



# Oughton Primary & Nursery School

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**Headteacher:** Mrs L Clayton

**Assistant Headteacher:** Mrs C Phillipson

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents,

I am really pleased with the engagement of the children with their remote learning this morning. Since the beginning of this school closure, 97% of the school (Reception children to Year 6) have accessed Microsoft Teams, which is absolutely fantastic. This shows your commitment to your child's learning.

We have had so many positive messages from Parents via different avenues. Thank you, this is really appreciated. I am delighted that the provision we have in place is working so well for you. It is tricky as different families are using a variety of devices and we aim to try to cater for everyone. The staff have worked so hard to learn to adapt their normal job to the provide a remote service, which follows the Government guidelines and works for our families at Oughton.

I am pleased to say that the Government devices arrived on Monday and we then set them up. From Tuesday, devices, both Government and own Oughton devices, were given out to those families who had informed us about their technology at home via our questionnaire form in the autumn term. We are still waiting for some Parents to collect their allocated devices. Please collect these as soon as possible.

We are now in a position to look at those families who have children sharing devices between them. If this is the case within your family, please email [admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk) and we will see if we can help. We will take the number of children within the family sharing into consideration and their age group; please be aware that we have a limited number of devices and so need to prioritise.

If you have limited internet due to the fact that you do not have wifi, please fill in the ParentMail form which was sent on 8<sup>th</sup> January; this will enable us to apply for extra internet data linked to your phones for you. We are aware that some families are having difficulty due to their internet data. Please prioritise the internet sites which are accessed and limit other sites ie YouTube, eBay, BBC Bitesize, social network sites, to ensure that your child can access Teams and the work that has been set for them by their Teacher until you receive the extra data. I hope that this will not take too long.

## A few reminders

Please do not use the chat channel to complain or air your frustrations. This is similar to a social media site as everyone can read the comments. The chat channel should be used by staff overall to communicate messages. If lots of children or Parents put up comments, the learning is lost within the flow and this makes it difficult for others to follow. Any issues, please follow the normal school routes – phone the school or email [admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@oughton.herts.sch.uk) and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as they can. Please remember, we have limited staff at school.

Our Teachers are working long hours preparing exciting sways to engage children, or videos / PowerPoints with voice-overs which are very time consuming. This way of working is new for everyone and the staff are accessing training continually in order to deliver teaching effectively at this time. Please do not contact them out of normal school working hours.

Please remember to log onto Teams twice a day for the Register and Contact with your child's Teacher. If your child is self-isolating due to a case of Coronavirus in your family, please email us to inform us of this. You can continue to access the work in the same way. If your child is ill and it is not Coronavirus related, you need to still follow the same procedures – ring us or email [attendance@oughton.herts.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@oughton.herts.sch.uk) or ParentMail in by 9:15am.

We are following our normal Safeguarding procedures and need to ensure that all children are safe at all times. We are taking and checking the Registers each day, looking at who is attending either via Teams or in school. We have

a duty of care to follow up any child who is not accessing school, so it vital that your child attends the Register time twice a day.

Whole School Assemblies, including Awards Assemblies are for Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 children and it is important that all child attend these assemblies. Key messages are given out and the work of many children across the school is celebrated. You will be notified of the timing of each assembly and the Teachers remind their classes at Register time. It is a time for every child and member of staff to be together as a community, to feel part of our school. Please ensure that your child joins the Assemblies.

Finally, we know that this way of working is a challenge for everyone. In the words of John Heywood, "Rome wasn't built in a day!" The response of Parents to the work planned, has been overwhelmingly positive. There will be good and not so good days and home school is not ideal at all. However, everyone is doing their part at this very difficult time for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Clayton".

Lisa Clayton  
Headteacher