



## March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back, again!

I sometimes feel a sense of déjà vu in education as some things are cyclical and happen every year. Sadly, my sense of déjà vu this time is that we are getting ready to welcome everybody back, again, for the fourth time. No wonder we are so good at doing it!

I have felt as though we have been more connected with everyone this time around because of the amount of remote learning content we have created and the other initiatives that staff have led, such as Feelgood February and the art of PE challenges. I have no doubt that you have all faced your own challenges since the start of the school year. Keeping your children on task whilst many of you are also working from home has no doubt tested you, perhaps to your limits, and I hope that you will be looking forward to the children coming back to school.

I didn't want to race into writing a letter last week after the Prime Minister's announcement because we are in less of a rush this time and I wanted to send you one, definitive letter with everything you need to know. I have a feeling that this will be quite a long letter as there are quite a few things to cover. Most of the letter is a repeat of things that we have told you before as we want to remind you of what we were doing before the latest lockdown.

Despite everything, including a higher number of cases in our school community, we were very pleased that the phased return of everyone last September was a success. Careful planning and a detailed Risk Assessment ensured that everything went smoothly and we will update our Risk Assessment before the end of this week. You will be able to find it on our school website.

What we have learnt from the previous lockdowns and returns has informed what we will do from next Monday and once again we are confident that we can make it work. Despite some of the arrangements being a little inconvenient for you and for staff, we made them work because our shared priority is, and always will be, the safety of the children and staff. Once again, we need all members of our school community to pull together as one so that we can make the rest of this academic year a success.

We will welcome the children back with open arms next week. Although we can't give them a physical hug, they will know that we have missed them and that we are glad we are all back together. We won't fill their heads with talk of being behind, of catching up, of lost learning and the perceived long term impact of lockdown. They don't need that and neither do we. What we will do, is to remind them that the PRIDE Code is still alive and kicking and that we will be Polite, show Respect, be Independent, Do our best and, most importantly, that Everybody matters.

Yours sincerely

Simon Eardley  
Headteacher



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### Preparing the Children

The first few weeks may be very tiring for everyone, so please help by ensuring your child eats, drinks and sleeps well during this week and in the first few weeks. Establishing more school-like routines may support your child's return.

### The Return of Different Year Groups

All year groups return on **Monday 8 March**. There is NOT a staggered start back.

### Timings, Entrances and Exits

These are exactly the same as before.

Year Group	Allowed onto school site between	Registers are Called (Your child will get a late mark if they are not in school at this time.)	Entry/Exit	Parents allowed onto site	Children will be let out of the classroom between
FS	8.45 – 8.50	8.50	Through their bifold doors	3.00	3.00 - 3.05 *
Year 1	8.35 – 8.40	8.40	Elephants - Y1 cloakroom Iguanas -Door onto the playground	3.10	3.10 - 3.15 *
Year 2	8.35 - 8.40	8.40	Y2 Cloakroom	3.10	3.10 - 3.15 *
Year 3 & 4	8.40 – 8.45	8.45	Bifold doors	3.15	3.15 - 3.20 ❖
Year 5 & 6	8.45 – 8.50	8.50		3.20	3.20 – 3.25 ❖

\* We will hand the children over when we see the adult that is collecting them

❖ We will hand the children over when we see the adult that is collecting them where we have been told that an adult is collecting them. Other children leave on their own, either to meet an adult outside the school gate or to make their own way home.

### Arriving at School

- The reason we introduced the staggered starts and ends to the day is so that we could reduce the number of people on site and waiting outside the school gates.
- Sadly, this has not always worked as adults and children have arrived too early and then stand around outside of school. We have also noticed that the grass verge was getting very muddy because of the sheer number of people that arrived early.
- Please try to plan your journey to school so that you arrive just in time, not too early and not too late. This is especially important if you let your child come to school on their own. If they arrive too early they are likely to start playing with their friends outside the school gate and won't be worrying about social distancing.
- Only one adult or older sibling allowed on site at a time. We request that you wear a face mask on the school site
- As before, please keep 2m away from the building. This worked very well before. Thank you.



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### School Office

- Access to the School office – **we kindly ask if contact can be directed via phone or email as much as is practically possible.** The Office Staff will be available via the Entrance Area however this will remain closed and provide a screen for the staff. In an emergency please do feel able to come to the School office – social distancing will apply. We will be very pleased to arrange a call back or follow up from the relevant member of staff. Face to face meetings will need COVID-19 safe considerations, however again this can be planned for.
- If you need to speak to the office staff during your time on site, please adhere to the notices in the Reception area and wear a mask.
- This worked very well before. Thank you.

