

Ormesby Village Infant School

Spruce Avenue
Ormesby St Margaret
GT YARMOUTH
Norfolk
NR29 3RY



Tel: 01493 730298

Fax: 01493 733810

Email: office@ormesbyinfant.norfolk.sch.uk

Monday July 6th 2020

Dear Parents

As we rapidly approach the end of what has been the strangest, and most challenging, summer school term for all of us, I want to thank you and your children for all your hard work and support for the school, both before, and during lockdown! We have so missed you and your children and have been delighted to welcome back those who have been with us over the last few months and weeks! You should be so proud of how they have adapted to the 'new normal' in school and engaged with their home-learning. We are so appreciative! I must also thank each and every one of my staff, whatever their role in the school. They have all worked so hard as a team to make the school as safe as possible and to teach and look after the children in school and continue to offer home-learning activities. I am so proud of them all and grateful for their dedication to this school!

We now know that all children in every year group are expected back at school in September. We know that you will be delighted and apprehensive about this in equal measure and we will let you know how the school will operate when we have digested the guidance fully from the government and the LA. For the academic year 2020-21 there will be four mixed-age classes, two YR/Y1 classes taught by Mrs Allen and Mrs Bunker/Mrs Bird and two mixed Y1/Y2 classes taught by Mrs McNulty and Mrs Vaughan. There is no alternative to mixing our classes again this year, something that has happened frequently before, and currently happens in all classes at the junior school and in other small schools across the country. We are not allowed to have a class size over 30 in an infant school, except in very specific circumstances, and each of our year groups will have over 30 in September. There are insufficient children on roll to support appointing a fifth teacher at this time, as we are allocated funding based on class sizes of up to 30 – there will be 107 pupils on roll in September, well short of the four class maximum roll of 120.

It is important that you understand that your child will receive the same quality and content of educational provision, no matter what class they are in. Children in Y1 who are in a mixed YR/Y1 class do not repeat their reception year, just as Y1 children in a mixed Y1/2 class do not skip a year. Every child will begin their learning in September from their current starting points – and, of course, for all children, learning has been hugely disrupted to a greater or lesser extent, depending on whether they have attended school since lockdown and the level of their engagement in home learning. Teachers are always used to planning for a wide range of learning abilities and styles, even in single age classes, but the range of ability and learning maturity is likely to be even wider in mixed age classes in an infant school and we have been particularly mindful of this when organising the classes. All children, in all year groups, will need to revisit and consolidate many aspects of learning from this disrupted year and our current YR children, in particular, who have not had a



complete reception year, will need to be able to complete this educational stage in the environment that is best for them, before they can embark on further learning in KS1. Our teachers are extremely experienced and have therefore organised the classes so that children are placed where their current needs, abilities and social and emotional development will be best met, while operating within our class number constraints. Teachers will inform you on Class Dojo of your child's class for next year. Regrettably, it will not be possible for children to spend time in school in their new classes, both because of the requirement to continue offering places to vulnerable and eligible pupils, and the need to maintain social distancing of children and staff in their current bubbles. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange a transition visit for Y2 children at the junior school without compromising our risk procedures and we will inform you about this as soon as we can. Y2 pupils will be split into three groups and will join mixed-age Y3/4 classes, taught by Mrs Gooch/Miss McMylor, Mrs Angel and Mrs Holt.

You will be emailed your child's end of year report from Monday 6th July onwards, as quickly as office staff can manage. This report is written to cover the period from September 4th to 20th March 2020 when the schools were closed. They make reference also to what has been offered in home-learning activities. If you want to discuss your child's report please message your class teacher on Class Dojo to arrange a mutually convenient time. Children in reception and Y2 have not been formally assessed at the end of the year, as would normally happen, because of school closure, and so have not been awarded a level/standard, in line with government guidance.

We say a sad farewell to our Y2 pupils from the infant school – but they will not be so very far away in September! We also say goodbye to Mrs Ellero, who is beginning her well-earned retirement at the end of the term. We thank her for her many years of dedicated service to the school, as a midday supervisory assistant and an after school play worker. She will be greatly missed! Finally, please do enjoy a sunny, peaceful and healthy summer holiday. We all look forward to welcoming you back, safe and sound, on Monday September 7th. We will keep you informed about plans for September.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Bates
Headteacher