



SYWELL ROAD, OVERSTONE, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 OAG
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www.overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk

2nd October 2020

Dear Parents,

Firstly, a huge well done to all of our new Reception children who have settled into school so well. They have experienced a slightly different induction programme to the one we would normally offer due to Covid-19 but this has not phased them at all! We welcome all of our new children and their families, both in Reception and in other year groups, into Overstone Primary School and look forward to seeing the children grow and develop throughout their primary years.

Staffing

I am really sorry to have to let you know that our wonderful bursar, Mrs Dobson, will be leaving us at half term. She is going to be working as a consultant for an IT company. Mrs Dobson is a trained teacher and has worked here at Overstone since 2015. She has been our school bursar since 2018. I know that most of you will have had contact with her through the school office and I am sure you will agree that she will be greatly missed by everyone here at Overstone. Mrs Dobson's children attended our school so her family have been members of our school community for many years. We wish her well in her new role.

Mrs Alison Grasby has been appointed as the new school Business Manager and we look forward to welcoming Alison into school after half term.

Hot Dinners

Kingswood will be offering a choice of a hot school lunch after half term. The choice will be limited to a vegetarian and a non-vegetarian option initially. The packed lunch options will still be available and pupils will continue to eat within their class bubbles. Hot lunches will be served in compostable containers and cutlery will be disposable. Kingswood Catering will publish the hot dinner menu on their website by Monday 12th October. **Orders must be placed by midnight on Wednesday 28th October.**

Drop off and Pick up Arrangements

It is important to keep the front playground as calm and organised as possible in the mornings. I have asked the children to remain with their adult and to line up as soon as it is possible for them to do so. We have always asked that they do not run around in the mornings as the playground may be busy and younger children may be accidentally hurt. I would really appreciate your support with this in order for the children to receive a consistent message and in order to keep our playground as safe as possible. Thank you.

PE Kits

Following the most recent guidance and due to the timing of PE lessons, we are happy for pupils to keep their PE kits in school rather than bringing them home for weekly washing if you are happy for them to do so. Please ensure that your child has a pair of joggers or leggings in their PE bag as we approach winter. Many PE lessons will be outside if it is dry. We do have some children who do not always have kit in school. PE is an important part of the curriculum which the children miss if they do not have kit as we can't currently lend them any. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit, with appropriate footwear, in school every day.



HEADTEACHER: MRS J MARDELL



Safeguarding

It has come to my attention that many parents are carrying out 3 point turns in the road, sometimes using driveways to do this. There has unfortunately been a recent incident in another school where a pupil has been hit when walking behind a turning vehicle. Please just drive up to Church Lane if you do need to turn your car round when you have collected your child. This will make the road and the pavement safer for everyone. Our local Police Community Support Officer called into school this morning to ask about any parking or traffic issues. He assured us that he will be monitoring the situation.

School Photos

Pupils had individual school photos taken today. Brothers and sisters were taken together as well as individually but we were unable to ask any parents with preschool children to come into school for them to be photographed together on this occasion. This is due to the current restrictions regarding Covid-19.

Parents' Evenings

Parents' evenings will take place during the week beginning October 19th. These will be virtual and more details will follow shortly.

FOOPS Events

FOOPS events are really important as they provide many enjoyable experiences for the children and they also raise funds to provide extra opportunities for them. Some regular events cannot take place currently due to Covid but I know that FOOPS are working hard to organise opportunities for the children within the current restrictions. I am sure that you will all support their efforts and I would like to thank FOOPS for continuing to work hard to provide for all the children under the current challenging circumstances.

Halloween Mufti Day

On Friday October 23rd, pupils will be invited to wear their own clothes to school for a minimum donation of £1. There will be an optional Halloween theme so the children may wear fancy dress if they wish to. It would be better to avoid masks as they are difficult for the children to wear all day but if they do have a mask, they will need a plastic carrier bag in order to store it on their peg or in their drawer when they are not wearing it. We are all determined to ensure primary school life continues to be fun and exciting for our children, as well as being a positive learning experience in a safe environment. Key stage 2 pupils are enjoying rugby coaching with the Saints on Fridays and Class 3 are loving their samba drums with Northamptonshire Performing Arts Trust on Thursdays. We have just booked a visiting "bubble friendly, socially distanced" live theatre Christmas production for our younger children! Normal life at Overstone has resumed for our children, just with a few tweaks here and there!

Kind Regards,



Mrs Janice Mardell
Head Teacher