### Transport

- Sadly, even a global pandemic cannot make everyone follow what are simple expectations regarding parking.
- If you live locally, you will know that a vaccination centre has been opened at Napier Place. This is fantastic news and gives us a sense that we can get back to normal sometime soon. However, the parking outside school has been horrendous. We have seen people park on the grass verge, in the entrance way to our carpark, make u turns in the entrance way and some people were even bold enough to park in our carpark! I have heard that it has been so bad that the parking enforcement officers have had to issue tickets.
- As you know, parking outside school is the bane of my life and I am concerned that it is going to be horrendous when everyone returns to school. Time I spend dealing with complaints about parking is time away from my job.
- All too often I feel that my message about parking responsibly falls on deaf ears where some parents are concerned and that they will do what suits them. Perhaps this will be the time that that changes. As the days are now lighter and the weather is picking up, please walk or cycle to school whenever possible. Fingers crossed.

### Bubbles

- The children will work in class bubbles for the majority of the time and in year group/Unit bubbles when this is not possible, such as during playtimes. We will encourage the children to socially distance from each other though young children find this especially difficult and compliance cannot be wholly expected.

### Illness, Isolation, Testing and Notification

- We continue to promote the Test and Trace system.
- If your child becomes unwell in school, we will need you to collect him/her ASAP.
- If you need to contact us out of school hours to report a COVID case, please email us at covid@owps.org.uk



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### Local Lockdown/Class or Year Group Isolation

- If in the future there is a local lockdown or if a class or year group need to isolate (with advice from PHE), we will revert to the daily home learning tasks that have worked so well this term. There is also a wealth of materials in the Digital Village section of the school website  
<https://www.owps.org.uk/page/?title=Digital+Village&pid=197>

### Suspected COVID19 case

- In the event of a suspected case of Corona Virus within a Year Bubble i.e. symptoms displayed by a pupil or Staff member (with the appropriate GDPR permissions for anonymity), the Bubble will be informed to follow the COVID-19 guidelines.

### Break Times/Lunch Sittings

- Break times and lunch sittings will be the same as last term in order to keep year groups apart from each other. These are our plans:
- Classes will still get an hour for their lunch break, but as a school, we will have a two hour 'window' to feed everyone.
- The Hall will be permanently set up as a dining room as we will avoid assemblies and indoor PE for the next month or so.
- The Hall will be divided into three zones of tables and chairs, each one big enough for a year group
- Each zone will be filled one at a time.
- When all children in that zone have finished their lunch, the zone will be cleaned before it is used by the next year group
- Each class will be brought down to the hall by their class teacher at the start of their lunch hour as we want to avoid the children going out to play, getting called in for their lunch and then going out again.
- When selecting food, the children will stand away from the hotplates and the kitchen staff will plate up what they have chosen. The child will receive their plate/bowl /tray at the end of the kitchen counter.

Please encourage your child to have a school lunch, as this will make it far easier for both the staff and children.

### Packed Lunches

- If your child brings a packed lunch to school, they will enter the dining room with their bubble and sit at one of the designated tables, where they will have their lunch.
- They will keep any rubbish, uneaten food in their packed lunch box and bring it home with them. This will also help their parents see what they have eaten.
- Packed lunch boxes should be clearly labelled with the child's name and the name of their class.



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### Belongings

- The children will continue to have personal toolkits, containing stationery and useful resources/tools. Pencil cases are not needed, though a named glue stick and sanitiser (75% + alcohol) will be invaluable if you are able to provide these.
- Children must not bring large bags to school as they will not fit in the cloakrooms/lockers.
- Water bottles must be filled at home before coming to school.
- Water bottles should be named.
- Please help us to limit the exchange of things going between school and home and vice versa.

### Curriculum

- Our recovery curriculum will continue to be both broad and balanced and will also enable timetabled space for discussion, establishing routines and building relationships. The teachers have continued to plan exciting and purposeful opportunities during the summer, and we are looking at how we can make what is taught even more memorable.

### Homework

- There will be three weeks remaining of this half term when the children return on Monday 8 March. We have decided that **we will not** set homework during this time, whilst the children get used to a 'normal' school day.
- There are plenty of materials and links on the school website if you or your child is missing homework.
- We do expect children to read to or with an adult five times a week and will continue to monitor this.
- When we do restart homework after Easter, this is what you can expect:

#### FS

- We will use Tapestry where we feel parents and children would benefit from a video clip to introduce new concepts. This could be to reinforce correct enunciation of phonemes as part of phonics, or to show ideas to help with fine motor skills as a prerequisite to handwriting.

