

Dear Parents

We are looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 8th March. Please note the important information below, which we hope will reassure and inform you. As you have realised, the guidance and information given to schools is often subject to change. We will endeavour to give you due notice if any of the arrangements below are likely to alter.

Getting Your Child Ready to Return to School

Please talk through the following measures with your child so that they have an understanding of how things will be at school.

There are not many changes from Term 2 but we believe that it may help alleviate some children's stress by knowing the current picture:

- With the exception of Kites, we will be working in class bubbles, not year group bubbles. Each class will play in their own area and there will be no mixing between the classes. We believe that these smaller groups will help to decrease the likelihood of transmission between pupils, and the need for larger bubbles to close.
- Lunches will be eaten in their class bubbles in the Hall (KS1) or in their own classroom (KS2).
- On PE days, children in KS2 should come to school wearing their PE kit. Please make sure they always have a change of shoes. A change of clothes would be good in case of wet weather.
- Children will be expected to wear normal school uniform and, if at all possible, their normal school shoes.
- There will be normal expectations of jewellery and hair, and especially behaviour.

Coming to school in the morning

The arrangements remain the same for mornings and the end of school:

- KS1 children should come through the Lea Road gate between 8.45am and 8.55am, with parents following the one-way system past Year 2, then Year 1 and back out through the side gate by the kitchen. Kites parents may wait on the KS1 playground until the children are collected at 8.55am.
- KS2 children will come through the Grove Road gate. Parents must leave their children at the gate, and not enter the premises unless by prior arrangement.
- Anyone entering the premises will be asked to sanitise their hands. Staff will be on duty to ensure this happens.
- At the end of the day, parents should wait (socially distanced) either outside their child's classroom or on the KS2 playground.
- KS2 parents should queue down Grove Road past the library and Studio building. If you need to walk down Grove Road, please do so on the opposite side to the school. Please respect social distancing guidelines.
- KS1 parents should queue along Lea Road towards the old Police Office. If you need to walk down Lea Road, please can you do so on the opposite side to the school. Please respect social distancing guidelines.

Our Priorities

For the remainder of Term 4 we have asked all staff to concentrate on these 5 priorities:

1. Re-establish classroom routines to keep us all as safe as possible – hand washing, keeping to class bubbles, classroom ventilation and cleaning routines.
2. Work on developing social skills and addressing any difficulties in adjusting back into school so that behaviour is in line with our usual high expectations. This will be done carefully and mindfully, spending extra time understanding anxieties and addressing what might be behind any unwanted behaviour.
3. Improve the children's resilience and stamina. The aim is that children will then be able to concentrate for an age-appropriate amount of time as we move into the summer terms.
4. Use our tracking system to accurately establish the current position, and to record the child's ongoing learning and their next steps.
5. Prepare for parent consultations so that we can provide you with as clear a picture as possible.

Bubble Closure and Self-Isolation

- If a whole class bubble is forced to close (due to a positive test in a child or staff member), we anticipate being able to post work on Google Classroom and to provide live sessions as per our current offering (unless staff members are sick).
- If your child is self-isolating, they will be provided with suitable work. This will be a combination of work that is being done that day in class and some more generic work suitable for a child to do at home. This is because some of the activities done in school cannot be easily accessed by a child at home.
- If your child is sick, we will not provide work for them as they should be recuperating and not worrying about trying to complete school work.
- For track and trace purposes, please let us know by emailing covid@sonning-common.oxon.sch.uk if your child tests positive for Covid-19 so we can inform other families as necessary.

Lateral Flow Tests

We have been able to offer Lateral Flow Tests to all staff since January. The government have advised that tests will be available for all school pupils and their families in the coming weeks. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=6e1997ec-c18c-4c46-b718-d46db0acdd98&utm_content=immediately

We are thoroughly looking forward to welcoming all children back to school and look forward to seeing you on Monday morning.

Your Head teacher

Chris Hirst