



# Little Hill Primary School

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Part of the OWLS Academy Trust

19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, thank you for your continued patience whilst we continue to work through our planning process and implement measures following the most recent Department for Education guidance for all pupils to return to school, full time, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020.

We know how important the first ever day of school is for you and your child and even though we are working in unprecedented times, the whole team at Little Hill and I will strive to ensure that the beginning of their education journey is as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

This letter will provide you with the information regarding the transition and visits for your child before they start school. It will also provide you with important information around keeping you and your child safe.

The health and safety of every child, member of staff and our school community is always our highest priority. This details all the measures we will be taking during the autumn term to ensure that our children and staff are safe. Our risk assessments include making adaptations to Little Hill so that school is as safe as possible for everyone.

**Some of the arrangements in this letter differ from the previous information you have had. Please take note from this letter only.**

## **PARENTS' MEETINGS – Week Beginning 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

These meetings have been arranged especially for parents of children who will be starting school this year. Due to social distancing, we have arranged a 15 minute individual teacher-family session for you to meet your child's class teacher and see your child's learning space. I encourage you to bring your child with you. At this time, you will be able to ask any questions and find out any additional specific information that you may need. You will receive a phone call from us on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August to book in a time with your child's class teacher.

## CHILDREN'S VISITS TO SCHOOL

### **Story Afternoons – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 - 2.40 to 3.00 p.m.**

We would like to invite the children to attend a story afternoon on either Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September for children whose surname begins with the letter A – M (inclusive) or Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September for children whose surname begins with the letter N – Z (inclusive). Parents are requested to bring children to the Foundation Stage playground for 2.40 p.m. and collect them at 3.00 p.m. please. Unfortunately, at this stage we are unable to provide a waiting area for parents, due to social distancing rules.

### **Morning Visits – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – 9.30am- 11.00am. Please note the change in date from the previous letter.**

There will be an opportunity for the children to visit the school on one of the two dates given below. The purpose of this visit is to ease the process of starting school. If your child is unable to attend on the appropriate date, please let us know and we will suggest an alternative. Your child will meet other children who will also be starting school for the first time and will be introduced to their classrooms by the staff.

- a. Children whose surname begins with the letter A – M (inclusive) are invited to visit the school on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 9.30 a.m.**
- b. Children whose surname begins with the letter N – Z (inclusive) are invited to visit the school on **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 9.30 a.m.**

Each of the two visits will last approximately 1½ hours. Parents are requested to bring children to the Foundation Stage playground entrance at 9.30am. where staff will meet you. You should collect your child at 11.00 a.m. from the same place. Please be prompt. If you intend to travel by car, please note that it may be beneficial for you to arrive a few minutes early in order to find a parking space on one of the side streets near to the school.

### **Starting School:**

All of the EYFS children will start school on a phased timetable on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. **Please note that this date has changed from the one in the original letter.** Please see the table below which outlines how your child's day will be gradually increased to support their start to education and their wellbeing.

	<b>Drop off</b>	<b>Pick up</b>
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> , Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	8.50am	12 noon Children will not have lunch at school on these days.
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	8.50am	1.15pm Children will stay at school for lunch.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2020	8.50am	3pm



## What time should your child arrive at school and depart?

In line with government guidelines, to keep our whole-school community safe, there will be staggered start and end times to the school day as outlined in the table below. Punctuality is extremely important, and I urge all families to adhere to government social distancing guidelines to and from school. This is especially important when you are on school site either waiting for your child or dropping them off.

	Arrival time	Pick up time	Where to drop off?	Where to pick up?
Foundation Stage	8.50am	3pm	Foundation Stage Playground.	Foundation Stage Playground

The day for all pupils meets the government guidelines of teaching time required.

If you have more than one drop off and pick up to do, please ensure that you wait safely on the school grounds, maintaining social distancing. Only one parent/carer will be allowed to drop off or pick up their child. We are unable to release pupils earlier than the time allocated. Children and siblings will not be allowed on the play equipment at home time.

### Uniform

A reminder that our school uniform consists of:

- White shirt/blouse or white or red polo shirt\*
- Grey shorts, trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Bright red sweatshirt\*, jumper\* or cardigan\*
- Sensible flat black shoes (NOT trainers). Black ankle boots are acceptable during the winter months.

