

Update on our safe return [Article 19 - Children have the right to be safe](#)

As you know we have very strict measures in school to help keep staff and children safe and I am pleased that, to date, we have **no confirmed cases of COVID** among our staff or children in school. Thank you very much to all parents who are remembering to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting children. We all need to work together to keep safe and stop the spread of COVID-19 within our area. At all times we need to be careful; 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 [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. If this happens to be over the half term break please inform school via one of the following email addresses which will be checked on a regular basis: oakleycross@durhamlearning.net and oakleybrannanoneil@gmail.com

Staff Challenge [Article 24 - children have the right to the best possible health care](#)

We know COVID-19 is having a huge impact on all of our lives this year. We are struggling with not seeing our family and friends and not being able to do all of the things we enjoy. People young and old are struggling with both physical and mental wellbeing. This half term a team of 12 of our staff members have signed up to a one million step challenge from Monday to Friday. That's a whopping 16,000 steps each per day! We are raising money for 'Young Minds', a charity which supports children and young people's mental health. Although we are not collecting sponsors, if you would like to support us and donate to this cause, please send in any donations after half term. We will let you know how Team Oakley did and share our final step total. Wish us luck!

Fancy Dress Treat day [Article 31 - children have the right to relax and play](#)

Thank you very much for supporting our spooky dress up day fundraiser. I know it is not quite the same as the Halloween disco but we have to make the best we can of the situation we are in! The children have had a fun day and enjoyed their treat this afternoon. Thank you to Mr Coverdale for making everyone hot chocolate to have with cookies. Please remember that while we can have fun dressing up, making decorations and carving pumpkins, we should avoid trick or treating this year to avoid spreading Coronavirus. Stay safe everyone!

Fantastic News! [Article 28 - every child has the right to an education](#)

I would like to share with you what is very exciting news for Mrs Wilkinson but at the same time sad news for Oakley Cross. Mrs Wilkinson has been successful in gaining a headship position at Lingey House Primary in Gateshead. She will start her new role in January 2021 and will be leaving Oakley Cross at Christmas. Mrs Wilkinson has been a member of the Oakley Cross family for a long time and I am sure many of you will want to Head Teacher, Mrs R Brannan email: oakleycross@durhamlearning.net Tel: 01388 833186

thank her for all she has done and wish her well with her new role. I certainly know she will be missed here in school but I am sure she will keep in touch. Good luck Mrs Wilkinson!

Oakley Cross 2020 Time Capsule *Article 17 - all children have the right to reliable information*

We have recently had some new interactive panels installed to replace our old interactive white boards. During the installation in Willow Class we uncovered an old and forgotten window which had been covered up! We took this opportunity to leave some of our thoughts and feelings about 2020. We have drawn pictures, written letters and created posters about what living with Coronavirus, COVID-19, has been like for us. We have even added some of the important kit we use in school - hand wash, sanitiser, gloves and a face mask! We also added our hopes for the future. In years to come we wonder who will find our time capsule and what they will make of our experiences of 2020!

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 to avoid 'unauthorised' absences. It is particularly important at this time that we are made aware of any Coronavirus symptoms our children or family members may have. In line with safeguarding procedures, we do need to know **all** reasons for absence. A list of school term dates and holidays can be found at the end of this newsletter and I would appreciate your co-operation in not taking children out of school unnecessarily. Any child with low attendance or attendance which causes concern will trigger intervention from Mr Readman our attendance officer or the Local Authority attendance team.

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. 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. We also have one co-opted governor vacancy who could be a member of the wider community. We would be really interested in speaking to someone who may have expertise in finance and accounts.

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

Our nursery is proving to be very popular this year. If you are interested in a place, or would like more information, please contact school and we will be happy to arrange an appointment to show you round and provide you with an application form. We are currently compiling a waiting list. We are monitoring attendance in nursery closely. Where we are concerned that children are not attending on a regular basis we will be contacting parents as places could be offered to other children who are on our waiting list.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with school if you want to discuss anything. Have a lovely half term break.

Remember to stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on

Monday 2nd November.

Thank you.

R Brannan