



## Osborne School

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**Headteacher: Sonia White**

23 June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are all keeping well in these difficult times.

I am writing with reference to the recent announcement made by the Government about not moving any further forward on the Country's roadmap out of lockdown.

Unfortunately, some of the events that we had planned for this half of the summer term are now not able to go ahead in the way we had intended but we are determined to make the most of what is possible. I am pleased therefore to give details below:

**Transition** - On 6 and 7 July current pupils will spend the day in their proposed classes for September and our new intake will be joining us for short visits in small groups over the course of the two days. This allows us to maintain the integrity of our Covid bubbles and minimise unnecessary contacts.

***If your young person is leaving us this year, we would very much appreciate it if they could remain at home on the transition days to help us with our staffing levels.*** Please contact the school if this is going to cause you difficulties.

**FOS School Fete** – Disappointingly we have had to cancel this event but a Summer Raffle will take place which will be drawn at the end of term. We do hope you will be able to buy the tickets sent home to you or sell them on to family and friends. There are some really lovely prizes on offer.

**Leavers Events** – We are so sad not to be able to hold a Prom again this year but we will be holding a Leavers Assembly on Thursday 15 July when Records of Achievement will be presented to those who are leaving. Parents will be able to join us virtually via Zoom and details will be sent out in due course.

**Celebration Assembly and Annual Awards Ceremony** - Nominations are in and trophies are ordered for what is one of the highlights of our year. Award winners will be presented with their trophies and certificates in the school hall on Thursday 22 July and we hope to live stream the event to classes and parents so that everyone can join in the celebrations. I do hope that you will be able to take part – be sure to look out for further details as they may indicate that your young person is an award winner!

As we start looking towards the Summer Holidays I am pleased to provide information from the Winchester Basics Bank who are able to support anyone who finds themselves struggling at the moment:

*The Winchester Basics Bank are inviting families with school-aged children who feel they need some extra help over the school holidays to register for their Holiday Lunch Scheme via <https://winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk/holidaylunchscheme> or ask your school for a application form. You do not need to be receiving Free School Meals to take advantage of this scheme; if you need a little extra help with food this year please apply. The scheme will provide weekly bags of food designed to provide five lunch meals for the children, and we can accommodate most dietary requirements. If you need more support with food for the whole family, please register for a full food parcel – <https://winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk/get-help/>. This year there are 4 locations, but the Holiday Lunch Scheme collections are on specific days and only between 10-12pm; Highcliffe (Mon), New Alresford (Wed), Weeke (Thur) and Bar End (Thur). You will be asked to nominate which location you will be collecting your food from. The Holiday Lunch scheme will start on the week commencing 26 Jul.*

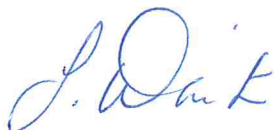
*If you have any questions about the Holiday Lunch Scheme please contact the WBB on [summerlunch@winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk](mailto:summerlunch@winchesterbasicsbank.co.uk) or leave a message on 01962 864720.*

I am also enclosing, for your information, a letter from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, and would like to add my thanks to you all for your co-operation with all that we are having to do as a school to minimise the risks of Covid. I am pleased that our continued vigilance is helping to keep everyone safe.

Tomorrow is Sports Day and we look forward to a fun day out in the sunshine as we move around the field in our bubbles. With parents unable to join us this year we will make sure that there are plenty of photographs on the website.

As always if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

Yours sincerely



Sonia White  
Headteacher

## **A letter to secondary school and college parents in England on continuing regular Covid-19 testing from Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education**



**Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has today written to secondary school and college parents and guardians in England to talk about the importance of regular testing when it comes to keeping Covid out of the classroom.**

*The Prime Minister announced on 14 June that step 4 of the roadmap would have to be paused for up to four weeks because of the spread of the new variant.*

*With the increase in cases with variants of concern, it is important to continue regular testing in order to detect cases of coronavirus, stay ahead of the virus and keep covid out of the classroom.*

*This means that regular asymptomatic testing for all will continue, and we need you and your children who are in secondary school or college to carry on testing at home, twice a week.*

*As you know, testing has been playing a vital role in our response to the virus. It is helping to break chains of transmission by identifying asymptomatic positive cases quickly. This means those who test positive can self-isolate, keeping other pupils and students in face-to-face education. Reporting all test results, positive or negative, helps the health experts have a clearer picture of any potential outbreaks in different parts of the country.*

*I want to thank you all for your efforts so far. I know that this has been an enormously challenging time for families, who have faced many pressures over the past 18 months. Your continued support in helping us fight the virus has been vital.*

*Secondary pupils and college students, households and their bubbles, along with school and college staff have now completed more than 50 million tests since these were introduced back in January. That really is an incredible number and we need you to continue your efforts.*

*It is wonderful to see so many children back in school and through your actions we can work together to keep everyone safe ensuring we can also keep your children in school with their friends.*

**Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP Secretary of State for Education**