



# Oaklands Infant School



Headteacher Mrs Hannah O'Neill BA QTS

Butler Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6QZ

Telephone: 01344 774644

e-mail: [admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk) [www.oaklandsinfants.org](http://www.oaklandsinfants.org)

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Dear Foundation Stage parents/carers

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

I wanted to write to you with an update on our school's situation as regards a possible re-opening after half term. We will not formally know that we are definitely opening until 28 May – the unions are following up questions that still remain unanswered by the Government regarding safety of staff and pupils and this is my main concern as Headteacher. However, as a school, we are making plans to re-open and can confirm the following:

- Due to staff constraints, Foundation Stage will be the only year group returning to school (in addition to our key worker/vulnerable children)
- School will be re-opening Foundation Stage children on **Thursday 4 June** – this is to allow us to be completely confident we have our risk assessment, safe distancing measures including access arrangements, staff training and classroom learning all in place.
- After the first week (therefore from Monday 8 June) school will be open to Foundation Stage pupils on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be used for cleaning and for our staff to have some time to prepare for the following week's teaching.

We have spent an enormous amount of time and effort ever since the announcement sorting out logistics and planning. We will have 67% of Foundation Stage children returning to school on 4 June.

We now wanted to share our specific plans with you for the logistics of re-opening. Please find below the main arrangements:

## What to bring or wear:

- Uniform to be worn, but with trainers.
- Named water bottle and named lunch box if you are sending your child in with a packed lunch from home (NB. Our no nut policy still applies). Cucina will only be providing sandwich options for a school lunch (please see menu attached) and these can be ordered on the day as normal.
- Cups will not be provided, so please supply one for your child if they need it.
- A piece of fruit or bag of raisins for mid-morning snack as the fruit company is not supplying fruit again yet.

## What **not** to bring or wear:

- Child's book bag on MONDAY ONLY – the books inside will be changed for new ones on that day only. (**Please do not bring book bags until Monday 8 June**).
- NO PE KIT PLEASE.

## Access to site at drop off and pick up only:

- Access only through **Ellis Road gate**. (Junior siblings to make own way across site to the Junior school).
- Please note the 2m safe distancing signs and follow the arrows by keeping to the left up the ER pathway and into the school playground.

- **Please do not linger to socialise on site.**
- Exit again through ER gate, please follow arrows for exit and keep 2m distance from other adults/children.
- NO bikes or scooters on site.
- As much as is possible – no buggies on site, no siblings and only 1 parent to drop off and pick up.

Pick up and drop off times will be staggered as below. You will **only** be given access to site at those times. Please adhere to safe distances whilst waiting on Ellis Road, being mindful of other pedestrians trying to use the pavement at the same time – parents are **NOT PERMITTED** to gather at the school gates. Please do not arrive early for your slot. We are encouraging you to walk to school, but if you come by car, please wait in the car and not on the pavement:

	<b>Drop off</b>	<b>Pick up</b>
Key Worker and Vulnerable children	8.40-8.50am	3.15pm
Ash	8.50-9.05am	2.45-3.00pm
Willow	9.05-9.20am	3.00-3.15pm

### Safe Distancing

- There will be a member of staff at the Ellis Road gate to help guide you onto site. They may be wearing PPE. There will also be staff on the playground to help you.
- There are signs across site as a reminder to safe distance and keep 2m apart as much as possible. There is also a one-way system in place for entry and exit at the ER gate and to & fro from the playground. Please do follow this.
- There are **Xs** marked on the playground to enable to you to stand 2m apart from other parents and children – please encourage your children to stay with you on those markers. Please keep your child with you at all times and not allow them to run off or use the playground equipment.
- On the playground, a member of staff will call your child's name from their register. You will need to release your child to this member of staff at this point. We would ask you to encourage your child to go across to them. As I hope you will understand, we cannot allow any staff/parent contact due to safe distancing. If your child refuses to go across to them or gets very upset, we may ask you to take your child home. I cannot compromise your safety or the safety of my staff by undermining the safe distancing measures and I cannot make an exception for your child.
- We ask you to support our safe distancing, by leaving the playground immediately once your child has gone to their member of staff.
- There will also be no access for parents to the classroom or the school building, which includes the school office. If you have a query or a message for any member of staff, please could we ask you to email [admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oaklands-inf.wokingham.sch.uk) or phone the school on 01344 774644. If we need to make you aware of anything we will contact you via email or phone.
- *Other safety measures* – there will be no assemblies or any other gathering outside of your child's bubble. We will limit movement around the school as much as possible.
- To reduce transmission, the children will only use the toilets in their classroom and the numbers of children in the toilet areas will be restricted.

