



Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are well and that you are beginning to find a balance between home learning, family time and working. Last week was a challenging time for our children, for you as parents and also for our staff members as we head into the unknown. As a community your support and kind words have been greatly received. Our school team have been amazing over the past few weeks and I would like to personally thank them for taking events in their stride, continuing to undertake any additional tasks that were given to them and most importantly offering support and care to the children. At this time school will continue to remain closed until further notice for the majority of pupils. As a school we will do what ever is needed to support our community and families during these extremely challenging times.

Emergency Childcare

To support our community we are providing emergency care for our essential key workers and also for our vulnerable children each day if required. Our wonderful staff team are on a rota over the coming weeks to staff our childcare provision.

Please e-mail the school at enquiry@oldbrookschoo.co.uk to notify myself if you believe that you fall within the keyworker category and are without any other alternative childcare arrangements (partner or family member living within the same household or working from home) so that we can make arrangements. A request form can be found under the 'Home Learning' section on the school website.

Home Learning

Before school closed your child was given a home learning pack in their book bag. I hope that you have found these useful, there is enough work within them to last you until at least Easter as well as tasks which have been set on PurpleMash for your child to complete. Due to the high volume of children accessing this site across the country there have been some technical glitches however these should now have been resolved. Teachers are checking tasks regularly to see how the children are doing. Please also access the range of websites suggestions on the school website and make time to play games with your children.

Class teachers are currently working on a range of additional home learning which will be added to our school website weekly starting on Monday 20th April. You will see that a new 'Home Learning' tab has been added to the school website. Please click on the year group your child is currently in to access this.



Living and learning together

CALL: 01908 604689 | EMAIL: OFFICE@OLDBROOKSCHOOL.CO.UK



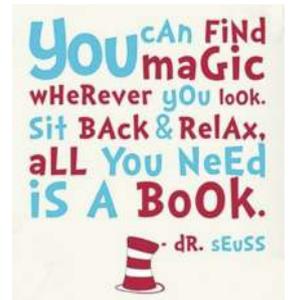
Home learning will also be added to Tapestry for children in Nursery and Reception. Children will need lots of opportunities for play at home.





Home Learning Continued

Please also continue to read with your child. It is such an important life skill. There are a range of books that we use in school which you can access for free at <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/> and also Amazon have removed the subscription requirement to access books and audio stories for children. For as long as the school is closed, you can stream an amazing collection of stories for children. Stream for free via your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet. <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>



Wellbeing and Mental Health

It is really important not to put too much pressure on yourselves or your children whilst trying to undertake a new way of 'living and learning' at home. Please do not try to deliver a 'normal' school day at home. The situation that we find ourselves in is unique. Take this time to spend some quality time with your children and families at a much slower pace of life than what we have become used to. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the world around us and to appreciate and value what really is important to us.

As an infant school our learning is centred around play in the early years and this is something that you can all do at home with your children. You will all be in different situations so make sure that you fit home learning around your other commitments and prioritise your families mental health and well-being. Please do not compare how you are doing things to how other families may be doing them. Do what works for you and your family! You have been the main educator of your child since they were born, you know them best. You know what is the right thing to do. Ignore what you see and read on social networking sites, these are images and comments from a period in time which usually only show the positive times and not the difficult times! We all have those moments when things are not going as planned or our child is having a tantrum over the smallest thing. Be kind to yourselves and take time to support your child. They too are experiencing something new and unknown.

From this week a member of staff will be contacting you by telephone to check in to see how things are going as well as to offer any guidance or support you may need around home learning. They too are missing teaching your child. I am sure that your child will also want to say a quick hello to them as well.



Free School Meals

You may have received an e-mail from Dolce in relation to Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) during the school closure period. At this time the Government have stated that there will be no UIFSM provision for children during the school closure period. This will be the majority of children who attend Oldbrook School. However there are some families who are entitled to Free School Meals who will be provided with a weekly food parcel. All families who are entitled to this have already been contacted last week.

If your family do not qualify for Free School Meals however are in need of support as you are unable to afford food provisions at this time then please do contact me as a matter of urgency at enquiry@oldbrookschool.co.uk so that I can signpost you to the relevant support that may be available.



Internet Safety

It is important that we continue to work together to ensure your child is safe when accessing the internet. They will be accessing a range of home learning through suggested internet sites. Use the parental controls available on your home broadband and all internet enabled devices in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website. Whilst school is closed, here's what you can do to keep your child stay safe while they are learning and having fun online.

1. **Explore together:** Explore websites and apps together to ensure they are accessing appropriate content and that the filters are setup correctly.
2. **Chat little and often about on-line safety:** take the opportunity to talk to them about how to stay safe on these services. Make sure they know that if they ever feel worried, they can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust.
3. **Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried:** This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services who they are able to contact at this time. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.
4. **Supervise their online activity:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult is able to supervise. Children of this age should not access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in a bedroom or bathroom.
5. **Talk about how their online actions affect others:** If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something and get consent from an adult first.
6. **Use 'SafeSearch':** Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which will allow you to limit the content your child can access whilst online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog.

Please use the following films and activities to support your child at home:

Jessie & Friends cartoons www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos A three-episode animated series which helps keep 4-7 year olds safe online. It explores three popular online activities: watching videos, sharing pictures, and online gaming.

Further information for parents can also be found at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

I have always been so proud of our Oldbrook community, so thank you for all that you are doing. If you are a critical key worker, thank you for going above and beyond the call of duty for us all!

We are all missing seeing the children and yourselves each day. Please ensure that you and your families keep safe and work together to support each other during these challenging times.

Take care, be safe and stay home!

K Hopkins

Mr K Hopkins
Headteacher