#### KS1

- Following the success of using ClassDojo for home learning, the KS1 team have decided to continue using this platform for homework activities. Each week, children will be set a piece of English and a piece of Maths work to complete and submit on ClassDojo. Work will be set on a Friday, to be completed and handed in by a Wednesday morning.

#### KS2

- No change. KS2 will continue to use Google Classroom to set homework.

### Welfare

- This remains a challenge for some. If you need to share information about your child or a family matter, please contact the office and speak to our Learning Mentor, Mrs Johnson or to the class teacher and we will try to help. Please contact the office ([office@owps.org.uk](mailto:office@owps.org.uk))



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### PSHE & Wellbeing

- We understand that every family has had very different experiences during lockdown, and that the weather and home-learning, as well as the challenges and effects of the pandemic, have made this lockdown feel harder.
- As a school, we have really appreciated all the support you have shown to us, and all the efforts that have been given to support the children at home. With schools re-opening to all children, we know that there will be lots of mixed feelings, and that you might have some worries about your child returning and settling back into school.
- One of our many strengths as a school is our consistent approach to PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education). We have a wealth of resources, including lessons, assemblies and pastoral approaches which will be using to ensure your child's return to school will be safe, nurturing and welcoming. We will continue to promote and teach children how to look after their physical and mental wellbeing, and develop resilience to manage difficult situations. If you have any specific concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher

### Face Masks

- One of the few changes to the Government advice for primary schools is that staff are recommended to wear masks in communal areas, when they will be around other adults. This table sets out the changes:

We are strengthening the use of face covering across all sectors, as per the diagram below. In all circumstances the use of face coverings would only be recommended where a 2m social distance could not be maintained. These policies will be reviewed at Easter to consider their continuation into the Spring Term.

Sectors	Cohort	Current Guidance		New Guidance		Comments
		Classrooms	Communal Areas	Classrooms	Communal areas	
Early Years & Primary	Staff & Visitors	✗	👉	👉	✔	From 8 March, face coverings required by adults in communal areas, unless 2m social distancing can be maintained.
	Children	✗	✗	✗	✗	

Symbol	Meaning
	Classroom, teaching spaces, lecture theatres - not including during physical activity
	Communal areas including corridors and staff rooms
	Face coverings are recommended
	Face coverings are not recommended
	Use of face coverings at the discretion of headteacher, setting leader or provider as appropriate. *Face coverings should only be considered where social distancing cannot be maintained between <b>staff/adults</b> , not between adults and children.

### Clubs

- We have always been proud of the number and variety of clubs we offer at OWPS. Sadly, we have not been able to run clubs so far this year but our hope is that we will be able to offer some in the Summer term. As well as staff running clubs at school we are currently looking into making some sporting clubs run by an outside company available to some year groups in school. We will send home more details about clubs in the coming weeks.



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**Uniform**

- Children must wear full school uniform unless it is a PE day. Your child will be told when their PE day/s are, and a full school PE kit should be worn.
- We know that it may have been difficult for you to get your child new shoes or uniform if they have outgrown what they were wearing last term. We have decided to take a **more relaxed** view of uniform and will allow trainers until you can get to the shops or for the remainder of the school year if it does not make sense to buy new school shoes. We hope that children and parents will not interpret this relaxed view as a chance to have a non- uniform day.
- We will return to our stricter uniform expectations in September.

**PE KIT**

- PE kits must not be sent to school.
- At the start of the academic year we made a big change to way in which we approach PE in the school. Since doing so the benefits intended have been evident throughout the key stages. We will be continuing to approach PE in this way. Here is a reminder of the expectations:
- To reduce the number of items having to come into school, we have allowed children to wear their PE kit in school on the days their bubble has had PE on the timetable.
- As your child will be in PE kit all day, they must wear the correct kit. Therefore, we have outlined the appropriate clothes they may wear:

What should my child wear?	What are they not allowed to wear?
Plain White t-shirt	Other colours and t-shirts with logos, images, messages
Plain black or dark blue shorts	Other colours, cycling shorts
Plain black or dark blue tracksuit top or sweatshirt without a hood	Other colours, tops with logos, images, messages
Plain black or dark blue tracksuit bottoms	Other colours, tracksuit bottoms with logos, images, messages, leggings
Plain black, dark blue or white socks	Other colours
Velcro shoes (Particularly applicable to KS1)	KS1 should not be wearing laced shoes

**PE Kit – Years FS – 6**

- Your child will only be allowed to wear their PE kit in school if it matches our PE uniform. If this is not possible they will have to wear their school uniform and get changed for PE (As they have traditionally done).
- You will find the PE days for your child's year group below, all classes will be back to doing two PE lessons a week.





