

16.7.20

Dear parent and carers,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

Below details the logistical and clerical adaptations for September- Please read it carefully. I will be available until **12:00pm on Wednesday the 22nd as well as the 3rd and 4th of September** to answer your questions either via the office phone which will be fully operational or email – alice.jones@oxenhope.bradford.sch.uk

This will be my last letter until September. With that in mind I wanted to sign off this year with you.

Never in my wildest dreams (although nightmare seems more appropriate!) would I have ever thought my first official year as headteacher, would end in this way.

Personally for me, it has been an emotionally charged time where the sands beneath my feet have constantly moved. What has anchored me throughout is the caring, considerate, trusting attitude from you and your families. During every headteacher meeting I have been to I have heard tales of Headteachers battling with un-cooperative parents and I have thanked my lucky stars that I am here with you.

We truly are a family; we have our rough times but ultimately we pull together and woe betide anyone who messes with us! As I have worked with you throughout this time it brought comfort to me that I am not the only one who has found bringing a child up in the current climate hard and I am so happy that we have each other to help us through it. I will reiterate what I have said before – it takes a community to raise a child.

Moving forward there will be changes and challenges, there will be differences and difficulties and we may not get it right every time. Please be patient and understanding with us; we are working extremely hard to ensure things run smoothly. My overarching message is that I promise that our strong ethos about education will stay firm and we will put the Oxenhope sparkle onto the rug which will continue to be pulled out from underneath us and turn it into a magic carpet to ensure our children fly!

Please know how much I love you all. Rest and enjoy the holidays and please know that come September we will have so much fun together.

All my love

Mrs Jones

The school plan – We will guide you through this entire procedure

1. By 16.7.20 The September information will be passed to parents (this letter)
2. By 17.7.20 Confirmation as to whether your child has been successful in receiving an Explorers place will be given to parents
3. 20.7.20 – Year 6 fun day
4. 21.7.20 – New to reception open morning
5. 22.7.20 – New to reception open morning
6. 3.9.20 – Ice breaking day for children who have not been to school since march (pre-booked appointments only)
7. 7.9.20 – Open to children

Commonly asked questions – There will be opportunity for you to ask further questions if you can't find the answer below. These questions and answers are to help you make the best decision for you and your family about returning to school, please read them carefully.

Is sending my child back to school a choice?

From September attendance in school will be compulsory for all children. Non-attendance without genuine reason will be treated as an unauthorised absence. Please see our attendance policy for more details.

If your child is classed as clinically vulnerable you need to contact school as a matter of urgency.

What will my child be doing at school?

From September your child will access the full curriculum and there will be assessments to understand how much, if any, learning has been missed.

From this your child will receive a bespoke learning plan which will detail things which you can do at home and what we will be covering in school.

We will be heavily focusing on mental health and wellbeing during this time. Regardless of your child's experiences through this they have all gone through a huge life effecting change which needs supporting. At Oxenhope we firmly believe that without addressing these issues we cannot even start to plug gaps in learning.

Will virtual learning continue to be provided?

Yes, we will still be offering an online learning platform for all children through the school website. This can be accessed for families who want to top up learning at home but also if you find that your family is isolating at any point. This will be available throughout the summer as well.

How seriously is school taking precautionary measures?

Extremely seriously. We are still living in a global pandemic and therefore I have to ensure the health and safety of the children and staff is my highest priority. With increasing numbers accessing school these measures may have to become stricter and regardless of our personal views I have guidance and risk assessments to follow. We ask that you take these measures as seriously as we do and not to become complacent as I would hate to have to close bubbles due to bad choices being made.

You might find we cannot offer our usual level of flexibility and compassion. We may have to disappoint you at times. My advice is, ensure you read letters and meet deadlines that we put in place the best you can.

Will the children still be in bubbles?

Yes. The children will be in class bubbles. They will not mix with any other children in school. Support staff will not be able to move across more than 2 classes throughout the day, they will of course be adhering to government guidance to be able to do this. Teachers will not move to any other classes.

Will drop offs and pick-ups be staggered?

Yes. This is dictated to us from the government to ensure we reduce the risk of cross-contamination of children. Please read the table below. If your child has a sibling with a different finish time the older child can go home with the younger child and we will arrange this at pick up time.

