3rd September 2021

Dear Parent and Carers

Welcome back to Orrets Meadow and welcome all our new members! All of the children have settled into their new classes and appear happy. Routines will take time to embed and relationships need to be built between peers and adults, but once these are in place rapid progress will be seen academically, socially and emotionally.

**Absence**

Please remember to phone school **before** 9am each morning your child is absent. Please do not assume that by telling the escort we will receive the message. Michelle will call any family we have not heard from by 9am.

**Covid**

Unfortunately Covid is still around. Please consider whether pre Covid you would have sent your child into school. If the answer is yes then please send them in unless they have Covid symptoms which are:

* A temperature of 37.8 degrees or above
* A dry continuous cough (coughing fits)
* No sense of smell or taste

You should get a PCR test if you have one of the above symptoms. If a child is a close contact of someone with Covid, the new rules are that they are advised to get a PCR and so long as they have no symptoms, they continue to attend school. While they wait for the result they can also attend school, so long as they have no symptoms.

Children will get sore throats, sneezes, runny noses, hayfever and colds at this time of year. We can give Calpol and Piriton if you send it in and sign the form.

Your child has a lot to catch up on so please only keep them off school if they really are feeling unwell or if they are showing any of the above Covid symptoms.

**Uniform**

Thank you parents for sending your children back to school looking smart and in full uniform. Please can you make sure your child’s uniform has their name in. Shoes must be black and jewellery must not be worn to school for health and safety reasons.

**PE Kits**

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school. We encourage pupils to keep it in school until the holidays, when it is sent home to be washed. Pupils need a white t-shirt, dark shorts and trainers/pumps. All items must be named.

**School bags**

Please ensure your school bag is in school every day. It is important so we can put homework and letters in it. If you need a replacement they are £6 each. If you have any concerns regarding your child you can either write a note in your child's homework diary, give a message to the escort or phone school on 678 8070. Communication is key to your child succeeding at Orrets Meadow.

**Snacks**

Breakfast snacks and hot chocolate are on sale for 20p every morning when the children arrive. Fruit and breadsticks are available to buy for 20p at breaktime. If you are sending in money for the week can you make it clear whether you are paying for breakfast snack or breaktime snack? It works out at £2 a week if they are having both or £1 a week if they are having just one.

**Dinner Money**

Lunch is £2.30 a day. It is more efficient to pay dinner money for the week on the Monday, which is £11.50 if the child is having lunch every day. However, if your child just wants dinner on one day, then please send in £2.30 on the day. All money should be passed to the escort who then passes it to the member of staff meeting the buses. Please do not put large amounts of money in school bags. Menus are on the school website – meals are very child friendly so please try them.

**Homework**

Homework will be given out to most children every night, depending on the age and stage of the child. It lasts roughly fifteen minutes and consists of reading and a probe sheet. Each week you will get one piece of Maths homework but this will always be on something they have covered in class. Please support your child making maximum progress by ensuring they do their homework. Any problems please contact your class teacher.

**Bugclub/Mathletics**

Again this year we are spending some of our Pupil Premium on the web based reading scheme ‘Bug club’. This enables children to have access to ebooks at school and at home at their level. To access your child’s account go to www.activelearnprimary.co.uk.

**Username** – their first name eg. sam (if more than one sam, add first initial of second name eg. samb)

**Password** – puppy

**School code** – pa9p

Please note the new children will all be put at red level (which is low), until we assess them, then they will be moved to an appropriate level.

Mathletics – usernames and passwords are in the front of the home school book.

<https://login.mathletics.com>

**Meet the Teacher**

Please all parents try to attend our meet the teacher on Thursday 16th September at 6pm. We would prefer the children not to attend if possible, however if you have no childcare then they can sit quietly and listen.

It is a chance for you to meet the teacher, hear how they have settled in and find out more about classroom routines etc. The meeting will last about an hour.

Year 6s – I will give you information on how they apply to secondary schools.

**Holidays**

Please may I remind you holidays in term time will not be authorised without an exceptional reason. Your child is at Orrets Meadow because they are working below their age related expectations, so they need to be in school every day. Please try to make all appointments after school or in the holidays.

**Medication including inhalers**

Please make sure school is aware of any medication pupils are taking in school time. Forms need to be filled in and medicine kept locked away. Staff will administer medicine, if prescribed by the doctor. We will also administer paracetamol for up to 3 days. **We are unable to administer Ibuprofen.**

Please inform school if your child needs an inhaler in school time as it needs to be kept on site. An emergency inhaler is available for pupils who have asthma, however a form needs to be filled in to use it. PLEASE LET SCHOOL KNOW IF YOUR CHILD USES AN INHALER.

**Mobile phones/tablets**

Pupils are allowed to take mobile phones and tablets onto the buses to keep them occupied on the school journey. They are used at their own risk to loss and damage. All equipment is handed into school as they arrive and given back to them as the go home. Any camera devices need to be covered with a plaster for the safety and protection of the other pupils. Photos must not be taken on the bus and children must not be able to access the internet to keep them safe.

**Slippers**

If your child would be more comfortable wearing slippers in class then please send them into school. No lights or big character slippers please!

Please look at our school website at <http://orrets-meadow.eschools.co.uk> for other information on school. Please follow us on Facebook by searching Orrets meadow and start following us!

Thanks for all your support.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact me.

Mrs Duncan