



21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

**This has been a strange and unusual last term in (and out of) school. This is a final last letter from us to give you some updates about things that have been happening in school ready for next term. I look forward to welcoming you all back then and hopefully returning to something like normal. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and children for the lovely cards and gifts that have been received today. They were all very touching. On behalf of all the staff and myself thank you very much!**

### Library update

This year we have continued to focus on developing a love of reading in school; with our book fairs coming in, an author visit and our World Book Day bedtime story theme. In order that reading remains a priority for us as a school, we now have a brand new library situated centrally within the building. It has recently been filled with a wide variety of wonderful brand new texts to interest and inspire children right across school. Each class will have dedicated library time next year where they can explore the books on offer as well as take some back to their classrooms to enjoy in their own time. We really hope that the library becomes a place of relaxation where children can sit quietly and peacefully and enjoy the fantastic books on offer.



### Outdoor area



The return to school has given



us a chance to review what we offer at school and how we can best support the children in the widest sense - their wellbeing and mental health being our prime concerns in what could potentially be a stressful, unusual time. Being outdoors and being active has a positive effect on mental health and with this in mind Mr Stubbs has been working really hard to develop our philosophy and approach to outdoor learning at school. Some

bubbles have taken traditional lessons outside - poetry, art, science as examples. But every bubble has explored what else could be possible, taking full advantage of all the space outdoors at Oakdale. We've used the Peterborough Environment City Trust resources and made mud targets, been on scavenger hunts, made our own paintbrushes and some have even built dens. A few bubbles have enjoyed a campfire at school and this is something that every child can look forward to over the coming school year!

## **Home learning**

The last weekly email has been sent out. We hope you found these useful and that they supported you to motivate the children at home with their learning. We understand how difficult these times have been so it has been heartening to see the varied and exciting learning that has been sent into school and receive positive feedback on the textbooks sent home. It has been super to see so many children on the weekly Zoom meetings but we are especially pleased to be welcoming the children back to school in September.

## **Uniform**

As previously communicated, there has been a relaxed attitude to uniform after lockdown as it was difficult for parents to go out and buy uniform. There is an expectation that full uniform will be worn in September including school shoes. No extreme hairstyles please.

## **New arrivals**

We would like to welcome our newest members of staff to the team. Miss Pfeiffer will be joining us in Year 2 and Mrs Johnson, who started this term, will continue as our new Reception teacher. We have also just appointed another two Teaching Assistants to start in Years 3 and 4 next year, Mrs Borgognoni and Mrs May-Madden.

## **Fond farewells**

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Henderson. She has been with us for a couple of years and is moving on to take up a position in another school. I would like to thank her for all her work with both our Year 6 class and now in her Reception bubble and wish her all the best in her new role.

We are saying goodbye to our Year 6 class today. They have been an absolute credit to themselves, the school and their families in their time with us. Sadly they have missed the usual leaving events this term but we hope they all remember the experiences they have had with us over the past 7 years and remember their experiences of Oakdale. We are very proud of them all and it has been a privilege to see them progress through the school. We would all like to wish them the very best for the future.

## **Thank you to the staff and the Governing Body**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff who have adapted to the ever changing guidance in response to COVID-19 as their roles in school have been redefined. They have worked during the Easter holidays and bank holidays to support the key workers' children and since the partial reopening, all staff have worked with a bubble of children. They have made sure that the children feel safe and happy in school, cleaned relentlessly and provided a range of exciting learning opportunities for them. I am sure you would like to join me in wishing them a restful summer holiday. Many thanks to our small but hardworking Governing Body who have always been there to support us during these challenging times. Have a lovely holiday everyone!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back to school in the w/b 7<sup>th</sup> September.

7<sup>th</sup> September: Years 6 and 3 return

8<sup>th</sup> September: Years 4 and 5

9<sup>th</sup> September: Years 2 and 1

14<sup>th</sup> September: We welcome our new Reception intake

Have a safe and happy summer and thank you for your continued support of the school.

***Ms I Wrigley***  
**Headteacher**