



Oughton Primary & Nursery School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week this has been! I have been so proud of the staff and children of Oughton this week. Staff have adapted, kept flexible and risen to every challenge that has been given to us since Monday. I cannot believe that Monday was only 5 days ago; our Inset Day seems like a distant memory. I will be honest with you, my healthy start to January went downhill at 8pm on Monday when I opened the chocolates and biscuits I had put away!

I am going to magpie Mr Edwards, Head of The Priory School quote of the week (I am sure he will not mind):

“There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen.” Vladimir Lenin

I certainly feel that 2021 has arrived like a tornado and this week, a decade has flown by!

You should be very proud of your children this week. It just goes to show how resilient our children are. Many have adapted to home learning well and those in school have adjusted quickly to new rooms in many cases, different staff and a totally altered way of working. I have been so impressed with their attitudes and the work they have completed.

I would like to thank all of the Parents who have worked this week with their children at home. I know that home learning is not easy. I am aware that many of you are juggling working from home, devices and home tasks whilst supporting your children with their learning!

The quality of work showed on Teams is amazing and to a high standard. I would just like to thank you for your continued support and dedication in ensuring your child's education continues. We are happy to help you in any way that we can. Stay positive, it is not easy supporting 1 or in some cases 2, 3, or 4 children at the same time. Each child is individual, with various needs, so please do not compare yourself to others. Every family is different; many of you have challenges within your household. All we ask from every Parent, is that you do your best. Remember, you are and always have been, your child's primary educator and you should be proud of yourself.

Many of you have been tussling with devices and internet connections; I know how hard that is. The DfE have launched a mobile data allowance scheme for families to access additional free data. Details of this will be sent out shortly. Many of you have found ways of accessing learning using your phones, iPads, laptops and other types of devices. It was useful to find out that Xbox and PS4 can access Teams as this means that work is clearer visually. Some children have been using phones and their gaming devices to show Teams at the same time and have reported that this has made learning easier. Many Parents and older children have been creative in the way the work has been completed and shared with the Teachers working online.

We have been changing our school devices in order to support those families who need devices at home. The Government laptops have not arrived in school yet, but luckily, we were able to forward plan and we have been busy organising some of our school devices to loan out to families who need them. The delay has been the fact that we have needed to change connections with our IT providers so that this is possible. Please bear with us and continue using phones to access Teams as a minimum and short term measure. We have also needed more devices to use within school so the staff and children can access class work.

I would like to thank the staff at Oughton. I am sure you agree that the Teachers working online have been amazing. They have worked endlessly using a platform which they have needed to learn with speed. The work which they have prepared has been varied, ensuring that tasks can be accessed at home. It is not easy to respond online to questions continually as well as discuss learning with both Parents and children whilst at the same time prepare for the next lesson. We have had many positive comments and thanks from Parents this week.

The staff within school have been great, all working together as a team, completing jobs together which we do not normally do, but then 2020 / 2021 is far from normal. Staff have worked with different year groups within one class, following the same work prepared by the children's Class Teachers. Those of you who have more than one child working from home know exactly how tricky this is; it is no different at school, we just have more children. We have had an average of about 40 children in school and have been keeping them in bubble groups. If your child is eligible for a school place, you must book each week using the ParentMail form. We cannot take additional children adhoc as we have to organise working spaces, devices, groups and staff. Next week, Nursery children return to school. This means that our staffing is at a critical level within school and our places are extremely limited to keep everyone safe.

So, finally, we have reached Friday. I would like everyone to have a well-deserved rest this weekend. I know that we are all restricted at the present time and we are unable see people socially. However, stay positive. Soon, we will hopefully view this time as history and think "Wow, we were amazing during the Lockdown!"

Stay safe everyone, follow the rules for the health and safety of all of our children, staff and families.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Clayton
Headteacher