



OAKLANDS INFANT SCHOOL

OAK TREE NEWS

Deep roots for future growth



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you had a good half-term, I am sure most of you are now counting down the days to 8th March.

Monday's announcement was really good news and what I had been expecting. You will have already received information regarding our full re-opening, which is based on the procedures and measures we had already implemented in the Autumn term. No doubt, like us, there are a variety of mixed feelings amongst all of our families. On Monday, there was probably much jubilation and sighs of relief to be saying goodbye to home learning and now excitement to return to the Infants. However, with that comes differing levels of anxiety - we all have concerns about fully re-opening and that is only natural given the circumstances. I would like to re-assure you we have put in place as many safety measures that we can think of to protect all of our school community. We will support everyone to ensure the return is as smooth as possible and we will constantly be checking that we're all doing everything that we can, which also needs to include yourselves. If everyone continues to follow the Government guidance then we can hopefully say that this is the last lockdown we have to face.

We can't wait to have the children back again – to hear their chatting and laughing and see their smiling faces.

Be kind to yourselves and keep going, you are very nearly there!

Mrs O'Neill Head teacher

**STRENGTH DOESN'T COME
FROM WHAT YOU CAN DO.
IT COMES FROM
OVERCOMING
THE THINGS YOU ONCE
THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T.**
- RIKKI ROGERS

RED NOSE DAY

On **19 March 2021** Oaklands Infant and Junior Schools will be supporting the event 'Red Nose Day'. On the day, children can come dressed in something 'red' and bring a donation of £1. Due to COVID 19, we are discouraging red noses being brought into school this year. However, if you do buy them for home, please note that this year red noses are 100% plastic FREE.

The past year has been really tough, especially for schools. This event will give us the chance to help other people and be a part of something positive. The Coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on all of us, especially the people and communities helped by Comic Relief Funding. Any money raised will make a huge difference at a very difficult time. Let's help provide safety to families who need support.

Tackle mental health stigma. Take action against domestic abuse. And help to give children a brighter future. **Let's spread JOY and LAUGHTER!**



CONTACT US

PARENT SUPPORT ADVISOR - Nikki Lenon
07748 415285 or email
nlenon@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Oaklands Infant School Office: 01344 774644 or email
admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk

GOVERNING BODY

The governing body is a committee that is in place to steer the school's strategic direction and to make sure that the school remains accountable. If you have a concern about your child, normally it is best to speak to their teacher or Mrs O'Neill first as they know them well and will probably be able to deal with it quickly. However, do get in touch if you feel this isn't working or you have other things you wish to discuss - we are happy to hear from you! Thank you. Chris Rossiter (Chair of Governors)
governors@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk or via the school office

8 WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN STRUGGLING DURING LOCKDOWN

1



Know how to spot the signs

If you notice your child is becoming withdrawn, that there's been a change in sleeping or eating habits, if they seem to lack confidence or get upset, it might be a sign they're struggling.



2



Talk to your child

If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can – hugging, listening to them, texting them.



3



Create structure and routine

Try introducing a rota or loose timetable that includes fun things you're doing during the week. This can help to create a feeling of stability, which can alleviate anxiety.



4



Give children a sense of control through information

Look online with your children to find useful information and resources that help children feel they have control.



5



Keep children learning

Using fun and creative ways at home to learn alongside continued access to educational opportunities will support your children's development.



6



Limit screen time and mix up activities

As most socialising moves online, it's important to have conversations on how an increase in screen time can have an impact on everyone's mental health and self-esteem.



7



Help your child manage stress

If you spot signs your child might be struggling, it's important to talk to them. Keep talking and trying to communicate in any way you can – hugging, listening to them, texting them, etc.



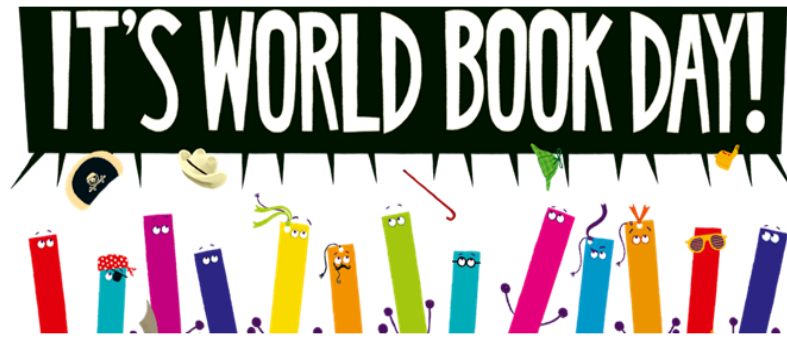
8



Expressing feelings doesn't have to be face-to-face

Children might find it easier writing their thoughts down, so the whole family could do this and put them in a 'feelings box' and then talk about their good, sad or difficult feelings at the end of the day.





Next week, on Thursday 4th March, it is World Book Day. Normally, we would celebrate the day with a range of book activities and dressing up as book characters. This year we have decided to save the dressing up day for when all the children are back in school!

But...we still want to celebrate our love of reading! I have created a mini challenge for you all to launch the week: <https://youtu.be/gmimkG3-fTY>

On Thursday 4th March, we are encouraging a 'Screen Free' world book day - have fun with books instead! We have created a grid of wonderful activities for you to do with your children on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th March. We hope you all have a wonderful time celebrating the special day and we look forward to hearing about your activities. Please see below for two competitions with opportunities for prizes for yourself and the school.

Miss Weston

- Design a national book token: [click here](#)
- Show your shares: [click here](#)
- Click to register for your online book token: [click here](#)



This term our focus for the school character is Ivy.

Ivy was fed up with being at the bottom. She wanted to see more. She worked hard to grow over the obstacles in her way. When she reached the top she could see the whole wood.

Ivy often says....

- ♦ challenge yourself!
- ♦ keep trying! Stretch and reach for your goals!
- ♦ how are you going to challenge yourself today?
- ♦ keep trying, can you do even better?
- ♦ keep trying; reach the next branch like me.

What things can you do at home to be like Ivy?

Could you....?

- ♦ read more books
- ♦ try new food
- ♦ make your bed everyday without being reminded
- ♦ create a new family tradition
- ♦ give your family a new challenge



BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish a very happy Birthday to:

Ollie R in Elm
Beau in Elm
Emily in Willow



Please let us know if you have a **POSITIVE** COVID-19 case in your family.

admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk

If you have any feedback about our newsletter please email admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk

TERM DATES 2021

End of term: 31 March 2021 (1:30pm)

Inset Day: 1 April 2021

Summer term starts: 19 April 2021

Bank holiday: 3 May 2021

Half term: 31 May - 4 June 2021

End of term: 20 July 2021 (1:30pm)

Inset Day: 21 July 2021

TERM DATES 2021/2022

Inset Day: 1 September 2021

Start of Term: 2 September 2021

Inset Day: 22 October 2021

Half Term: 25 – 29 October 2021

End of term: 17 December 2021 (1:30pm)