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OAKFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL
& NURSERY UNIT

www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com

Thursday 26 August 2021

Welcome back to all

I hope that you and your extended family have had a lovely Summer break and that everyone is looking forward to either starting their journey or returning to continue their journey at Oakfield PS & NU. I, along with the entire staff team, am really looking forward to welcoming children back into school next week.

Summer Scheme Success

Around 100 of our pupils participated in our Summer Scheme in July this year. The Summer Scheme was a huge success. Its main aim was to focus on children's mental health and well-being with an emphasis for the preparedness for each child's return in September 2021. There was daily specialist football coaching from Daniel Lafferty (IFA), complemented with other sessions focusing on the arts with a selection of music, art and drama. Finally and importantly, there were specific mental health and well-being activities based on the Fresh Little Minds programme. Thank-you to all the staff involved with the provision of the programme and to parents for completing the on-line evaluation.

Updated guidance on Covid measures in school

At Oakfield PS & NU, we have reviewed the updated guidance provided by the Department of Education and will initially continue largely with our previously agreed procedures. However, there are a number of pertinent changes from previous guidance regarding procedures should a child or adult display Covid symptoms in school, (changes in bold). Symptoms as listed by the Public Health Agency (PHA).

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
 - A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
 - A loss of or change in sense of smell or taste
1. **If anyone becomes unwell with Covid symptoms in school, they must be isolated and sent home immediately, alongside any family members also in school. The child/adult will go for a PCR test ASAP. Tests can be booked at : <http://covid-19.hscni.net/testing/>**
 2. **The children in that group will continue to attend school in their 'consistent grouping' until the outcome of the individual's test result is known.**
 3. **Where the individual tests negative, they can return to their class and end their self-isolation 48 hours after their symptoms have gone.**
 4. **Where the individual tests positive, the rest of the class will be sent home, after guidance from PHA. In a change to previous guidance, individuals identified as a close contact do not need to isolate for 10 days if they receive a negative result. All close contacts of a case will isolate until they go for a PCR test and may return to school if a negative result is achieved. They will undertake a second PCR test on day 8 since coming into contact with a positive case. So, if your child is identified as a close contact, you have the option to isolate until the negative test result comes back, or isolate for 10 days.**

General procedures being implemented to keep everyone safe

5. Pupils will continue to be taught in 'consistent groupings' (bubbles by another name).
6. Any pupil who exhibits symptoms associated with COVID-19 should not attend school.
7. If any child is absent from school for any reason, the school will need to be informed of the reason for their absence before they can be readmitted to school. *Ideally this should be on the morning of the first day of absence.*
8. No parents/guardians will be permitted inside our school building at this time.
9. **Parents/Guardians should wear face coverings while on our school premises.**
Parents/guardians leaving off and collecting children should remain socially distanced.
10. A drop-off container will again be placed outside our main entrance, for exchange of any necessary documentation, but we hope that most information will be exchanged electronically.

Starting and finishing times for classes

Our Nursery Unit classes have separate Induction arrangements for September 2021. Please note that our new school year begins on **Tuesday 31 August 2021** as a half day, with all pupils finishing on a staggered basis.

P1 – 12 Noon P2 – 11.45am P3 & P4 – 11.50am P5 – 11.55am P6 & P7 12 Noon

Classes will resume normally at times below from **Wednesday 1 September 2021**.

Class	Starting time	Finishing time
P1	9am	12 Noon
P2	9.05am	1.55pm
P3	9am	1.50pm
P4	9am	2.50pm (Mon , Wed & Fri) 1.50pm (Tues & Thurs)
P5	8.55am	2.55pm
P6 & P7	8.50am	2.50pm

Car parking & children's safety

I wish to politely remind everyone that our school car park is not to be used for the purposes of dropping off and/or collecting children. We continue to have the use of the Oakfield Community Centre car park for this, and we have a safe footpath that links this car park to the school playgrounds.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will be available for all P2-7 primary pupils from **Wednesday 1 September 2021**. Miss Davis will run our breakfast club alongside catering staff. Children attending breakfast club will be allocated a table associated with their class only. Breakfast club will run from **8am – 8.45am** at a cost of **£2** per day, advanced booking is currently no longer required.

Seesaw App 2020/21

All teaching staff have set up their new Seesaw class accounts and we will be using both the Seesaw class App and Seesaw family App this year. Your child/children will receive their new QR codes to access Seesaw next week. We ask you to download both Seesaw apps so that you can receive assigned homework, class-related posts/reminders, photographs and valuable school information. We plan to continue to use Seesaw as a predominant form of electronic communication during this year. Please note that on **Friday 3 September 2021**, all Seesaw accounts from last year will be archived and therefore you will be unable to access these after this date. We recommend that if a parent wishes to save photos/posts that they do so before this date.

School Uniform – September 2021

From September 2021 we will be returning to our full school uniform. Our school uniform consists of: green Oakfield V-neck sweatshirt; white long-sleeve shirt (P3-P7); green & white striped school tie - elastic or normal version (P3-P7); white polo shirt or shirt & tie if preferred (P1+P2) and black school shoes.

GIRLS: Fully pleated mid-grey skirt, white knee length socks or mid-grey tights & optional Summer dresses in term 3. BOYS: Mid-grey trousers, grey or black socks.

School Information Forms

The annual school information forms have been emailed today, **Thursday 26 August 2021**, to parental email addresses. Please complete and reply (mcraig913@c2kni.net) as soon as possible as it is essential that we have current contact details and permissions. If you are experiencing difficulty with this email or have not received it, please contact Mrs Craig on 02893351352.

G. McCluskey