Oxenhope Church of England Primary School

A member of the bdat family

3.11.20

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your loved ones are all safe and well. Back in March, I never thought I would still be writing to you and talking about lockdown. This year has been a challenging one for everyone and once again, I would like to thank you all for your patience and resilience during our re-opening.

Although I am sure some of you are cautious about sending your children to school as the R number rises, please be confident in our cleaning routines and procedures. I truly believe that a strong routine is what is best for the children to help them feel safe and secure. Of course, it would be naïve of me to tell you that Oxenhope won't be hit by bubble closures and I think families need to prepare for this. Please ensure that your childcare arrangements are in place and you have spoken to your employers about what will happen should your child have to isolate. I am a firm believer in being prepared.

This half term we will be instilling joy into children and supporting them through another national lockdown with extra support for mental health and wellbeing. We will be taking part in the usual festivities that this time of year brings however, we might have to do things slightly differently. I promise your children will not miss out. We are focusing on enjoying time together, sharing experiences, happiness and building empathy. Although we will be talking to the children about new regulations and guidance, we are trying to ensure that we fill them with talk other than COVID.

Below are some items to read and answers to some commonly asked questions.

Please stay safe and look after each other.

Alice Jones

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Some lovely news!

I am delighted to be able to share with you that Miss Hargreaves (Year 3 teacher) is pregnant! She is due in April and expecting a boy! We wish her and her partner Jordan the best of luck throughout the pregnancy and beyond!

We will be advertising for her maternity cover soon and I will let all year 3 parents know as soon as appointment has been made. We will ensure there is clear transition between Miss Hargreaves and her replacement. I will also ensure the children have a clear voice in the recruitment.

Dropping off and picking up arrangements

I am aware that as we enter winter, the prospect of waiting with your child in the playground after a sibling has gone into school is not attractive. Therefore, I am spending some time this week re-organising drop off and pick up arrangements. Thank you to parents who have given me some great ideas about what to do and I will be taking these into consideration. Hopefully our new arrangements will mean that you and your children won't be cold and wet before school starts!

Nativities and Christmas events

Traditionally at Oxenhope, reception, year 1 and year 2 perform the nativity for parents. This year we won't be able to do this however, we are still going to do the nativities in class and we are looking into recording these for parents. We will need to seek permission from parents/carers for this so please watch out for information coming out to you in the next few days.

We have managed to secure a special Christmas visitor from the North Pole for the last day! He will be making a socially distanced visit to each bubble to give gifts.

Christmas dinner day will be 15th December – more information to follow.

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Christmas jumper day for Oxenhope will be 18th December – more information to follow.

Each bubble will be having a Christmas party on the last day, 18th December.

We will be doing Christmas themed activities throughout this half term and we will keep you posted about these as and when.

Christmas cards. We are discussing with Friends about creating Christmas cards again this year and we will inform you when a decision has been made.

School photographs

We will be having individual class photos taken on 14th January 2021.

Flu immunisation

If you have requested a flu immunisation for your child, these will be taking place on 14th December.

Uniform grab

We will be putting out donated and lost (unnamed) for you to take. Feel free to leave a small donation but only if you can afford to. We will be setting up the uniform grab stand on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week in the school playground at the start of the day – please ensure social distancing while looking.

PLEASE make sure your child's uniform is named as we will always return lost property with names inside. We ask the children if things belong to them but they don't always know so it's much easier when it's named. There will be no named items in the uniform grab unless they have been donated.

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Class newsletters

These will be coming out on Monday 9th November and will detail what your children will be learning about and how you can help at home.

Parents evening

Please keep an eye out for more information about booking your telephone parents evening appointment coming out next week. We will be running the appointments the week beginning 30th November – more information to follow.

Outdoor learning and PE

Your child's PE and outdoor learning day will remain the same over this half term. Your child's class newsletter will explain if they are doing outdoor or indoor PE and what kit they will need to wear – all kit must be named. For outdoor learning, your children MUST have wellies and a warm coat – please dress for the Oxenhope weather. We won't cancel unless the weather is dangerous such as black ice or bad storms.

Water bottles and snacks

Please ensure that water bottles are named as finding who bottles belong to takes up a lot of unnecessary time. These bottles should contain only water NOT juice.

Your child may bring a snack in for break time (reception, year 1 and year 2 have a healthy snack provided). This snack must be a healthy option, not chocolate or crisps. Cereal bars are allowed but please try choose the less sugary option.

Key dates

There will be a list of key dates coming out next Monday attached to your child's class newsletter.

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Diversity week

During this half term, your child will learn about diversity. Look out for photos on the website and Facebook with information about what each class has done!

Remembrance Day

From Wednesday, we will be selling poppies and other merchandise for a donation. Your children can bring money to school but please put this in a named envelope for your child to give to the class teacher. We will be taking part in a two minutes silence and Mrs Brown will be leading a virtual assembly.

Children in Need

We will be celebrating Children in Need day on Friday 13th November. More information to follow.

Dress down Day Money Raised

Thank you to everyone who made a contribution for our dress down day on Friday 23rd October. We raised a total of £140.00. This will be shared between school and our chosen charity; Manorlands. Thank you.

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