



Newsletter

6th November 2020

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

Welcome back to all of our children following the half term break. It is lovely to see everyone looking so smart, being prepared and ready to learn. We look forward to a busy time and hope to be able to go some way towards having Christmas celebrations in school. As restrictions are very tight regarding what we can and can't do I will update you accordingly.

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 weekend 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

Nationwide Coronavirus Restrictions *Article 19 - Children have the right to be safe*

As you know we have entered back into a 'lockdown' period. We all need to work together to keep each other safe. Please make sure you follow the 'rules' at all times; children shouldn't be visiting each other at home and neither should adults, children shouldn't be playing out in groups and we should only leave the house for work, education, medical reasons and essential shopping. 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. Remember that we have very strict measures in school to help keep staff and children safe and I know it may seem that requests are specific e.g. sending money in an envelope, but we do have a very tight risk assessment to adhere to. Thank you very much to all parents who are remembering to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting children we really appreciate your support.

Autumn Days *Article 24 - children have the right to the best possible health care*

We are heading into the cooler months now and children should come to school prepared for the weather. We will be spending time working outside and children should have coats, hats and gloves in preparation for this. In line with our Risk Assessment, we have classroom windows and sometimes doors open across the day to ensure the air in school is circulated and rooms are well ventilated. This helps to prevent the spread of the virus but it means rooms can feel a little more chilly than usual. Please layer children up if they are feeling the cold. Thermal vests/t-shirts under their uniform are a good idea. It is also a good idea to send your child in a jumper or cardigan. If children get too hot layers can be removed but we really don't want the children to feel cold in school. Please make sure all clothing is labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

Staff Challenge *Article 24 - children have the right to the best possible health care*

Our team of steppers did an amazing job at half term and together Team Oakley reached the one million step target! We had some champion steppers and need to say a huge well done to Mr Smith, Mrs Betts and Mr Coverdale as they all totalled over 100,000 steps each! 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. As a collective effort the one million step challenge has raised over £700.00 for 'Young Minds', a charity which supports children and young people's mental health.

Head Teacher, Mrs R Brannan email: oakleycross@durhamlearning.net Tel: 01388 833186

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.

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