



& NURSERY UNIT

Newsletter

12th February 2021

Learning at home *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

As far as we are aware, the current situation of the 'National Lockdown' is not going to change in the next few days/weeks. The Government has indicated that further information will be shared after the school half term break regarding how and when lockdown restrictions will be lifted and when schools can open for all children. A possible date of 8th March has been mentioned by the Prime Minister but he has given no definite indication.

This means, the current system of some children accessing face to face learning and some engaging in home learning will continue after half term. We all recognise that this current situation is far from ideal and I understand the pressures on parents during this time. Many of us are parents too and we are experiencing the same pressures and anxieties.

I want to thank all of you for your support with home learning during these very difficult times. Our staff are working incredibly hard to ensure your child has access to high quality daily learning whether in school or at home. It is lovely to see some of the fantastic responses on Seesaw and I know our interactive Teams sessions, which are being rolled out, are very popular with both children and parents. If you have any feedback regarding home learning we would love to hear it and if you have any concerns regarding the learning set, any difficulties in accessing remote learning via Seesaw or you are struggling to engage your child, please contact school and we will do our best to continue to support you through this difficult time.

I know a number of parents have been in touch to say they are struggling with the current situation, particularly with the home learning, and would like their child to return to school. Please be assured, we want the same. We want our children back in school, learning and socialising with their peers but we have strict risk assessment guidelines to work to and unfortunately it is not possible for all children to be back. We all need to dig that little bit deeper, for a little bit longer and continue to support the national effort of beating the COVID 19 virus. Our shared priority needs to be keeping our children, staff and families safe.

COVID Update *Article 19 - Children have the right to be safe*

Please remember, we need to be extra careful at all times; we need to frequently wash our hands, especially if we leave/arrive home from the supermarket, shop, school, garage etc, we need to wear a face covering if we can't maintain a distance of 2m from other adults and we need to distance ourselves from others, giving others space.

COVID Symptoms & Half Term Reporting Arrangements *Article 24 - children have the right to the best possible health care*

Please remember to look out for the following symptoms which could indicate COVID-19:

- A new continuous cough (usually a dry cough and you will be coughing much more than usual)
- A high temperature
- A loss of taste and/or smell

Should you become aware that you have symptoms or that you or a member of your household has tested positive, it is important to alert school at the earliest opportunity. This is particularly important if your child has been accessing face to face education as we may need to contact other pupils and staff regarding isolation. Please email: oakleycross@durhamlearning.net or SLT@oakleycross.durham.sch.uk Thank you.

Free School Meal Vouchers *Article 24 - Children have the right to nutritious food*

If your child is in receipt of free school meals, you should have received your half term voucher for £20 this week. This is provided by Durham County Council and is Government funded. Following the half term break, we will continue to provide a weekly food box to all children who are eligible to receive free school meals. If you have not yet requested your box and you would like one, please let us know. Boxes are ordered weekly, by

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Thursday, and will be available to collect each Monday from school. If you have problems collecting your box, please let us know. Thank you.

Attendance *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Please inform us as soon as possible if your child is not going to be at school; it is important that we enter the correct reason on our school register. It is particularly important at this time that we are made aware of any Coronavirus symptoms our children or family members may have.

Nursery Places *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

Our nursery is proving to be very popular this year. We currently provide places for children who are 2 years old and eligible for play and learn sessions and for children who are 3 years old. We also offer 30 hours provision for eligible children. If you are interested in a place, or would like more information, please contact school and we will be happy to have a chat and provide you with an application form. Alternatively you can find out more information about our Nursery on our school website. If you are considering us for your child's nursery provision we can add you to our waiting list.

Uniform *Article 15 - every child has the right to join groups*

During times of poor weather, it is appropriate for the children to wear wellies to keep their feet dry, but, could you please send along a pair of indoor shoes? It is not healthy to sit in wellies all day. The children will also need a warm/waterproof coat in school and a hat and gloves.

Safeguarding - Are your contact details up to date? *Article 8 - children have the right to a family*

It is important that we have up to date contact details for all children here on file at school. **We must be able to contact you in an emergency.** Please drop us a note if you think we may not have your current contact number: home, work or mobile. For safeguarding purposes, we must also be informed of any changes to your child's home address/living arrangements as soon as possible.

Governor Vacancies *Article 28 - every child has the right to an education*

We currently have one vacancy for a parent governor on our school governing body. If you are interested in this role or would like more information, please contact school.

I really do want to thank you all for your continued support during what is a very difficult time for everyone. Thank you for your kindness and patience towards our staff and for going that extra mile in supporting your child at home - we know it isn't easy! Please don't hesitate to get in touch with school if you need more support, want to put forward a suggestion or discuss anything.

Thank you.

R Brannan

"Believe in yourself as a parent, you are your child's best therapist and advocate."

"You have dealt with so much, and done the best you can, so take a moment to appreciate how strong you are."

"Don't just be good to your children. Be good to yourself too!"