

Newsletter and update

10 June 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We hope that you continue to stay safe and are feeling like we are gradually getting back to a new normal.

I would like to praise the hard work and dedication of our staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure that our school has been able to open for phase 2 of re-opening.

I would also like to say thank you to all the parents and carers who have shared kind words through social media, email, in person and through monetary donations via parent pay. This truly means the world to me as ensuring we make this process as easy and comfortable for all concerned is my highest priority.

Our first few days back have gone very well with smooth movement to and from school and the children are enjoying being back spending time with teachers and friends. We are of course missing the families who have chosen not to, or are not able to return at present. However, we do understand that what works for one family might not for another and I ask that as a community we respect decisions families make during this time.

More children being able to join school

At the start of the phase 2 reintegration (moving from smile club to education) I spoke to many of you about the Government potentially wanting to allow children of all year groups to have a month at school before they finish for the summer. Yesterday, the Government confirmed that schools **will not** be opening for any additional year groups before the end of this academic year (Friday 17th July).

I can understand that this change may be worrying for those of you who didn't book your child into school from the start of June and were waiting for the new update. I want to try to help with those worries by saying we will be reviewing our bubbles after the Government Cobra meeting on the **Thursday 18th June** which is the next legal government review. I will be sending out a new letter on **Friday 19th June**, outlining our next phase of re-opening.

Information needed from families so we can plan for the next few weeks

If your child is not currently accessing school but feel you would like your child to come to school before we finish in July, please can you email the office with a show of interest. Please also specify if you are a key worker.

I must be clear that this does not guarantee a place should we open the school further - this is merely to see what the take-up might be.

Likewise, if you are a family who are already accessing school and you no longer want the place, please contact the office explaining this and then I can see how many free spaces I have got.

For children with an EHCP or a social worker a place has been allocated automatically for your child and we will be in touch with you individually about how you want your child to access school up to July.

If your child is currently accessing school it is highly likely they will have a place with us until July. However, this is subject to any Government changes. You will receive confirmation of the continuation of your child's place on 9th July.

Once again if you are having any difficulties or just want to contact us to talk through your options please do so –
office@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk alice.jones@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk 01535 642271

The curriculum moving forward

I am attending many training sessions within the Trust about how the Curriculum will look moving forward. Obviously, there will be a catch-up element for the children and this will be the case for schools all over the country so I wouldn't worry too much about this. I will give you more information about this in September.

Our Virtual Learning/Home Learning section on our website is being run by Miss Dawson and she is busy uploading information from our teachers. Please read our Virtual Learning Policy and make sure you understand that this is completely voluntary.

End of year reports

Teachers have been writing reports for the children in their class. Obviously, this will be for the period of September to March this year. We will be sending these out via email this year on w/c 13th July. Please make sure the office has a current email address for **both** parents or carers especially if you are separated.

Lovely things

We had a lovely time at our virtual sports day. It was lovely to see many of you joining in the fun and creating new events such as 'the rolling down a hill race'! We are hosting another virtual disco on Friday the 19th of June. If you would like a shout out email the school office or pop a comment on the Facebook post and we will give George the message.

We will also be launching this year's Oxenhope's got talent next week. This will involve sending in videos of entries. There will be a form to fill in about how you want us to use the video as some will be put on the website and Facebook.

Year 6

I am desperately looking for ways to ensure that year 6 get the Oxenhope send-off they deserve and hopefully as we move through June and July we may find guidance changes and it will become easier to get together.

I would like to make you aware of an event I am hoping to book into the diary today. Providing the guidelines, allow, on 20th July I would like to open the school for year 6 only. We are planning an end of year celebration day where the children can see each other, get t-shirts signed etc and we will arrange some great activities, games and treats for the children. Myself, Mr Thurlby, Mrs Johns and Miss Dawson will be there to spend time with the children.

I am also in conversations with Reverend Cat to see if we can book a day in the summer holidays to visit the church as a group to have a leaver's service just for year 6 parents. This will obviously depend on government guidance but I will keep you posted.

Transition events – currently there are no secondary school transition events planned but if I hear anything I will let you all know as soon as possible. Likewise, if you hear anything can you let me know, as parents occasionally hear before Primary Schools. We will be looking at transition in more detail the week beginning the 22nd of June. All the work the children receive in school will be available on the virtual learning/home learning section of the website.

At the moment, we are planning to close for the summer on Friday 17th July, However, this is subject to change and we will keep you updated on any developments.

Yours sincerely

Alice Jones - Headteacher