



A caring family of  
happy learners

## Oakdale Primary School

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Headteacher

**Ms I. Wrigley B.A (Hons) PGCE, NPQH**

1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Thank you very much for your feedback on remote learning. We know how challenging this is for everyone at the moment and we want to continually adapt our systems and policies to ensure they support you during this time. We all hoped that the suggested return to school after half term would be possible. We miss seeing the children daily and we understand that families are juggling their work commitments with the pressures of home learning. It is however, so important that we all work together to keep safe at the moment and to stay at home wherever possible. We are all frustrated by the situation that we are in, but remain positive and committed to working together to manage this as best as we can.

We had 90 responses to our survey. The key information taken from this is:

- 95% could access Google Classroom easily
- 89% children are confidently using Google Classroom
- 96% can easily find the tasks set for the day
- 72% find the weekly timetable useful
- 82% children receive feedback
- 88% feel that work should be returned if needed
- 70% feel part of the school community
- 96% agree that a reward system would be beneficial
- 68% are working on their own device with 24% having shared access. We have been provided with 13 laptops from the Government to support children to access their learning. These have been lent to children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. Should any additional devices be made available, we will prioritise these to families who have requested support for children who are deemed vulnerable (additional services are supporting the family) or children with SEND additional needs.

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We also had comments from the majority of parents who responded to the questionnaire. We are really pleased to hear that you think that the system is working well and recognise the hard work that the staff has put in to make sure that the children know we value the work they are completing. 92% of children are regularly submitting their work which is excellent and demonstrates the commitment to keeping the children learning at home. Children are resilient, but this impact on their learning should not be underestimated. We are very fortunate to have such supportive parents who want their children to keep making progress during these unprecedented times, thank you.

We also had some suggestions to improve our systems. This has been used to make amendments and add to the policy:

### **Timetabling and timings**

Your frustrations with timings and your routine were clear. Teachers are also juggling working in school with the critical worker children, planning the remote lessons and supporting their families at home. Our days have all become a lot longer than previously and difficult to manage.

The Government have stated that the learning available for Key Stage 2 children should be 4 hours and 3 hours for Key Stage One. We are trying to follow our usual day in school, but we fully appreciate that things take a lot longer at home. Whilst we provide a timetable for you, this is only a guide. You as parents have to decide what works for you.

We have made changes to support this: we have widened the feedback and response window to 48 hours so you can work a day behind and still receive feedback. We have also made Friday an assessment day in the morning and will leave the afternoon session as a finishing off session. We often reward the children for their hard work with Golden time for the last session on a Friday afternoon. This can also be used in the same way at home.

### **Rewards**

We have adapted our reward policy as we agree with you that rewards are vital in promoting good learning behaviours at home. This is attached for your reference. You may have already seen some of the stickers we have personalised to add to the children's work!

### **Feedback**

The current process for feedback is that pupils work is responded to by both the class teacher and the teaching assistants. All staff are in school on a rota system still, so this varies who responds. It is therefore difficult to track ongoing feedback unless staff click on and open each child's work individually. If a child submits their work two or three days later, this is only seen if a member of staff has time to go back and check comment threads. This is obviously difficult to manage. Therefore, feedback will now be responded to in a 48 hour window. Teaching Assistants will also escalate work to teachers to add feedback in recognition of good work and effort.

We will be returning work to children in Years 5 and 6 as it is expected that they are able to work through tasks more independently. Marking and feedback in all other year groups, will continue to be supportive for when you have difficulties but mostly focus on positive feedback to encourage the children to complete their tasks.

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### **Live lessons**

70% felt included in the school community. We want to increase this and a 'live' aspect of a lesson will support this. It is important to see the teacher and to continue to feel part of the class. 'Live' doesn't mean joining an online lesson at a particular time. We know from your feedback that this is already challenging for the Friday Zoom meetings. With this in mind, we will utilise video lessons and messages instead. We have added to the policy that there will be a daily live element. This is already how Reception lessons work. Maths demonstrations have worked very well when trialled, but this could also include stories read to the class or a morning welcome.

A Monday morning video will be added for all classes instead of the breakdown of the day. Feedback asked for information in advance to allow families to plan for the week ahead and to prepare the resources needed and this will be included in the weekly welcome.

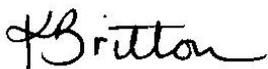
### **Summary**

We appreciate that there has been a great deal of communication in this letter so below is a summary of the adaptations made:

- new reward system introduced (see separate hand-out)
- 48 hour feedback window to ensure all children receive timely feedback and support if needed
- escalation of good work to teachers by teaching assistants
- daily live lessons by Oakdale staff
- Monday 'welcome to the week' introduction by the teachers
- Change to Friday content for years 1-6 to allow time to complete missed tasks

All feedback has been taken into account when reviewing our systems, we continue to value your support and suggestions and we hope that these changes will support you at home.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Britton  
Deputy Headteacher