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Headteacher: Mrs Sharon Irwin

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Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome Back

I cannot tell you just how wonderful it is to have all our children back in school! Despite the changes that we have had to make and the additional health and safety measures that we have put in place, we have the 'buzz' for learning, excited chatter and happy, smiley faces back in our classrooms! We are delighted that our amazing small community is back together again as we have missed you so much!



Firstly, I would like to say a special and very warm 'Oxspring welcome' to our new starter families who have joined us this week, not only in Reception but in a couple of other year groups across school. We look forward to getting to know you all as your child / children start their journey through our school.

I must say, I am absolutely overwhelmed by just how well everyone has settled in after what will understandably have been a daunting and anxious time for our children and parents. Your children are an absolute credit to you and the way that they have taken everything in their stride as they adjust to our new 'norm' in school is incredible. In addition, I would like to thank you so much for all the effort made with the return to our school uniform - the children look fabulous.

As we start to get back into our new routines, I would just like to take the opportunity to provide a few reminders and updates as follows:

Staggered drop off / pick up

Many thanks for bearing with us as we get used to our updated procedures for dropping off and picking up your child / children from school. Now that we are back to full capacity, it is really important that we make the start and the end of the day as safe and smooth as we possibly can. We will therefore continue to work on improving our systems, but could we please ask that all families come at the specified times only for each class bubble and not any earlier. If you have more than one child, you can come at the eldest child's time, but please note that if your eldest child finishes at 3.30pm, they cannot be taken out of class before this time. **If you are picking up and dropping off more than one child, please do continue to use the front gate and wait at the spots in front of the Class 1 and 2** and staff will bring the children to you. Could we also please ask that parents / carers come up into the playground and not queue on the pavement at the front of school. Only one parent / carer to drop off / pick up please.



Water Bottles

Just a reminder that your child/ children need/s a named water bottle with them each day please. These can be purchased from the office for £1.25.

Clothing

As our weather continues to be very unsettled and unpredictable, could you please ensure that your child / children has / have a coat with them each day. In addition, could you please ensure that they also wear a school jumper / cardigan as we have to keep windows and doors open for ventilation purposes. It can get chilly! Many thanks for your support with this.

PE and trainers

Due to limited space in cloakrooms and in order to minimise the number of bags on pegs, PE kits will only need to be brought to school on the days that your child / children has /have PE. PE Days are as follows:

Class 1	Monday	Thursday
Class 2	Monday	Thursday
Class 3	Monday	Thursday
Class 4	Monday	Friday
Class 5	Thursday	Friday

After their PE sessions, kits will be brought home for washing. Trainers will be needed in school, each day for the daily mile please (or school shoes can be worn if they have an appropriate sole).

School meals / healthy lunch boxes

The current temporary menu will be reviewed with catering shortly so that we can get back to warm meals as soon as possible if logistics allow. For the children who are bringing packed lunches from home, could we please ask for your support with sending your child / children to school with healthy lunch boxes. Please could you ensure that no sweets are sent in for lunch or any food items which contain nuts of any kind and sesame seeds (hummus).

Updated link from the Department for Education (DFE)

The DFE have updated their return to school guidance for parents / carers, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>. In addition, we received further updates from the DFE at the end of last week for schools, which means that our risk assessment is being updated again in line with this and will be shared on our website shortly.

We will continue to provide you with regular updates and also plan to reintroduce our newsletter in the next week or so. In the meantime, huge thanks for your support and understanding as we get back to normal. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the class teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

Warmest regards

Sharon Irwin