We are letting year 5 and 6 walk to school and walk home on their own as this will reduce adults in and around school. Please ensure that you have emailed the school office giving your permission for this otherwise we will not allow you child to leave the building unattended.

| Class | Start time | Entry door | Finish time | Collection point |
|-----------|------------|--------------------|-------------|---|
| Reception | 9.00 | Reception slope | 3.15 | Council Macca Gate (by the basketball court) |
| Year 1 | 8:40 | Link Corridor | 2:55 | Bottom Playground Gate |
| Year 2 | 8:30 | Link Corridor | 2.45 | Council Macca Gate (by the basketball court) |
| Year 3 | 8:45 | Year 3/4 cloakroom | 3.00 | Council Macca Gate (by the basketball court) |
| Year 4 | 9.00 | Year 4 fire exit | 3.15 | Year 4 fire exit |
| Year 5 | 9.00 | Link Corridor | 3.15 | Bottom playground gate |
| Year 6 | 9.00 | Main Entrance | 3.15 | Main gate |

You will need to queue at least 1m apart at your child's allotted entrance ensuring that your child waits with you patiently. We are asking you to be responsible and adhere to social distancing. Playground signs and markings will make it clear as to where you need to wait.

Will Explorers before and after school club still be running?

Yes. We only have 20 spaces and these are being allocated on a first come, first served basis. At this point, please note breakfast club is proving to be extremely popular. We may not be able to accommodate everyone, but we will confirm this tomorrow as previously stated. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience and at the earliest opportunity I will be phasing in longer times and more spaces.

Once again decisions about this are being made with government prescribed health and safety risk assessments at the forefront of our minds

Will the Nest and other interventions be running from September ?

Yes. Mrs Dyson is very excited to put these sessions together. Sessions will be 1:1 only at the moment and we will be prioritising the most vulnerable children first. There will be no magic Mondays or Friday Roundup at the moment. We will contact you personally if your child will be accessing a Nest 1:1 time.

Class interventions such as Beat Dyslexia will be running but there will be no mixed age groups.

Will SEN Meetings and Annual Reviews go ahead?

No face to face meetings will be happening over the first half term. Annual reviews and TAFs will be done virtually and other meetings or drop-in conversations will unfortunately have to be done over the phone. Any visits into school will be strictly by appointment only.

My child usually has an adult who supports them - will this still happen?

Yes. The 1:1 support may have to sit further away from the child than usual.

Will I still receive my Free School Meals vouchers over the holidays?

If your child is eligible for free school meals, then you will receive your vouchers from the 20th of July.

If you have had a change in circumstances in your home income, even if this is only temporary, please use the government website to check free school eligibility. This also applies to children in reception and ks1 who do not need to pay for school meals. School receives extra funding to support children and it can help in all sorts of ways.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2020-to-2021/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2020-to-2021>

Will my child need to wear uniform?

Yes, and we are asking that this is changed on a daily basis. You must ensure *everything* is labelled with their name.

New to Reception children can wear black joggers instead of school trousers.

What will lunchtime be like and will hot meals be available?

Yes, a hot choice will be back on the menu from September. We will be staggering lunchtimes. KS2 children will be eating within their classroom. Your child can bring a packed lunch but this must be in a labelled container which can be deep cleaned.

Can my child bring a water bottle?

Yes, and this will be filled up during the day by an adult. This must be deep cleaned every day at home.

Can my child bring a snack?

Yes, your child can bring a healthy snack for break time, but it must be contained in something disposable or that can be deep cleaned (labelled please if it's a container).

Can my child bring a bag and things from home?

No. Unfortunately we cannot allow bags from home to be brought in or pencil cases, books or trinkets from home. Your child can come dressed for PE on their PE day – information

about when this is will be sent home the week beginning the 7th of September. Your child will need to bring a coat with them every day.

Will parents and carers be able to access the school?

No. Unfortunately until October half term we cannot invite parents into school. However, this will be reviewed as a priority for the October to December half term and I promise we will look at different options if this not possible. We are looking at virtual assemblies for celebration certificates and outdoor nativities etc. The school office can be contacted by telephone or via email. Please do not enter the main entrance to speak to the office staff.

How can I talk to my child's class teacher about my child?

The email system will continue to be in place and you can contact teachers via the school office. Unfortunately, there won't be time to talk to teacher at the door however myself and Mrs Dyson will be present on the playground, but very confidential items might not be appropriate to discuss this time as social distancing will have to be in place.

Emails to class teachers will only be answered during school hours.

What if my child is distressed at the start of the day?

We will comfort your child and encourage them into school. Myself and Mrs Dyson will support with this. We will contact you through the day to let you know your child has settled.

I have found that if you show a confident and happy attitude towards school then your children will follow and copy this behaviour.

Will homework and reading books be provided?

Your child will have homework and a reading as stated in our homework policy (on the website). Your child will receive their homework and reading book in a plastic wallet and we ask that your child washes their hands before and after completing their homework. We will be providing an online option as well so and you will be able to email this to the teachers directly.

What is going on with trips?

We have been advised by the Trust to put on hold any trips at this point. Residentials are being handled differently and we will be in touch if this affects your child.

As stated above, please contact me if you have any questions which are not covered in this letter.

Mrs Jones