



Oaklands School

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HEADMISTRESS

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Dear Parents

Re: Y1-Y6 Home Learning

I hope that this letter finds you all well and that despite the restrictions on leaving home you were able to enjoy the Easter holidays, especially the sunny weather.

Tomorrow marks the start of our Summer Term at Oaklands. It is also the day when we will begin to include our use of Zoom as a platform to provide our live lessons, collaborative learning and social interaction as part of our home-learning programme.

Zoom Lessons

You will have received Mrs Osborn's education update letter on Friday, together with the addendum to our Safeguarding Policy. Tomorrow our teachers will aim to hold a 'class time assembly' at some point during the day to greet their children and to share holiday news. For the remainder of the week, each class teacher is aiming to provide at least one Zoom lesson per day in either English or Maths. Once any teething problems have been ironed out, the number of Zoom lessons provided over the course of a week may gradually be increased. Children may also be invited to participate in Zoom lessons provided by specialist teachers in Computing, Science, Music and PE.

Younger children in Y1 and Y2 may have story time and 'show and tell' sessions with their teacher. There will be opportunities, provided at specific times, for each year group to be involved in PSHE Zoom lessons.

The majority of Zoom lessons will include teacher input, questions and answers/discussions, followed by the teacher setting a task in order to check the children's understanding. They might also include videos or power point presentations to help teach new concepts.

It would be helpful for your child to have a coloured felt pen (preferably black or blue), a pencil and a supply of A4 white paper/writing pad with them for their Zoom lessons.

Timetables

Having studied the timetable of each year group in the school and the location of siblings, I hope to have reduced the potential number of clashes between the timings of Zoom interactive lessons throughout the week. This means that your child's daily lessons will not necessarily match the normal class timetable.

On Friday 24 April you will receive the lesson timetable for your child for the following week. It is hoped that this timetable will remain fairly constant to help establish a learning/working routine for the children and to help you as parents organise each day at home. This timetable will also give you advance notice of when Zoom lessons will be, so that you can coordinate devices at home. Live lessons will also be recorded and then uploaded onto a link onto the Portal so that if your child does miss a Zoom lesson, they can watch it later by clicking on the link. It also means that your child can use these Zoom lessons as a reference tool if necessary to help them to complete their work at home.

Online Learning

Teachers will continue to send daily work for the children through the Engage Portal, just as they did for the last four days of the spring term. It is vital that your child carefully reads the instructions the teacher has sent with the work as these provide clear guidance of what is expected and how the tasks should be completed.

Where appropriate, teachers will attach power point presentations and additional educational website links in different subjects to enhance your child's understanding and learning.

Please email your child's completed work to the teacher's direct email address; this system worked very successfully in the last week of the spring term.

Daily Tasks and Activities

The children should complete all tasks and activities set on a daily basis (unless indicated otherwise in the teacher's instructions or on the weekly timetable) as if they were physically attending school in order that they continue to make progress and learn new skills. Your child's progress will continue to be recorded by staff and will be used to differentiate tasks in different subjects each week and to help determine their end of year effort and achievement grades.

Teachers would also be grateful for the work to be sent to them as soon as it is completed rather than leaving it all towards the end of the day. This will enable them to mark it, provide feedback and then have time to plan the following day's lessons.

I do appreciate that for some families both of the above requests may not fit in with their present family circumstances. If this is the case, please do contact your child's class teacher so that they are aware of your current working situation.

Marking and Feedback

Please allow your child to work as independently as possible; this is a feature of our normal working classrooms. If you do need to support them in any way, please indicate this on the piece of work so that the teacher can immediately see where your child required some assistance.

With the inclusion of some Zoom lessons in the weekly timetable, teachers will be able to provide some verbal feedback to pupils during these interactive lessons as they would do normally in class. I am sure that both pupils and teachers are looking forward to experiencing this social interaction again.

As I'm sure you are aware, other pieces of 'daily work' require different amounts of written marking and feedback. Some tasks, such as a creative piece of writing that has taken three lessons to fully complete, requires more in-depth marking than a SPAG task. Consequently, the daily email feedback that you will receive will be appropriate to the work your child has completed that day.

Children's Well-being

I am conscious that home-learning is a completely different educational experience for the children, you as parents and the staff. Besides the normal structure of their lessons, the children are also missing the social interaction that occurs in the less formalised activities, 'the gaps', during the day such as lunchtime, assemblies, class time, snack time and moving from one part of the school to another for different lessons.

It is important that at home the children have breaks between lessons/work to go to the toilet, have a chat with you or their sibling/s, have a snack or go outside to get some fresh air and run around.

We hope that the addition of Music, Art, PE, exercise and relaxation sessions, creative activities and reading in the timetable will provide opportunities for the children to use their bodies and minds in completely different ways, separate from the online learning and written tasks.

Closing Comments

If at any time your child is unwell and therefore unable to complete work or join in with a Zoom lesson, please let the class teacher know as soon as possible.

We also appreciate that you may be unwell or have more demanding work commitments/sibling work on particular days. Please do let us know so that we do not question missing work and can arrange a mutually convenient date for the work to be completed by.

I hope that you will find the above helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy time.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Sue Belej

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Headmistress



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BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON

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