



# Oaklands School

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## HEADMISTRESS

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4 January 2021

Dear Parents

### Re: Home Learning for Years 1 to 6

I hope that this letter finds you all well and that despite the government Covid restrictions that came into force just before the festive period, you were still able to enjoy the Christmas holidays, albeit in your own homes with members of your immediate family.

Wednesday marks the start of our Spring Term 2021. Unfortunately, I will not be able to stand at my normal position at the main school door welcoming you and your children back to school; this will have to be delayed for short time. However, all the staff are ready to greet the children via Zoom in the morning and to provide a comprehensive remote home learning programme until the government allows the school to fully re-open, hopefully on 18 January.

### Early Year Classes: Kindergarten and Reception

The government has indicated that Early Years settings should remain open. Therefore, in line with the guidance included in Mr Hagger's letter yesterday morning, children in Kindergarten and Reception are able to attend school from Wednesday 6 January. Please take your children to their normal classrooms. Please maintain the usual social distancing from the staff and, if possible, please wear a face mask when on site and leave the site promptly.

### Provision for Children of 'Critical Workers'

Thank you to those parents who responded promptly indicating that they require our Critical Worker Provision. The following arrangements will be in place for your children:

- Children should arrive at school between 8.15am- 8.40am; entry via the side door of the Hall.
- Children will be grouped in the following 'bubbles': Years 1 & 2; Year 3, Years 4 & 5; Year 6.
- Children will be supervised by a rota of teaching assistants to support them accessing their online Zoom lessons and work set by their teachers.
- Our lunchtime team will supervise the children at break and lunchtime. Each 'bubble' will eat their lunch and play in the playground in their own designated area.
- Children in Year 1 and 2 will be collected at 3.15pm; children in Years 3 to 6 will be collected at 3.30pm.
- Children should wear their school uniform as usual.

### Extracurricular Clubs and Tea Time Club

There will be no extracurricular clubs until Monday 18 January, apart from Tea Time Club which will finish promptly at **5pm**. Please ensure that your child has either a regular booking at this club or you have contacted the school office to enquire as to the availability of a place on a specific day.

### Year 1 to 6 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.

You will receive the lesson timetable for your child tomorrow. I hope this will remain fairly constant to help establish a positive routine for the children and to help you 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.

Some days will begin with a Zoom 'Class Chat' at 9am, whilst others start with a Zoom lesson at 9.15am. 'Class Chats' will be for the class teacher to undertake their pastoral roles or to set specific tasks to be completed before the Zoom session at 10am. On the days that begin at 9.15am with a Zoom lesson, the class teacher will spend the first 5/10 minutes greeting the children and setting out the day ahead before starting the Maths or English input.

Afternoons will be used for the children to complete tasks set in specialist subjects. There may be times when specialist teachers will organise a Zoom lesson with a class; these details will be shown in advance on the weekly timetable.

Pupils in Year 1 to Year 4 will also be invited to attend an individual 10-minute Reading Zoom session with a Teaching Assistant on one afternoon during the week. Pupils in Year 6 will follow a very similar timetable to the one put in place during their self-isolation during the Autumn Term.

Each class has a 'Class Chat' Zoom scheduled every afternoon, Monday to Thursday and a PSHE Zoom session timetabled for Friday afternoon. This is a pastoral time to reflect on the day/week, for children to voice any concerns and to share news with their friends. Year 1 and 2 teachers may also use this time as a 'Show and Tell' opportunity for their children.

### **Remote Home-Learning: Education City and Seesaw**

**All teachers will be using the Seesaw platform to send Zoom invites, work for the children, feedback and any form of communication to you during this period of remote home learning.**

On Tuesday 5 January, each parent in Year 1 to Year 5 will receive a family invite from Seesaw by email. Once you are connected, you will be able to view the work posted in your child's journal. Parents will not see the work of anyone else in the class as the settings will be private. You will receive important updates for your child from their class or subject specialist teachers. Your child will post their learning tasks on Seesaw and you will be able to view the homework they have submitted. Parents will be able to see the feedback, targets, messages and reminders which teachers have left for their child.

Year 6 parents used this system of working, monitoring and communication last half term and we had positive feedback about how efficient the process is.

As you will be aware, all children in Year 1 to Year 6 have their own unique home login details for Education City and Seesaw. Parents of Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will find them stuck into their child's Reading Diary and parents of pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 will find them in their child's Homework Diary. Please would you check that your child's log-in details work and that you are able to access both these websites before the remote home learning programme commences on Wednesday 6 January. If you experience any problems, please email the School Office.

We have been using both these learning platforms since mid-October 2020 for homework tasks and all the children are very confident and familiar with which steps to follow to access, complete and return their work online.

