

# Ox Close Primary School Newsletter



Dedicated to Excellence

March 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 Volume 23

## Full re-opening

We are really looking forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday as part of the Government's move to fully re-open all Primary Schools. It should be a return to arrangements which were similar to those we had before Christmas, when school ran smoothly. We will still have to maintain the integrity of bubbles and we will still have to restrict access to the site. Restrictions are likely to remain in place for some time and these are necessary in order to try to minimise the risk of the spread of the virus on site as there is nothing that we can do to control it in the community! I have updated all of our Risk Assessments this week and these are available to view on our website, thanks to Miss Bowden. I know that Miss Bowden is also attaching the arrangements for next week to this letter.

## Thank you everyone

We fully appreciate that the past year has been very challenging for everyone. It has been so hard from a school point of view but also has been incredibly challenging for parents. I honestly believe that school and home have worked brilliantly together and strengthened these bonds. Ultimately, our shared interest is the welfare of the children and I would like to pay tribute to the children for their hard work, the parents for their support through difficult times and our amazing staff for being brave, taking on new challenges and continuing to do the utmost for the children. I believe that we have been successful together and will have succeeded in minimising the amount of lost learning. We will reflect upon the period and ask for feedback so that we are ready for any future lockdown but I am sure that you will all share with me in hoping that this is the last time that we experience lockdown during the pandemic. Thank you everyone!

## Well-being support

The pandemic has brought the issue of Mental Health to the fore and it is great that it is becoming more widely spoken about, with stories in the news every day. There is no doubt that many children and adults across the country will have suffered with anxiety as a result of the pandemic and it is something which we have been keeping a close eye on since September. Miss Bewick, our PSA, has counselling qualifications and is available to speak to, in confidence, if either you or your child need support or advice in this area. She also has a background in working for Families First so has a good knowledge of available support services. I know that she has arranged some support for families already and is very keen to help others.

Miss Bewick would also like me to share her email address with you so that you can contact her directly: [r.bewick300@oxclosespennymoor.uk](mailto:r.bewick300@oxclosespennymoor.uk). Please feel free to get in touch with her about this or any other matters which she would normally assist.

In addition, I have made arrangements with a company who will provide well-being services to staff from April 1<sup>st</sup>. They will also meet with our Children's Champion and Y5 and Y6 CLT members to discuss and develop a pupil well-being service late this month and present to our Governors in June.

## School Meals Ordered on Parent Pay

Meals can now be pre-ordered for 8<sup>th</sup> March up to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 on Parent Pay. Taylor Shaw have decided to continue with the same menu which will run up to the end of May.

## Collection and Drop Off

We respectfully ask that only one parent accompanies the children to and collects the children from school. In addition, in the interests of minimising the risk of the spread of the virus, we ask that parents do not arrive early at school and that they leave as soon as they collect the children. While schools do not have jurisdiction over parents off site, the advice from Durham County Council is that parents may choose to wear a face covering or mask if they feel as though it is difficult to maintain social distancing at the school gate. **We do require visitors to the office to wear a mask at this time, just as they would be asked to wear one in a shop or garage.** Thank you for your continued co-operation and for working with us to slow the spread of the virus, something which is especially important at this point in time.

## **Lateral Flow Tests**

The Government has announced that parents and carers can order lateral flow tests to use at home for Primary school age pupils. Please note that this is not compulsory and that Primary Schools are not involved in the distribution of these tests. However, it is important that we share with you all as it is another way to try and keep the children safe and reduce community transmission. Staff in school are already using these twice a week and will continue to do so. The tests are easy enough to do when you get used to them and offer some extra reassurance. These tests are the same ones which have been used in secondary schools. Please click on the link for further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

## **COVID-19**

If you or anyone in your family are displaying COVID-19 symptoms then the following link is useful in order for you to be able to book a test: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Alternatively, you can also call 119. Under these circumstances, please keep us informed if your child has been in school. It is also important that if anyone in your household, child or adult, displays symptoms or has a test all within the household self isolates. This means that, even if children are eligible to attend, all siblings who live with a child or adult who is displaying symptoms should not attend school until the end of the self-isolation period or after the affected person has had a negative test. Please check by calling the school office if you are unsure. In addition, if there is a positive Lateral Flow Test result, the procedure is to self-isolate and to book a COVID test in the same manner as previously. Full details are given in the link above. Thank you.

*A Bowden*

Miss A Bowden  
Head of School

*D Harrison*

Mr D Harrison  
Executive Headteacher