

21 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another Thursday is upon us already and I wanted to take the time to write out to you all again with a few pieces of information and reminders.

Learning as we go...

Our online learning and in-school learning is going really well! Thank you so much for engaging so enthusiastically with it. We all know that this is not easy, especially for most of you who are still trying to work from home too. We hope that the live teaching offer is helping support the children and that 'seeing' their teacher and friends is helping. Please do remember though that if your work patterns don't allow you to access the learning at the live time, you can watch the recordings and access the work at any convenient time. We carefully monitor engagement for many reasons, and if you're struggling to access the content we're providing, we will be in touch so that we can offer help in any way we can. As I've mentioned before, we are in completely new territory with teaching in this way, and each week things are getting better and better. Together; staff, parents and children – we're finding our way!

Friday themes

As a staff we have decided to introduce Friday themes to get everyone having a little fun at the end of the week. Children in school and at home can take part – obviously there is no pressure to get involved – but we thought that as a family who can't all be together at the moment – well we can find a bit of fun in other ways! The themes are as follows:

Friday 22nd Jan – Odd Socks Friday

Friday 29th Jan – Crazy hair Friday

Friday 5th Feb – Fruity fun Friday (decorate a piece of fruit or vegetable to become someone or something else!)

Friday 12th Feb – Bright clothes Friday

Parents are obviously welcome to join in too! 😊

Assemblies

From Friday we will be recording a short weekly assembly which will be posted to your Teams channel. Any children who get a shout out for super efforts will get their certificate/postcard in person if they are attending school. Anyone who is learning at home will have theirs posted out to them!

Critical Worker and Vulnerable Child spaces

Every week we carefully analyse numbers of children attending school and carefully work through applications for spaces. This is always done on a Wednesday at our leadership meetings. As I explained last week when I wrote out to you, the criteria that we apply is ever changing, particularly as our numbers of vulnerable children increase during the lockdown period. We thank you so much for being so understanding about the position that we are in if we have had to adjust or reallocate your space as need has changed. As always, if you do need to apply for a school place due to your circumstances changing, please call the academy office and they will send you the appropriate application form for consideration the following Wednesday.

Email addresses

I have reinstated email boxes for teachers in each year group as were in place during Lockdown 1.0. This means that you can email a teacher in the year group without having to go via the academy office. That's said, many parents are

now contacting using the TEAMS platform which is absolutely fine. Please be aware that the mailboxes will be checked a couple of times a week, but as I know you are only too aware, teachers are fully committed to both an online and in school teaching commitment for most of the academy day. If you do want to use the email boxes to contact year group teachers, the addresses are as follows:

MAK-Reception@oasismarksburyroad.org

MAK-Y1@oasismarksburyroad.org

MAK-Y2@oasismarksburyroad.org

MAK-Y3@oasismarksburyroad.org

MAK-Y4@oasismarksburyroad.org

MAK-Y5@oasismarksburyroad.org

TEAMS – a shared learning platform

We are loving using TEAMS as a shared learning platform and are so impressed with how well the children are managing to use the functionality – especially the muting and unmuting and the raising of hands. If you could just take a few minutes over the weekend to chat to your children about using the shared space responsibly we'd be really grateful. We will be talking to the children about it next week, really focusing on how we must be allowing all children to concentrate as much as possible, sticking to rules of muting and unmuting so that teachers can deliver great teaching, and using the chat function for learning conversations at appropriate times. We really do appreciate your support in this – if any of you have had to try and keep control of an online meeting over the past year I'm sure you'll sympathise with some of these hurdles. That said, the children are doing so so well and we couldn't feel more proud of them!

Please remember that we are only at the end of the phone, and at the end of the email box – if you are struggling in any way, do give us a shout. We can't promise to fix everything, but we will help as much as we can. We really are all in this together.

Warmest wishes,

Clare