



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

8th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been so lovely to welcome the children back into school and to all be together for playtimes and assemblies again. Yesterday, our new Reception children joined us and they came into school beautifully. They have settled so well and Miss Lockey has an abundance of photos which she will share with Reception parents on Tapestry. We also extend a warm welcome to all of our new families. We are delighted that you have joined our Overstone school community.

Covid-19

Government guidelines have now changed and state that you are no longer required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

The guidelines also state;

*Children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who have been identified as a close contact **should continue to attend the setting as normal.***

Therefore, if someone in your household tests positive for Covid-19, your child is still expected to come to school unless they develop symptoms, have a positive test or there is no one to bring them to school (in line with the criteria listed above). In this case, their teacher will provide remote learning which they will be expected to complete at home unless they are not well enough to do so.

I do understand that these new guidelines may be difficult to understand; we have been so conditioned to isolate within our homes if we have had any possible contact with the virus. If someone in our household is ill with flu, we would not isolate unless we became ill ourselves. I think this is the principle we have to work with now.

Please be assured that we will continue to do all that we can to keep everyone safe at school during this period of transition. We will continue to promote good hand and oral hygiene and we will ensure that all areas are as well ventilated as they can be. We will also continue our thorough cleaning of the school using recommended anti-viral products.

We have resumed our well done assemblies and will continue to celebrate children's achievements at school and at home. Currently, we will only have the children in assembly but we hope to invite parents back in time. If your child does have anything that they have earned in their out of school activities, eg a certificate or medal, please send it in on the day of the next home achievements assembly. These are listed on the list of dates accompanying this letter. We will also sing happy birthday to the children if their birthday falls in the week following the Friday assembly.



HEADTEACHER: MRS J MARDELL



West
Northamptonshire
Council



Water Bottles

Please remember to send your child to school with a water bottle. It is important that they drink during the day and our drinking fountain continues to be out of use currently. As they are drinking throughout the day, please send plain water rather than squash or flavoured water. The recommendation is that sugary drinks are not consumed over lengthy periods of time when children cannot clean their teeth.

Contact Details

If you have had a change of address, email address or telephone number, please let someone in the school office know. It is really important that we have accurate contact information for your child.

Collection Arrangements:

As it is the start of a new school year, we do need you to let us know of any alternative collection arrangements for your child, whether this is an ongoing arrangement or a one off. You can either telephone the school or email at admin@overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk with this information. We will not allow a pupil to be collected by anyone other than the person who usually collects them unless we have been informed in advance.

Attendance

In order for our children to receive the high standard of education to which they are entitled, they need to be in school. Illness is of course unavoidable but please avoid taking holidays during term time; your child will no doubt enjoy new experiences during their time away but the information they miss during their absence may well have a detrimental effect on their understanding of new concepts and on their long term progress.

Playing Field

We are delighted to let you know that we are having some large play equipment installed on the playing field for the children. This will enhance their playtimes and it will also be available for children within the community to use after school. In order for the installation to take place safely, the public access gate to the field will remain locked between the 15th and the 21st of September.

Diary Dates

I have attached a list of dates for this term. Other things may be added throughout the term but I have included all events that I can at this point. Dates are subject to change but only when it really is unavoidable. Further details regarding the events listed will be sent to you nearer the time.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards,



Mrs Janice Mardell
Head Teacher