



# Joy Lane Primary School

*A Love of Learning, for Life, for All*

Oyster Bay Nursery & Oysters SRP (ASD)

Executive Headteacher: Ms DJ Hines

Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Return to School: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

I do hope that my letter finds you and your family safe and well. I am writing to you with the intent to re-open our school and welcome back the children on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

Firstly, I would like to start by saying that closing our school was a tough decision, but the right choice, and I appreciate the support you have given us with this and thank you for your positive messages of support; it really means a lot. Also, I appreciate how difficult it has been to cope with home learning. It has been incredibly heartening to see how very well the children have engaged with their online and virtual learning opportunities, so thank you all for your help and support with the remote learning programme – it is very much appreciated.

I would also like to thank those who have been self-isolating as I know, as I have been doing this also; it is not easy, but well done for abiding by this and helping to keep each other safe. I would like to send my very best wishes to those who have been poorly with the virus and wish you a speedy recovery.

As ever, the health and safety of our whole school community is my absolute priority, as well as providing our children with the very best possible education. The team at Joy Lane is very much looking forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday; we cannot wait to get back into our normal school routine, and I am sure you will be feeling the same!

Following our school closure, I know that some of you may be a little concerned about your child returning to school, especially following the news that Kent has now been placed at Tier 3: Very High Alert, but please be assured that school is ready to resume normal service for all our families as we were prior to the two-week fire-break, unless circumstances mean you need to self-isolate. I would like to reassure you that we have reviewed and updated our risk assessments and continue to do our very best in ensuring our children, staff and parent community observe social distancing. The children will continue to cleanse their hands frequently, as well as observing all guidelines common to schools during this pandemic. In addition, we continue to have cleaning staff in attendance during the school day. The school's staggered entry/exit time will be the same as previously set, and we will continue to close on a Friday afternoon, but as before, will remain open with provision for working families. Please contact the school office if you require this facility.

I am sure you will understand that as we cannot move our staff across year group bubbles, this Friday afternoon time will be utilised for our statutory duty of planning, preparation and assessment time (PPA) for our teaching staff, as well as allowing time for a further deep clean.

For your convenience and information, I attach a chart with details of the restrictions in place and we would therefore like to encourage all our families to follow this guidance in order to help suppress the rates of the virus in the community.



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For more information on the current restrictions please look at the government website: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus).

Government guidance regarding attendance at this time states that, 'Being at school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time spent out of school is therefore detrimental to children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of education, and children's future ability to learn. It continues to be our aim that all pupils, in all year groups, remain in school full-time.'

It continues by saying, "The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are more negative health impacts of being out of school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in the classroom far outweigh the low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19)."

If you are, therefore, still feeling anxious about your child returning to school, please contact us so that we can discuss your personal circumstances and try and support you as best we can.

As our teachers prepare for the school's reopening, they will also be planning the provision outlined in our Remote Learning Parent Guide to support those who cannot return to school. We will endeavour to support our learners at home during these challenging times, providing a weekly remote learning overview, a folder of year group resources on our website, feedback and communication on Dojo and an opportunity to join in a live story time with the class via Microsoft Teams.

I am sure that you will agree that we all would like to have the opportunity to spend a part of the Christmas break with our loved ones, so together, we can work in partnership to continue to reduce transmission of the virus and to keep us all safe.

The Joy Lane team and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December with the resumption of the normal timetable and activities that the children will be familiar with.

With Warm Regards,

*D Hines*

Debra Hines  
Executive Headteacher