



SYWELL ROAD, OVERSTONE, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 OAG  
Tel: (01604) 493861 email: head@overstone.northants-ecl.gov.uk  
www.overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk

1<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

We are really looking forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to have a comprehensive risk assessment in place which reflects the latest guidance from the Department for Education. This includes pupils remaining in class bubbles and adults wearing face coverings in communal areas and adhering to social distancing guidelines wherever possible. Staff will also complete lateral flow COVID-19 tests twice a week and this will reduce the risk of transmission within school.

You are asked to wear a face covering in the playground and to use the one way system; in through the pedestrian gate and out through the vehicle access.

Once again, we have staggered school start and finish times to avoid overcrowding in the playground as follows:

**8.40 - 3.05 – Reception and Year 2**

**8.50 - 3.15 – Year 1 and Year 5/6**

**8.55 - 3.20 – Year 3/4**

Staff will be in the playground to meet your children so as soon as you are happy to leave them, please exit the playground **via the vehicle entrance**. This will again relieve congestion in the playground. If at all possible, please could your child be accompanied into the playground by only one person. **If you have more than one child here, siblings should all come into school and be picked up at the same time. Please use the earliest and latest times for the classes your children are in. For example, if you have a child in year 2 and one in year 6, you should drop both children off at 8.40am and collect them both at 3.15pm.**

### Road Closure

The road leading into Overstone from the Moulton direction is due to close for 6 weeks from today (March 1<sup>st</sup>). We have been told that the footpath will remain open so an option for some parents would be to park, either just before the road closure or along Park View, and walk to school from there. If not, school will have to be accessed from the Sywell direction.

### Year 6 Photographs

Year 6 pupils will be having their group school photograph taken at 1.15pm on Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>.

### World Book Day

As many of our pupils will miss the opportunity to dress up for World Book Day on March 4<sup>th</sup>, they are welcome to dress as a book character the following Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. This is optional so pupils who do not wish to dress up can wear school uniform as normal.

### Clubs and Wraparound Care

Breakfast and After School Club will start again from Monday March 8<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast club bookings can be made through ParentPay as normal. After School Club bookings should be made directly with the provider using the following contact details;

RD OUT of SCHOOL CARE - Rebecca Dillon by mobile 07530648396 or by email

[rdoutofschoolcare@gmail.com](mailto:rdoutofschoolcare@gmail.com)

Details can also be found on the [school website](#).

Some sports clubs will be running. The relevant organisations will contact parents directly.



HEADTEACHER: MRS J MARDELL



## School Lunches

School lunches will resume and these can be booked as normal through [Kingswood Catering](#) by the Wednesday 11.45pm deadline. Pupils will eat and play within their class bubbles in line with government guidance.

We are so looking forward to welcoming your children back to school. We will be focussing on their mental health and wellbeing on their return. We appreciate all you have done to support our home learning provision and we do understand that this will have been more accessible for some children and families than for others. The children need to be happy and settled back into school and the learning will follow. I wanted to share the following with you; I think it makes some very good points.

## 8 Reasons to Feel Reassured

### 1. We are returning to what we know

School is a place of routine and structure - even if these routines have had to change, the predictability of the school day will be hugely reassuring for many.

### 2. Teachers are trained to respond to what's in front of them

There is no such thing as 'normal' when it comes to learning. All learners are individual and teachers respond to where the young person is, not where anyone says they *should* be.

### 3. 'Learning' (in this context) is a verb, not a noun

This means that we can't lose learning like it's a tangible thing. Some learning just hasn't taken place yet. Young people will take the lead from us, so if we don't talk of 'catching up', they won't feel they need to. Some children will be naturally worried about returning to school, but when staff build trust first and foremost, learning will naturally follow.

### 4. Equally, learning is a process, not a product

We can't buy 'learning' and we can't give 'learning'. Learners have to be ready to learn and this relies on relationships and wellbeing.

### 5. Intrinsic motivation comes into play

In New Zealand, during the Christchurch earthquakes, young people missed huge amounts of school; however results did not suffer. Young people knew what they needed to do to succeed.

### 6. It's back to school, not back to learning

As adults, we can look back and see that school was one place where we learned, but not the only place. Some children will have learned huge amounts during this time, just in unexpected ways.

### 7. We don't know what we don't know

We can only speculate what the impact of the pandemic will be on young people. Yes, unfortunately for some it will have taken a great toll, but for others they will have built their character in ways we didn't know possible – resilience, creativity, self-sufficiency are all words we have heard a lot from parents and young people in the last year.

Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to work together to ensure the safety of everyone and to ensure that all the children have a happy return to school.

Kind Regards,



Mrs Janice Mardell  
Head Teacher