



SYWELL ROAD, OVERSTONE, NORTHAMPTON, NN6 OAG
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23rd October 2020

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the first half term of the school year, I have to say how well everyone has adapted to the new procedures and routines we have had to introduce into school due to the current pandemic. The new Reception children have settled incredibly well, school attendance is good and pupils throughout the school are making great progress. Thank you all for being so understanding and flexible around things like drop off and pick up times and virtual parents' meetings. Being at school seems so "normal" and enables all of us to have routine and structure which is so important, especially at this time.

Morning Arrangements

After half term, we will change the morning arrangements slightly in a bid to make it easier for parents and hopefully help with parking and traffic congestion. If you have more than one child here at Overstone, you can drop both children off together at the time when the first one is due to start school. Siblings who are normally due to start later can then go to their classrooms and read prior to the beginning of their school day.

Pupils in year 3 and 4 will have a slightly earlier start time of 8.55am and their school day will now finish at 3.20pm.

Covid-19

I have been asked by Northamptonshire County Council to share the following information with you;

- Only get a Coronavirus test if you have symptoms.
- If you are self-isolating as a contact of a positive case and you get a test and the test result is negative, you will still need to complete your period of self-isolation. If you test positive you will have to self-isolate for 10 days after the test date or onset of symptoms.
- All household members need to self-isolate for 14 days if someone in that household tests positive.
- When self-isolating following an exposure to COVID you should avoid contact with other members of your household.

Face Coverings

As you know, the wearing of face coverings is not mandatory outside although social distancing should be observed. However, I do understand that some parents feel more comfortable wearing a face covering in the playground and you are of course welcome to do so.

Harvest

We are unfortunately unable to welcome parents and local residents into school for Harvest celebrations this year. However, we will still be talking to the children about Harvest and we would like to still donate food and toiletries to the Hope Centre which supports local homeless people. We will talk to the children



HEADTEACHER: MRS J MARDELL



about the work they do. If you would like to make a donation, could you please send it into school with your child on the first day back which is Tuesday November 3rd. Please don't send fresh produce but tinned and packet food, soap, toothpaste, toilet rolls, etc. would be most welcome.

Poppy Appeal

We will be selling poppies and other related items for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal as we usually do. However, it will not be possible for adults to come into the front office area to purchase them. They will be available in the classrooms and your child will need to bring money to school to purchase items if they wish to. Poppies are £1. Poppy reflectors and zip pulls are available for a suggested minimum donation of 50p, wristbands for £1 and snap bands for £1.50. All items will be on sale when we return after half term.

Parking

Please could I ask you once again that you do not park or pull up on the zigzag lines outside school. This is for the safety of our whole school community and particularly for the children. Unfortunately, there have been several incidents lately of people parking on the zigzags. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

New Staff

We have a new teacher starting with us after half time. Mrs Michelle Coe will teach English and maths to our year 4 pupils every morning. Years 3 and 4 will continue to be taught together by Mrs Roberts during the afternoon. Mrs Adams has increased her time with years 5 and 6 and pupils in Key Stage 1 will also have extra adult support in the mornings to support their Phonics, reading and maths. The government has pledged catch up funding for schools and this extra support will enable a more individualised approach to learning and ensure that pupils have the help they need to ensure any gaps in their learning as a result of lockdown are addressed and closed effectively.

Finally, I would like to wish you a lovely half term with your children. Monday November 2nd is a teacher training day so the school will be closed to pupils but we look forward to welcoming them back on Tuesday November 3rd.

Kind Regards,



Mrs Janice Mardell
Head Teacher