

# Ormesby Village Infant School

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Dear Parents

A very warm welcome back to you all to the last half of the summer term! We are delighted to have welcomed back some YR/Y1 children as well as our usual key worker children and, of course, want to make their days at school as happy and as stress-free as possible. We have not forgotten the many children who are still at home, however, and so hope that we will see them in school very soon. Please take note of the important information and reminders in this letter.

## Return to school

The current guidance from the government about which pupils can now attend school remains unchanged. Key workers' children take priority over all other year groups – the list of who qualifies as a key worker remains the same. YR, Y1 and Y6 pupils are the only year groups eligible to return to school, in addition to key workers, and all returning children have to be allocated to a 'bubble', in which they remain for the time they attend school. At the infant school we can only accommodate four bubbles at any time with the number of staff we have at the school. Currently there is still some capacity for additional pupils to return to school but if/when the number of key worker children/YR/Y1 pupils wanting a place increases, this will only be possible on a part-time/rota basis. **It is therefore crucial that you understand that if your children are attending school at the moment in YR/Y1, but you are not a key worker, they may have to attend on a rota basis at some point in the future.** Not only are our bubbles limited by staffing, but also by the requirement to space desks out at 2 metre intervals in each classroom. This limits our bubble size considerably.

**It is therefore also very important that if you decide at the later date you would like your YR/Y1 child to come back to school that you do not turn up without prior notice.** In the first instance you must request a place via Class Dojo and you will be told when/if your child can have a place and when they can start.

**As key workers have priority we must always have spaces for them in school, so please continue to give us notification a week in advance, when possible, of the days your children require.**

We understand how unsettling it must be not to have complete clarity and certainty about your child's school place, but as long as we are required to adhere to the government and local authority guidelines we have no option but to offer places on a rota basis if they exceed our capacity.



### Road Crossing Patrols

We have been advised that the schools' road crossing patrol staff will not be returning to their duties in the short-term, due to Covid health regulations. Neither has been at work for some time now, but we need to make you aware that unfortunately they will not be returning at the moment. We send them both our very best wishes.

### Attendance

As you know, if you have decided not to send your child back to school, even though they are eligible to return, you will not receive a fixed penalty notice for non-attendance at the moment. We will let you know if this guidance changes. If you have decided to send your child back to school they will have an allocated place in one of our bubbles. If, for any reason, including illness, they do not come to school on a particular day, you must let us know and the reason for the absence. We now have to take our school registers as previously and enter by each child's name the correct attendance code.

### Home learning

Class teachers will continue to put home learning activities on to Class Dojo but please remember that they are working in school every day now, so cannot answer messages during working hours. They now need to plan for children at home and at school, so please be patient if you have to wait a little longer for work to be uploaded and marked. Many thanks!

### New school year

We have no further guidance from the government on when other year groups will be able to return to school and when classroom life can return to 'normal'. We shall plan on the basis that all pupils will return to school in September 2020, even if not on a full time basis, and will organise our new classes accordingly. The roll at the infant school remains very low and so there will continue to be four classes only in September. As you know from previous letters, class size in an infant school cannot exceed 30, except in very specific circumstances, and so in September we will have some mixed-age classes again, as we have done in previous years. There is likely to be at least one mixed YR/Y1 class, and one mixed Y1/Y2 class, and these will be determined when we are more certain about how many new reception pupils we will be admitting. All our teachers are dedicated professionals who know your children well and have their very best interests at heart. They will take account of friendships, but equal consideration must, and will, be given to ensuring the new classes are well balanced in terms of gender and ability, so every child is working in a class which allows each individual to succeed to the best of their ability. We will send you more information on new classes as the term progresses.

Children in Y2 who are transferring to junior school will be placed in one of three mixed Y3/4 classes and the same approach, stated above, will be adopted by teachers when organising these classes. We will do our very best to organise some transfer visits towards the end of the term if we possibly can.

Finally, a huge thank you to you and your children for your fantastic response and commitment to home-learning. A huge thank you too, to **all** my staff, who have worked so hard since we went into lockdown and have enabled the school to open to more pupils this week.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Bates  
Headteacher