



Oakwood

Primary School

Achieving Excellence Together

Sandpiper Road SOUTHAMPTON SO16 8FD

oakwoodlive.net

Headteacher: Maria Whitmarsh, BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

info@oakwoodlive.net

Chair of Governors: Matt Maiden

Phone: 023 8074 2345

Dear Parents

30 June 2020

We hope you are all keeping well and that your child is beginning to look forward to starting at Oakwood!

As you can probably imagine, we are in a very strange and uncertain time as a school at the moment. We are open to our children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable children, and we also have some Year R, 1, and as of this week, Year 6, children in school part time at the moment too.

However, as yet we do not have any information about what school might look like in September, and it could be doubtful that we have that information before the end of this term.

One thing that is certain, is that we have to prioritise the social, emotional and mental well-being of all of our pupils. Our usual internal and external transition arrangements cannot take place and so we will need a big focus on creating a safe, nurturing and welcoming environment for all of our children at the beginning of the next academic year.

As such, in discussion with Governors, we have decided to delay the start of school for our Year R children until 28 September 2020.

This enables us to concentrate on re-establishing our routines and providing support for transition for our older pupils – particularly our current Year Rs moving into Year 1 - and enables us to make sure we can focus on our new Year R cohort fully once this is done.

In this time, we will then hopefully be able to do some of the things that we would normally be doing for new Year R during this summer term – home/school visits, parent information meetings, stay and play sessions etc (all within the potential social distancing restrictions which may still be in place).

We have created a **provisional** timetable of what this could look like in September. The 'stay and play' sessions will be timetabled to provide an individual opportunity for you and your child to spend 10 minutes one-to-one with an adult in Year R, helping to orientate you around the base and let you know some of the morning routines. There will then be the chance for you to stay and play for around 45 minutes. There will be two of these sessions across two weeks – one with a parent and one independent.



The 'Home Contact' days will depend very much on social distancing restrictions in place at that time. We will endeavour to make home visits on those days and across the week wherever possible, but we anticipate that this may not be advisable, and therefore the home contact might be a telephone call.

Once children start school, our aim is to build them up across the week – starting with mornings, then mornings to include lunch, and finally on the Friday to stay until 2pm. They will then be full time as of the following week.

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 September	No school	No school	No school	INSET	INSET
7 September	No school	No school	No school	No school	No school
14 September	Oak Class Stay and Play Sessions (with parents)		Home Contact	Beech Class Stay and Play Sessions (with parents)	
21 September	Beech Class Stay and Play Sessions (independent)		Home Contact	Oak Class Stay and Play Sessions (independent)	
28 September	All children 9.00 - 12.00	All children 9.00 - 12.00	All children 9.00 - 1.15	All children 9.00 - 1.15	All children 9.00 - 2.00
5 October	All children full time				

All of this information, and more, will be available on our Starting at Oakwood page on the website. This page is going to be updated regularly over the next week or so, including videos of staff introducing themselves and a parents' information presentation. Please keep checking back regularly to see the updated content.

Getting ready for school

I have written to all new Year R pupils individually and we will be delivering small gift packs over the next few weeks. This will include a 'getting ready for school' checklist and some stickers so you can track your child's progress in some basic skills ready for September. We will not be collecting these in, but your child may wish to share their progress with their classteacher when they meet them.

We will be in touch as soon as we can to update you further on dates and information. In the meantime, please do keep safe and well.

Yours sincerely



Maria Whitmarsh
Headteacher