### Learning

- Each class will be split into 2 groups (bubbles) and the children will stay in their bubbles all day – for learning in classroom, playtime and lunchtime. They will eat in their classroom. They will also only be allowed to play in their allocated zone. All these measures will be in place to avoid any mixing of bubbles, which is the Government guidance.

- Playtime and lunchtime will be staggered to avoid mixing of the bubbles.
- Your child will be taught by one member of staff on a Monday and Tuesday and a second member of staff on Thursday and Friday. I cannot guarantee there won't be any changes to this, but as long as everyone stays well on the staffing team, this rota will remain in place.
- The classroom will be setup with tables 2m apart as much as possible. Your child will have access to resources to use and these will not be widely shared.
- We will, of course, be talking to the children about social distancing, explaining to them about their group and measures in place to keep them safe within that group.
- Learning will be taking place but teaching methods may be modified to keep a safe distance. Safe distance may not be possible at certain times if a child needs more guidance. There may be more teaching outside and less movement around the classroom.
- In school, we will be covering some aspects of the Home Learning.

#### Protective Measures:

- The children will wash their hands on entering and exiting the classroom, before and after eating, after toileting, after sneezing and coughing and at other times of the day as necessary. The children and staff will have access to soap and water, hand sanitisers and paper towels.
- We will be explicitly teaching the children and supervising health and hygiene arrangements during the day eg. handwashing, tissue disposal and toilet flushing.
- I have decided to allow the children to use the Play Unit and other playground equipment on a rota basis (1 bubble per day). The children will wash their hands before and after using the equipment.
- As far as toileting is concerned, we can assure you staff will still help with any accidents which may occur –they may wear full PPE (gloves, disposable aprons and masks) for this. This also applies to any other accidents eg. injuries
- **School Infection Control:** Please do not bring your child to school if they show any signs of illness. If your child presents with any symptoms of illness whilst in school, we will call and ask you to pick up immediately. You therefore need to ensure there is an adult available locally. The child will be taken to an area where they can be isolated (probably the new entrance area) and cared for by a member of staff who may be wearing PPE. We will ask you to pick up from the new Main Entrance.
- As regards washing uniform etc at the end of the day, we would just ask you to follow your normal regime for washing uniform and your child's personal hygiene.

#### Site cleaning

- After school each day, thorough cleaning will be carried out. Particular attention will be made to tables and chairs used, door handles, taps and toilet flushes. All bins will have covers and will be emptied, double bagged and disposed of at the end of every day.

#### What we need from you:

- Talk to your child about how it might be returning to school and how the environment might be different for them. They may be in a different classroom with an adult they are not so familiar with. The tables will be further apart, so they may be asked to work a bit differently and there may be fewer resources and equipment for them to use.
- We cannot encourage you enough to support the idea of safe distancing and what that means in school. Please encourage them to go across to their member of staff independently and to come back to you independently at the end of the day.
- Please talk to them about the possibility of staff wearing masks – you could use the language “All the staff at the Infants are all now superheroes and might be wearing masks to keep you safe. It is still ‘Mrs Cooke...Miss Goodenough... behind the mask, they are still the same”. We have attached a photo of some of the staff to help you. Can you guess who they are?! Seeing

- us in masks may be a bit frightening for your child and this is completely understandable. If you need any guidance from the school, please do ask.
- We will ask your child to be responsible for hanging up their coat and putting their own sunhat etc, water bottle and lunch box (if you send them in with their own packed lunch from home) in the appropriate place in the classroom.

We are grateful for all your support to help us make the school a safe place for all of us. We are very much looking forward to the return of Foundation Stage on Thursday 4 June and we have been working very hard to ensure we have everything in place to be ready to open safely. To re-iterate, we will only open on that date if it is safe to do so and supported by Government guidance.

Yours sincerely

*Hannah O'Neill*

Hannah O'Neill  
Headteacher