	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
FS					✓
1		✓			✓
2		✓		✓	
3			✓		✓
4		✓		✓	
5	✓				✓
6	✓		✓		

Having the full, correct PE kit is both a key part of the PE curriculum and is also part of school uniform. Please check that your child arrives in school on your PE day in the correct kit below:

- o t-shirt (plain white or school house t-shirt)
- o shorts (dark blue or black)
- o socks (dark)
- o trainers (KS1 should not be wearing laced trainers)
- o tracksuit top without hood (any colour but preferably dark) for sport in colder weather and walking to events.
- o tracksuit bottoms.
- o Long hair should always be tied back and earrings removed or taped up.

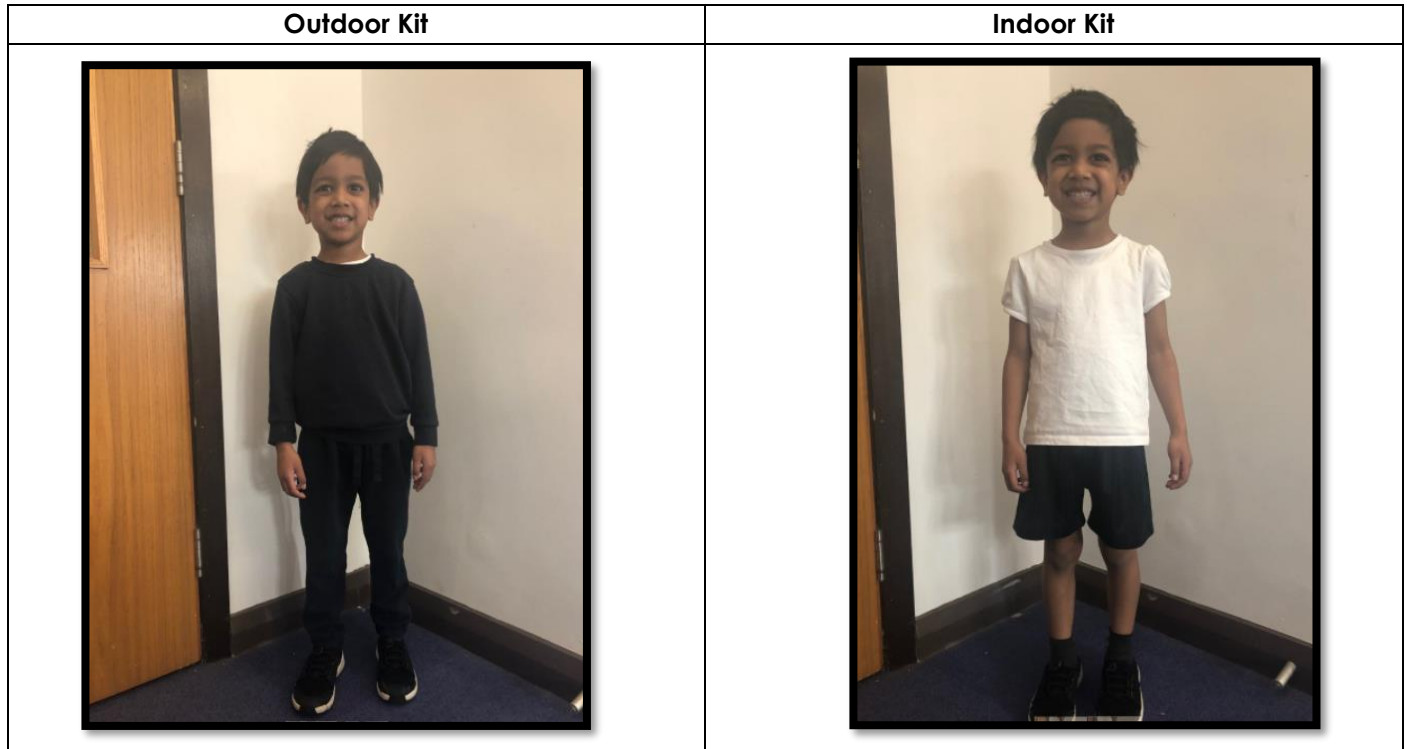






Below is an example of the expectations in school...

What a good one looks like!



**Additionally**

- Enhanced cleaning remains in place during the school day
- Assemblies, unless outside, cannot take place in the traditional format without the necessary space and we will continue to record our assemblies for children to watch in class.
- Payments for things like lunches need to be made in advance and must be done electronically. The office cannot accept cash. Contact us if this is a problem, office@owps.org.uk.

We appreciate that this is quite a lot to read and digest. However, as most of it is the same as last term, we hope that the letter has been a reminder.

We look forward to seeing you next Monday.