### **Zoom Lessons**

Our aim is to provide a balance between live Zoom lessons and allowing the pupils enough time to complete their tasks during the school day. Therefore, the following arrangements will be in place:

- Daily face-to-face 'form time' with the class teacher on Zoom (from 9.00-9.10am or 9.15-9.25am) to ensure we maintain our excellent level of pastoral care while the children are learning from home, and to give them a chance to see each other and have a happy start to the day.
- Daily Zoom lessons for Maths and English to include a combination of teaching, interactive and collaborative learning, and feedback on work that has been completed.
- Each live Zoom lesson will last for around 30 minutes, although 40 minutes has been allowed on the timetables in case teachers require a little longer on occasions to clarify new knowledge or explain aspects of the tasks set for pupils.
- Where appropriate, teachers will attach power point presentations, videos and additional educational website links in different subjects to help teach new concepts and to enhance your child's understanding and learning.

- Zoom lessons will be recorded, so that if your child misses one, they can click on a link to catch up.
- If possible, please be in the room with your child during Zoom sessions, but do not participate in the lesson itself unless the teacher invites you to do so.
- If a teacher is unwell and not able to upload the work as usual, we will do our best to cover the absence as we would normally do in school. This may mean that the Zoom lessons need to be postponed or delayed.

### Specialist Subjects

Children in Year 1 to 6 will continue to have work set in the majority of their subjects over the course of the week. Specialist teachers will include links to recordings, PowerPoints and practical activities for the children to access. Work will be relevant, appropriately challenging and straightforward for the children to complete independently at home.

We are keen not to burden parents with huge amounts of printing to do at home, nor to expect you to go out to try to purchase special resources, particularly in our current Tier 4 circumstances, so the work set will reflect this.

### Marking and Feedback

The majority of work will be marked by teachers on Seesaw. Some pieces of work, such as a creative piece of writing that has taken several lessons to produce, may require more in-depth marking and will not be fully marked until the 'final' version has been completed. In these circumstances, targets for up levelling the work will be provided.

Feedback may be also given verbally in the Zoom lessons, when the teachers can explain work to pupils, and pupils will have the opportunity to improve together just as we would organise in class.

Please help us by doing the following:

- Send completed work in all subjects back to the relevant teacher for marking using the Seesaw online homework platform.
- If possible, send work back to the teacher as soon as it is completed rather than leaving it all to the end of the day. This will help them to keep up to date with the marking and assist them in planning their input for the following lesson.
- Please allow your child to work as independently as possible; this is a feature of our normal working classrooms. Let us know if they have needed additional help or support.
- Use the Seesaw platform to keep track of the work that is set for your child, monitor the work your child has submitted and read the marking feedback provided by the teacher.
- Use the Seesaw platform to communicate any comments or questions to the teachers.

### Peripatetic Music Lessons

On Tuesday 5 or Wednesday 6 January, parents whose children attend weekly instrumental lessons from a member of our peripatetic team will be contacted by the school office. Please be ready to indicate whether you would like your child to receive their instrumental lesson via Zoom until he/she returns to school. Thank you.

### SEND 1:1 Lessons

A member of the office staff or the SEND team will be contacting those Year 1 to Year 6 parents whose child attends a weekly 1:1 learning session with Mrs Ridgway or Mrs Donoghue. The aim is to arrange a mutually convenient time for this session to take place via Zoom until the children return to school.

### Daily Routine and Children's Well-being

All pupils will benefit from a routine while they are at home. If possible, encourage them to have a place to work each day, which they tidy away when the work is finished. Include breaks and snacks, exercise in the fresh air, chats with you and their sibling/s, and relaxation time in the routine, as these are all important for their well-being. Teachers will also be encouraging the children to read, do practical activities and to be physically active to provide a good balance to their day.

### If your child is unwell and unable to complete the work

Please let the class teacher know if your child is unwell and unable to attend the Zoom lessons or complete the work. We will be encouraging the pupils to keep up with their learning, but we appreciate that there may be times when this is not possible. Please let us know if this is the case, so that we can offer appropriate support.

We also appreciate that you may be unwell or have more demanding work commitments/sibling work on particular days. Please 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.

### Snow and Wintry Weather

Our aim will always be to stay open even in snowy weather, unless there is a health and safety concern in doing so. The maintenance team arrives on-site early to clear paths and to make the site safe, and an update will be posted on the website by 7.15am so that parents are informed about arrangements for the day.

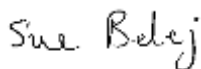
During the winter months, please ensure your children wear the appropriate plain hats, scarves and gloves, according to the uniform list. If boots are worn to school in snowy weather, shoes should be brought to change into on arrival.

I hope that you will find all the information above helpful, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or problems over the forthcoming weeks. Hopefully it will not be too long before I can speak to you personally on the school site.

Wishing you and your family a safe and healthy time.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Sue Belej  
Headmistress



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