



OPJS Newsletter

Issue 1 – Friday 4th September 2020
Academic Year 2020-2021



Dear Parent/Carer,

First and foremost I hope that you and yours are safe and well and you managed some sort of Summer break. It's fair to say that it's been a rather busy and different start to our new term and academic year. As always, a HUGE thank you for your support this week as we adapt to the 'new normal' and ensure the very best for your child in the safest possible environment. More on that later but let's just catch up on one or two things from last year.

Farewells

Well we bid farewell to Mrs Tapscott, Mr Parry and, of course, our amazing 'Y6 Lockdown Leavers'. We celebrated Y6s' time with four bubble Y6 Graduations in glorious sunshine on the last day and what a lovely event it was – so much so that we'll be holding next year's Y6 Graduation outside too! A snapshot is opposite and we were all exceptionally proud of them and wished them well in the next chapter of their lives. On that, we did the same with Mrs Tapscott and Mr Parry and they will be both sorely missed.



A New Normal

As mentioned in the opening paragraph, thank you for your support with the new way of doing things at OPJS. There have been a few teething problems as it has been quite a jump going from half to full capacity. Needless to say, our staff and children have been great in adapting to the 'new normal'. This has included increased handwashing, staggered timings and a slight change in our curriculum as we catch up and plug gaps. A reminder of the 2020-2021 'batting order' is opposite and it has been great seeing our children embrace the new name of their class and see them look into the authors their class is named after.

20/21 New Year, Class and Teacher
Year 3: Anthony Browne – Mrs Van Roy
Year 3: Oliver Jeffers – Miss Miller
Year 4: Elizabeth Jade – Miss Fox
Year 4: Chris Riddell – Mrs Green
Year 5: A.A Milne – Mr Dack
Year 5: Dr Seuss – Mrs Samways and Miss Butler
Year 6: Malorie Blackman – Mrs Jenner
Year 6: Benjamin Zephaniah – Mr Newman

Change of bubbles from classes to year groups

Given the challenge of welcoming back all of our children, as well as ensuring the effective use of our limited school resources, we have changed our bubbles from classes to year groups. As a result we now

have 4 bubbles at OPJS that correspond to year groups. This means that the classes in that year group can mix at break/lunchtimes, share staff and interventions amongst other things.

Just a few reminders

As I've mentioned previously it's been a great start but here's just a couple of reminders to ensure things go smoothly:

- **Uniform** is looking great and do remember that children will need to wear OPJS PE kit to school on their allotted PE day so that there's no need to change.
- **No pencil cases** and if you could send children in with a small bag as opposed to big rucksacks as space is of a premium.
- **No extra-curricular clubs** in Term 1 but we are confident that we can start them in Term 2.
- YMCA Breakfast Club and After School Club are up and running and working well.
- No cooked school lunches for the first three weeks so it will continue to be packed lunches. These will be eaten in classrooms. Please ensure that packed lunches are **nut free**.
- **Social distancing** continues in line with DfE guidance.
- **Facemasks** – Having been on School Crossing Patrol this morning I noted how calm and easy drop off was with very few 'crowds'. However, it is slightly different at pick up so I would be really grateful if you could wear a facemask for everyone's safety.

Academic Year Dates

Here's a reminder of the dates for this academic year.

2020 to 2021 Academic Year – OPJS and OPIS
Term 1: Tuesday 1 st September to Friday 23 rd October 2020
Term 2: Monday 2 nd November to Friday 18 th December 2020
Term 3: Monday 4 th January 2021 to Friday 12 th February 2021
Term 4: Monday 22 nd February 2021 to Thursday 1 st April 2021
Term 5: Monday 19 th April 2021 to Friday 28 th May 2021
Term 6: Monday 7 th June 2021 to Wednesday 21 st July 2021

Both OPIS and OPJS will be having 6 INSET days for the academic year. The following have been identified:

Tuesday 1st September 2020
Monday 4th January 2021
Friday 5th March 2021
Thursday 6th May 2021
Two more INSETs TBC

And finally,

Once again, thank you for your continued support during our first week back and embracing the 'new OPJS normal'. Have a great weekend, stay safe and take care.

With every good wish,

Mr Dave Goucher

Headteacher.