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Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Irwin



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Dear Parents / Carers

Transition and Classes for September 2020



I hope that you and your families are all well. The children who have been into school since the phased wider reopening have really settled wonderfully. It is so lovely to hear the buzz and laughter of more children and to see their happy, smiling faces! Huge thanks must go to all of our families who are continuing to provide such fabulous support with home learning too. You are doing an amazing job!

I am aware that by now we would normally have all of our end of term transition plans in place and we would be enjoying a range of exciting summer term events. We would also have activities and events planned for our new starter families, along with opportunities for other children to meet their class teachers for September. When we fully return to 'normal', we look forward to making plans to bring our children and families together again.

Sadly, due to the current restrictions and lack of additional space, we are unable to offer our usual transition opportunities. We will therefore provide a range of alternative opportunities for the children in each class to connect with their new class teachers and classmates virtually. In addition, we are currently providing 'keeping in touch sessions' for the children in Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 who have not previously been offered access to school. We will also share home school plans for a virtual sports week, which will take place during our wellbeing focus on 'being active' before the end of term.

We are hoping that we will be able to reopen fully for all year groups from September, but this will very much be led by Government guidance. We have not, as yet, received any plans for what our provision at the start of the autumn term will be expected to look like, so we will inform you of any updates as soon as we receive them. For now, we are planning for a hopefully 'normal' return, with additional health and safety measures in place as necessary.

I am also writing to confirm the arrangements for our class organisation for the next academic year. As you are aware, we currently have 5 classes with 7 year groups, which means mixed and split year groups. This, as you know, is very commonplace in a small school such as ours. Due to the class numbers, this also means that at some point during their journey through Oxspring Primary School, all children will spend at least two years in the same class.

In line with our usual approach, we will be splitting some of our year groups again next year. Splitting year groups is a situation we manage successfully on an annual basis. When making our decisions, all staff have considered a range of factors, which are always made in the best interests of your child / children. Where year groups are split, we will work hard to ensure that opportunities for the year groups to work together as a 'whole' are generated throughout the year.

I feel that it is important to clarify that your child is never 'kept / held back'. The class teachers build on their progress and achievements to date in order to continue their educational journey through primary school. The staff at Oxspring are also very experienced at planning and delivering work to match the needs of mixed age learning. They provide challenge, enrichment and support across all classes / year groups and plan stimulating and exciting educational experiences, which ensure good progression and continuity.

In 2020 - 21, the class staffing will be as follows:

Class	Year groups	Teacher /s
1	Reception / Year 1	Mrs Reeve / Mrs Tomlinson
2	Year 1 / Year 2	Miss Grobler
3	Year 2 / Year 3	Mrs Wright
4	Year 4	Mr Garlick
5	Year 5 / 6	Mrs Rolling

Your child's current class teacher will contact you after school today to inform you which class your child will be in, if this is not evident from the grid above where a year group is split between 2 classes. Following this, the new class teacher will be in touch very soon regarding alternative transition arrangements for the next few weeks, as we start to plan for the autumn term ahead.

I am very much aware of the impact of COVID-19 on the emotional wellbeing of our children at this time, so it is imperative that we ensure that the children feel prepared and happy as we work through this next period of transition. We will work hard to ensure that you and your child have all the information that you need to know about what school will look like in September and will provide you with updates as soon as we possibly can, following the latest Government guidance.

Please do not hesitate to contact either the class teacher or myself, if you would like to discuss any of the above arrangements in further detail.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Warmest regards

Mrs Sharon Irwin