the new school will join us at Anerley Street where we have secured temporary accommodation of the District PRU building. The first learners will start with the new team next week. More on this as things move on.

Finally, may I just ask that if any of our families are struggling in respect to food, during this difficult time when people are losing their incomes and jobs etc, please get in touch with us, we can help. We are only a phone call away.

Keep safe and well everyone.

Yours sincerely



Lyndsey Brown
Headteacher
Encs: helpful information leaflet