



Oakwood Academy Newsletter

"Living, learning and thriving"

School Telephone Number (01752) 775478

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11th September 2020

Welcome Back!

It has been wonderful to have all the children back in school this week. We know that many parents and children may have felt anxious about returning to school and there is no denying that many things are different and unusual, however what has not changed is the way that the children have embraced being back at school with such enthusiasm and resilience. They are quickly adapting to working and playing in their designated bubble and building up positive relationships with their new teachers and TAs. After such a prolonged absence from school, we know that there is much to do to support the children with their learning and emotional well-being so that they can go on to achieve their potential. Your child's class Learning Journey will give you information about the curriculum and class organisation for this term. This has been emailed out today and will also be available on the website under the Learning tab.

All of our new reception children have made an impressive start and settled really well into their classes this week. We look forward to getting to know them and their parents, especially because all of our normal induction events could not take place as usual this year. We also extend a warm welcome to all our new children and hope they will be very happy as they settle into their new school.

We know that the new dropping off and picking up routines have taken a bit of getting used to and many of you will have noticed the changes we have made each day as we have reviewed which aspects have worked and which others needed a re-think. The organisation will continue to be reviewed as required to support children and parents especially in light of the roadworks taking place on Southway Drive. Please make sure that you read any letters or updates sent out to keep you and your children informed as we settle into this new term. (You will need to make sure that your ParentPay account has been activated so that all letters and communications reach you. If you have any problems with this please ring the school office and they will assist you in setting this up.)

A MAT letter to parents has also been emailed today, please read this carefully to support the continued health and safety of our school community.

Please remember to keep a social distance at all times from other adults and children while waiting.

We would like to thank all the children, parents and carers for their patience and understanding during the most unusual start of term we have ever had!



Family Support Advisor

Virtual Talk Time

Families come in all shapes and sizes and so do children. Being a parent is one of the most fulfilling things we'll ever do, yet it is also one of the hardest and we can all do with a little help now and then. My role is to support you in many different ways as your child makes their journey through school. During "normal" times, I could invite you into school to discuss any concerns and give support. These are unprecedented times and I am unable to offer my support face to face but, what I can do, is offer my support, via ZOOM or telephone. The service is confidential unless you/your child are at risk for any reason, in which case I will follow procedures set out in the school's policy on child protection and safeguarding. These virtual sessions will usually be once a week for around 30 minutes. If you would like a virtual or telephone time to talk, please contact Ros Dent at r.dent@discoverymat.co.uk or alternatively call the main reception on 01752 775478 and ask to speak to myself. I will look forward to hopefully speaking to you soon.

Ros Dent

Family Support/Pastoral Worker

STEM CHALLENGE

During Educare over lockdown, a group of Key Stage 2 children from all 3 of our schools worked together with adults to build a floatable cardboard boat via a zoom call workshop. As you can imagine this was a challenge, however with a lot of hard work they created an amazing final result! The boat was intended to be entered into the annual IMECHE cardboard boat race, along with other schools in Plymouth, which normally runs from the Mayflower Steps on the Barbican. This year was especially exciting because the boat needed to be Mayflower themed to celebrate Mayflower 2020 in the city. Sadly, due to the current situation this event was cancelled, but we would still like to celebrate and share the children's achievement and hope you agree the finished product is very realistic!

Miss. Glynn, Oakwood STEM Lead



Information from Plymouth City Council - Road Safety

As part of the Council's road safety programme we will be installing new signs with the message "School: 20 when lights show" which will include flashing lights using a pulsar unit on Southway Drive. This will mean that the advisory speed limit on Southway Drive will be 20 mph when lights flash, with the times the lights are on coinciding with the start and end of the school day. This will help to improve road safety in the vicinity of the school gate and we hope will encourage more journeys to be made to school on foot and by bike. The programme is being funded by the Council's successful bid to the Department for Transport's Emergency Active Travel Fund programme. The new signs and pulsar units (flashing lights) should have been installed by the end of August and the Council will be monitoring traffic speeds in the area in the autumn term to assess the effectiveness of the system in reducing traffic speeds.

If you have any questions about this initiative please contact the Council's Road Safety team at TrafficManagementInbox@plymouth.gov.uk

VACANCY MEALTIME ASSISTANT

Oakwood Primary Academy - We have a vacancy for a Mealtime Assistant:

1 hour per day over 38 weeks per annum

Grade: A point 1 currently - £17,364.00 pro rata (£2034.00)

Job information:

We are looking to appoint Mealtime Assistants to work within our Trust who –

- can work as part of a successful team
- is able to organise play activities
- is enthusiastic and patient
- has a range of behaviour strategies
- has a good sense of humour

An application pack is available from our school office at:

oakwood.office@discoverymat.co.uk or Tel: 01752 775478

Diary Dates

(Dates maybe subject to change)



2020/2021 TERM DATES

Mon 26th Oct - Fri 30th Oct

Fri 27th Nov

Fri 18th Dec

Mon 21st Dec - Fri 1st Jan 2021

Mon 4th Jan

Mon 15th Feb - Fri 19th Feb

Fri 2nd Apr - Fri 16th Apr

Mon 3rd May

Mon 31st May - Fri 4th Jun

Fri 23rd Jul

Mon 26th Jul - Fri 3rd Sep

HALF TERM

Non-Pupil Day

School finishes 3:15pm

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

School opens 8:45am

HALF TERM

EASTER HOLIDAYS

May Bank Holiday

HALF TERM

School finishes 3:15pm

SUMMER HOLIDAYS



Have a great weekend!
Jackie Sparrow
Head of School