

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. As you know, areas in the North East of England are under 'local restrictions' which were put in place because cases of COVID are rising. It was identified that the main places for transmitting the virus were in the home (people visiting each other), in pubs where people mix with lots of other people and at grass root sporting events. We also know that there are people in the community who will have no COVID symptoms but may well have the virus and be passing it to others without knowing. I know many of the restrictions seem to contradict each other and you may not agree with them but they are enforceable by law. Whatever your opinion regarding the restrictions, we all need to work together to help everyone in our community of West Auckland to stay safe. 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 a weekend or on an evening 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

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.

Packed Lunches *Article 24 - children have the right to nutritious food*

We have noticed that a number of children are bringing in nut based products within packed lunches. I would like to remind parents that we are a **nut free school**. Within our school community we have children and staff who have severe nut allergies and will become very ill if they are in contact with nuts or products containing nuts. This may include Kinder products or supermarket own brands of similar products, chocolate spreads, some cereal bars and biscuits, peanut butter based products and some chocolate products. Please check packaging carefully to check if a product contains nuts. We will not allow children to open/eat products we believe contain nuts as the risk to others is so high in school. I would really appreciate your co-operation on this matter.

Breakfast Club *Article 24 - every child has the right to nutritious food*

Breakfast Club begins at 8.10 a.m. and all children who have booked a place should enter through the Sports Hall entrance. If your child is not booked in, they can't attend. Our breakfast club is free to all school children and consists of cereal, toast, fruit, yoghurt and a drink - a filling and healthy breakfast! **Please do not leave children at school before 8:10 a.m.** as there are no adults available to supervise the car park area and we do not want the children's safety to be compromised in any way.

Uniform *Article 15 - all children have the right to be part of a group or organisation*

Please remember our uniform consists of: black or grey trousers/skirts (not leggings or track suit bottoms), a white or pale blue polo shirt and a maroon sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper. Children must wear sensible, black school shoes or plain black trainers; not brightly coloured trainers/shoes. To prevent losing any part of the uniform please name all belongings. Jewellery must not be worn to school. All children must have a school PE kit which consists of black/navy shorts, white t-shirt and plimsolls or trainers.

Parking *Article 19 - Children have the right to be safe*

Please do not park on the zig-zag lines outside of school or use the school driveway to turn around as it is very dangerous when the children are entering and leaving school; park safely, away from school. Parents must not use the school car park at any time.

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.
Stay safe and well.

Thank you.

R Brannan

Term Dates 2020-2021

AUTUMN HALF TERM	Friday 23 rd October 20	Monday 2 nd November 20
CHRISTMAS 20	Friday 18 th December 20	Tuesday 5 th January 21
SPRING HALF TERM	Friday 12 th February 21	Monday 22 nd February 21
EASTER 21	Friday 26 th March 21	Monday 12 th April 21
MAY DAY	Thursday 30 th April 21	Tuesday 4 th May 21
SUMMER HALF TERM	Friday 28 th May 21	Tuesday 8 th June 21
SUMMER 21	Friday 16 th July 21	TBC