



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

Wednesday 24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 4 and the great news that all children will be able to access face-to-face learning, in School from Monday 8th March 2021. I am sure that you will be, as pleased as I am that we are now on our journey back towards normality albeit in a four stepped approach – this does seem a sensible mandate to continue to keep us as safe as possible.

The Joy Lane team are busy preparing for, and looking forward to, all children returning to School. As ever, safety and well-being for all remain our priority together with balancing a creative, inspirational curriculum so that children relish their learning opportunities and learn alongside, and play with their friends.

A huge well done to you all for the fantastic effort that you have made in supporting your children to continue their learning at home, following the teacher planning, as this will allow us to keep going with the learning schedule and curriculum when the children return to their classrooms. With such a packed and challenging curriculum, we hope that this has given the children every opportunity to continue to progress in their learning without too much detriment to their attainment levels. From the 8th March, all remote learning will end and will only resume if a class/group or individual needs to self-isolate as a result of a positive coronavirus test or because they have a shielding letter from the government.

Having looked at the most recent government guidance for school reopening, there is a very strong message that there is an expectation that all children return on the 8th March, unless they have a shielding letter from the government. If children do not return to school, there is the possibility of penalty notices being imposed as this would constitute a breach of the law on school attendance.

In terms of the more general guidance on how the school days will run, very little has changed from the guidance that we had for returning to school this September. Therefore, the points that I will raise below in my letter will be important reminders rather than drastic changes. A further letter will follow with a reminder of start times and finish times and drop off and collection points.

A reminder that children should not attend school if either they or any members of the family are unwell with any of the symptoms of coronavirus, and to be cautious if children are unwell about whether they should attend school. Children of primary age will not be tested with lateral flow tests on a regular basis, although all staff are currently tested twice weekly. However, you can make use of the local testing centre at Herne if you wish your child/family to undertake regular tests.

Similarly, children of primary school age will not be wearing face coverings when returning to school, due to their age and following government guidance. We remind all parents/carers that you should wear a face covering whilst on the school site due to the number of people that will be mixing during drop off and pick up times, alongside a reminder please to always socially distance where possible and to not congregate/chat either on the school site or near the entrances. If you have an exemption lanyard, please ensure this is visible when entering our school site; we will also have a few spare face coverings at our school entrances should you forget to bring one with you.

We have sent some equipment home during this period of lockdown. On the first day back, please could we have this returned so that it can be cleaned and returned into circulation in school. If you were allocated a laptop/tablet please can these be brought to the school office so that we can check these back into school, in line with the lending agreements that were signed when the devices were lent out.

All reading books and pupil workbooks/work packs need to go directly to the class teachers, so that work can be assessed and books can go into quarantine and then quickly back into general circulation.

Please can children not bring anything from home that is not absolutely necessary, and definitely no toys, games, soft toys as this increases any infection risk.

All children must wear our whole school uniform which also forms part of the government guidance and plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of our setting and children feel ready for the learning expectation of being in School. I know that some children will have grown out of their school shoes so hopefully this will give you enough time to order shoes online. Only all black trainers are part of the uniform.

Our breakfast and after school club will be available in the children's year group classrooms for the rest of term 4 and I will inform you of any change for next term; please reserve your place online if you require this facility.

I will forward our health and safety entry and exit plan by the end of the week which will have the staggered school start/end time to ensure that we continue to observe government recommended guidance and continue to keep us all as safe as possible. Please also note that as previously, we will continue with the usual arrangement of an early finish on Friday.

In preparation for all the children's return and in true Joy Lane style, Mrs Godden, our Assistant Headteacher has written a social story for you to share as a family. This Social Story has been written to prepare children for their return to school on 8th March 2021. The Social Story reminds children of the many changes that have been put in place, following guidance from the Department of Education (DfE), whilst highlighting many things that will continue to the same or similar. You will find a 'Going back to school workbook' which will compliment this Social Story as it allows children to share their lockdown experiences, feelings about the re-opening of school and ask and share questions that they may have. We hope that these booklets help reassure you, and your children, about what the return to school will look like. If you have any questions regarding the return to school, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

Finally, we will be welcoming a few new families on our return and few more after the Easter break and we are delighted that they will be part of our Joy Lane Community and send a warm welcome to you all and of course, we look forward to welcoming all the children back into school on 8th March.

If you have any further questions about reopening, please do contact the school office or your child's teacher via ClassDojo.

Warmest regards,

DJ Hines

*Debra Hines
Executive Headteacher*