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Headteacher: Lynda Walker MA

14th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Headteacher Update

It was so good to have the majority of the students back in school last week. We also welcomed our new 7 students and some new members of staff. We were all very impressed at how quickly they seem to have settled in.

Your child's form tutor should hopefully have contacted you and have agreed how you would like us to stay in touch with you, whether through the home-school book or by email.

Covid 19 Safety Measures

New guidance was issued to special schools last week and as a result we will be amending our current risk assessment – this will be available on the website www.oaklodeschool.org by the end of this week.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns – 0208 444 6711 and ask either for myself, Ginny D'Odorico or Teresa Ellis and we will do our best to answer them.

Attendance

Attendance is now mandatory, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. However, if you have received clinical or public health advice that your child should remain at home in September, please let us know and continue to follow this guidance.

Please keep your child at home if they display Covid-like symptoms or have been asked by NHS Track and Trace to self-isolate. Please visit our website to read and follow the information contained in [Covid-19 School Information](#). You will also be sent a letter detailing what you should do. [See the link direct here](#).

If students are unwell but symptoms do not relate to Covid, we still need to be informed of absence and reasons why as we have to make a daily report to the Department for Education.

We are currently updating our on line learning platform so if students are unable to come to school, they will still be able to access learning. We will let you know when this is ready to use!

Could I also ask you to check out the details on our newsletter about **online safety?**

School Transport

This improved as the first week progressed and generally all buses arrived at school before 9 o'clock!

Our 'new system' for students getting on to their buses at the end of the day has also worked well and has reduced the number of transitions that a child makes during the day. I would also like to say a big thank you to parents/carers who have been bringing their child to school and collecting them at the end of the day as your cooperation has enabled us to have a safer arrival and departure process.

We are having to make a slight change to the beginning of the day. In order for staff to have time to make sure the classrooms are safe we are not going to be letting any children into school before 8.45. Our school day does not officially start until 9.50.

Lunches

We will continue to serve a sandwich based lunch at a cost of £2.40 each day from the school kitchen. If you are sending in a packed lunch or any snack for your child please make sure there are no nuts of any kind as we are now a 'nut-free' school.

Birthdays/Celebrations

We do always try to celebrate birthdays with the students and I know they always appreciate the 'goodies' that many of you send in for the class to share. However, could we please ask you only to send in 'packaged cakes' or wrapped sweets.

If you have any questions or concerns about the points set out above, please get in touch with me, Esther Pearsall or Elham Seyedi-Yazdi. We will continue to keep in touch with any updates to our plans, or if we need to make changes due to new or further updated government advice.

Best Wishes

Lynda Walker

Headteacher