

**Head Teacher:** Mr S Arnold

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the outset of this school year, we were extremely excited to be looking forward and to be providing a broader range of experiences for our children, as we did prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were further keen to pursue our home school partnership in the organising and leading of open mornings and workshops etc. However, following a meeting I attended last week with Public Health, we have been advised to adopt a more cautious approach given the high levels of transmission within Wolverhampton. – higher than the national average – particularly amongst primary aged children. This approach has been further endorsed by our Board of Governors.

Upon seeing heat graphs produced by Public Health, there are a significantly worrying number of high cases within the 5-10 and 11-16 year old age groups. In addition, case rates per 100,000 in Wolverhampton are higher than neighbouring areas of Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall. Wolverhampton's case rate per 100,000 is 381.6 compared to England's case rate of 331.8.

Therefore, in light of this data, we have reviewed our planned calendar of events to ensure we are remaining cautious and to prevent unnecessary transmission and possible illness amongst both our children and parent/carer community.

In the first instance, we are postponing our writing workshops. However, we will send out the annotated PowerPoint explaining the pedagogy we adopt for teaching the skills of writing. The PowerPoint will detail the importance of writing, its link within the National Curriculum, the many different aspects of writing and how to support your child at home. If there are any questions arising from it, please ask to speak to Miss Bates, our English Leader.

Secondly, we are changing the plans and timings of the school discos for Years 1-4. In order to give the children the opportunity to take part, the timings will be as follows:

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Year 1 – 1:30 – 2:10 pm.

Year 2 – 2:15 – 3:00 pm.

Years 3 & 4 – 3:30 – 5:00 pm.

Year groups will remain as separate and distinct as possible with a cleaning of the hall and all touch-surfaces in between. To further children's experiences, please send a separate bag of your child's own clothes for changing into. This will create a more relaxed time and experience for them. (Children will be dismissed from their usual end of the day exit door)

As Christmas will soon be approaching, I wish to thank our Friends of Oak Meadow who will shortly be meeting to discuss plans for Christmas and to ensure the children experience the magic and sense of awe and wonder within school at this special time of year. Again, from our initial thinking and planning of events, we have decided to cancel our Christmas Wonderland fair. As your support for this event is overwhelming, we have to be cautious further for keeping one-another safe and free from possible transmission within school. However, as always, I know the Friends will work tirelessly along with staff to provide those magical moments we all recall from our own school days. I thank the Friends for their time and planning of these events and special memorable activities.

#### School Crossing Patrol

I am aware of your concern and worry regarding the lack of an authorised crossing patrol officer on Peacock Avenue. We are regularly in touch with the department allocating officers to areas but keep being advised it is due to a lack of recruits that they are unable to allocate one to Oak Meadow and to the crossing on Peacock Avenue. This is totally out of our control and whilst we have expressed our concern several times as I know some of you have, we have been informed we must be patient

and remain extra cautious when approaching the crossing area. The situation worries me greatly and so please keep your child/ren close by you for crossing this busy road. Thank you.

#### Our Harvest Appeal

As a staff, we are totally overwhelmed by your generosity in donating items for our charitable appeal, The Good Shepherd. The display of items was considerable and I am sure The Good Shepherd will be extremely grateful to receive the items they proposed to help them continue their quest in helping some citizens of Wolverhampton who are less fortunate than ourselves. A sincere and heartfelt thank you!

#### Wednesfield Rotary Club

I am extremely pleased to write to share with you the forging of a special relationship with Wednesfield Rotary Club. Their generosity in supporting us as a school is staggering. In the summer term, they donated a vast range of books and provided a free cinema ticket and cap for each Year 6 leaver. This term, they have funded and delivered a library shed on our Key Stage One playground, appealingly painted, full of books for children to enjoy at lunchtimes on our artificial grass. It is a pleasure seeing children immersed in a book or reading with a partner in an informal setting. I have written separately to the Rotary Club to thank them; we have benefitted from their support greatly.

#### Cross Country Team

Congratulations to our cross-country team who participated in their first running event for a considerable time at Fordhouses Cricket Club. Miss Thwaites and Mrs Brain, who organised the event, commended the children for their dogged determination to complete the course – running with such competitive spirit. Finishing as a team in the top 10, I wish to say a big WELL DONE to Cara, Callum, Charlie, James, Jenson, Scarlett, Olivia and Lily-Mae .. and thank them for representing Oak Meadow so well. Thank you.

I write to thank you for your cooperation in seeking a confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test when your child presents with symptoms. We follow the advice from Public Health England and due to your due diligence and care, our numbers of positive cases within school is extremely low, with only two children positive at this present time in Year 3 and 6. Please continue to remain vigilant for symptoms. Thank you.

Finally, a reminder that half term is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October. We also have a planned INSET Day designated for staff training on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November. We therefore look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

As always, I thank you for your support and commend our children for their hard working, keen and enthusiastic attitudes to learning, I am immensely proud!

Yours sincerely,

*S Arnold*

Mr S Arnold  
Headteacher

From tiny acorns **mighty oaks** grow...