Children will also need indoor and outdoor PE kit:

- Outdoor kit – plain black, grey or navy jogging bottoms, a sweatshirt\* or a black hoodie or zip up top for PE (no school logo needed) and trainers
- Indoor kit – Black shorts, red or white plain t-shirt\*, socks and plimsolls.

Items marked with a \* are available with an embroidered school logo, as are fleeces, book bags, PE bags and rucksacks. However, please note that wearing the school logo is optional. Embroidered items may be purchased from Trinity School Wear online ([www.trinityschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.trinityschoolwear.co.uk)).

We would love to see the children in their school uniforms during their visits to us.

## How are you making sure school is safe?



We will check for risks before school is open.



Regular hand washing.



If a child or family member is sick, they cannot come to school.



Regular cleaning.



Class groupings will stay together all day and will not be able to mix with other groups.



Changes made to the school day.

## Will my child be tested?



This will continue to be your responsibility if your child shows symptoms of Coronavirus – you must organise this yourselves. This test will not be carried out in school. The Government have said that they will give schools a limited amount of testing kits to give out to families. However, we have not had these or the guidance for these yet.

## What else do I need to know?



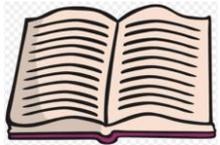
Teachers will focus upon familiarising the children with the school rules and routines during the first few days of school. This will include specific lessons on hygiene, social distancing and attitudes to learning. We will provide our broad and ambitious curriculum in line with government guidelines, whilst ensuring key gaps in learning which stop our children from moving forward, are filled.



Children can bring a packed lunch. Alternatively, school packed hot meals will be available. All children in the Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible to receive a Universal Free School Meal. We provide nutritious, balanced meals and research has shown that children benefit from having a hot meal at lunchtime. We would like to encourage all children to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. If your child does bring a packed lunch please ensure they can open most the items included in their lunch box without assistance. Each class has been allocated a staggered break and dinner time which will be spent in a designated zone.



We also encourage children to drink water during the day so they are allowed a named water bottle in the classroom. From September, water bottles will be able to be purchased from the school office at a cost of £2.50 each.



Your child will be given a reading book to take home. Please ensure that you are reading with them daily at home. Reading books in school will be carefully managed in line with our risk assessments to ensure everyone's safety. Please continue to maintain high standards of hand washing before and after reading.



We expect all pupils to attend school in their school uniform, ideally for the visits as well. They should bring a small bag to school containing their books, lunchbox and a water bottle. All items must be clearly marked with their names. All named clothing will be returned to your child but we will not be keeping lost property.

On PE days, children can come to school in their PE Kits (as a temporary measure). We will inform you which days your child has PE on the first day of term. Most, PE Lessons will be outdoors during the Autumn Term.



We have increased the amount of cleaning hours available during the day.



No parents/carers are to come into the school building without a prior arrangement being made. If required, email or ring the office to leave a message.



We have increased the frequency in the cleaning of toilets and sinks.



Children also have the opportunity to receive a free 189ml carton of milk each day whilst under the age of 5. This is part of a government funded scheme to ensure that all children in the UK receive the nutrients that milk provides. Once your child reaches the age of 5 you can register on-line with 'Cool Milk' ([www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)) where payments can be made for your child to continue to receive milk, if you wish.



On hot days, you may wish for them to wear sun cream. Please apply this sun cream to them before they come to school. If they require it to be re-applied during the day, they must be able to do this themselves. Send your child to school with a cap/hat and a waterproof coat.



It is essential that your child arrives at the correct allocated drop-off time. It is equally important that they are collected promptly at the appropriate pick-up time. We do not encourage congregations of adults or children and insist that you social distance (1+ metres) from those outside your household.

As you are aware, we are dealing with an ever-changing picture. I will continue to keep you updated with school developments and would like to reassure you that we will do our absolute best to welcome our pupils back to the safe, welcoming school. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming your child to Little Hill.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs V Pankhania  
Headteacher

*Giving children a flying start*