



Letter 3

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear All,

We reach the end of another busy week at St Blaise. Although there are difficulties nationally with COVID testing, families have been extremely resourceful, making sure that children are safe to return to school. We have also had Staff members who have needed to isolate whilst waiting for family members' results. We appreciate your patience; as we receive updated information we will make sure that we share it with you.

Schools must publish their contingency plans to cover what they will do if events escalate, by the end of September. We will ensure that you have access to ours early next week.

As part of the plan we are preparing paper based learning packs for children who are asked to isolate. We have decided to have a whole school theme of building to celebrate our ever-changing school site. If pupils are well enough to work, we would ask that they complete some English, maths, reading and topic/science each day. The packs have been designed to last 10 days and should be used in conjunction with all the electronic resources that we provide – Purple Mash, Times tables Rock Stars, Phonics Play to name a few. We will endeavour to send the packs home with the children or they will be delivered to houses.

If a class/ school is locked down, then teachers will revert back to the summer term plan of using Google classroom; this will include setting daily work. There will also be face to face group support via online Zoom sessions; to include worship, well-being and learning clinics. We anticipate the school would remain open for some pupils and ask for support in our efforts to balance pupils remaining in school with those at home.



### Rule of 6

Please can we respectfully remind you that you must not meet in groups of more than six. We have had some reports from neighbours that much larger groups are meeting in the park after school; this puts us in a very difficult position. Please follow the guidance that came into force on Monday.

### 8:45 – 15:15 from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September



Following a review by staff we have decided that we would like to return to 8.45 start and 3.15pm finish for Poplar, Willow and Maple. Oak will remain at 9am until 3pm. If you have children mixed across the times, then please do drop off older ones then come to the hall doors. A member of staff will usually be out by 8.55am. If this poses difficulties, please speak to me and we will look at the arrangements. At the end of the day please pick up any Oak children and take them with you to pick up older siblings. Staff will endeavour to be on time. Please can we request that you make every effort to be in school on time – we are losing valuable learning time waiting for pupils.





Reminders to all that you need to be socially distant at all times particularly with the latest guidelines, can we also request that you respect distance with staff and wear a mask if you would like to have a conversation.



Please can you make sure that when children are with you on the school site, they are with you at all times. The new car park, flower beds and road are not a playground.

### **Books**

Please can we ask that any books borrowed during lockdown are returned – we still have over 100 outstanding.



### **Building progress – a report by Mckenzie Perry**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September Maple class visited the school building site. We looked at the new part of the school. Simon told us about what they were doing and how they were doing it. He told us about the stones and getting ready for the piling machine. You have to make the ground hard so that the big machine doesn't sink. They are digging big holes (up to 10m deep) so that they can put in the grey concrete. They are going to put steels in to make the walls.

In the wall they are going to put the yellow blocks in – these are called insulation blocks. In the winter they will keep us warm and in the summer they will help to keep us cool.

We visited the playground. It cost £1,000 per square metre to build our new playground. It is made of stone, then they put membrane on and more stone then tarmac on the top – two layers. After 30 days they can put the paint on for markings. We are having a netball court put on the playground.

The kitchen has walls and a roof and doors and windows. Mrs Leach has had a sneaky look, she said it was huge!

### **Simon – Deputy Site Manager**

**How long have you been a builder?** 12 years

**Do you like building?** I like building and I have always liked making things. My favourite part of the build is the finishing off at the end.

**What is the best building you have ever built?** Bedford Free School. I had to build on top of the roof which was 10 storeys high. When we had finished it was 14 storeys high – this is the tallest building I have worked on.

**What is your favourite thing about your job?** Telling people off!

**Do you drive the diggers?** I used to drive smaller diggers but my licence ran out.





Contacts for classes:



Oak - [oak.3260@st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:oak.3260@st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk)

Poplar – [poplar.3260@st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:poplar.3260@st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk)

Willow - [willow.3260@st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:willow.3260@st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk)

Maple - [maple.3260@st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:maple.3260@st-blaise.oxon.sch.uk)



*Zaine has been using imperative verbs in his instruction writing – well done.*

*Theo has been very kind to his class mates; he always helps them when they are sad*

*Grace wrote an amazing description of the eruption of Vesuvius.*

*Elena has worked beautifully in her class and made some creative objects in lessons*

*Congratulations to Martin for completing his year three/ four spellings*

### **Class coffee and tea events**



We would like to do a regular class tea/coffee afternoon so that we can catch up in an informal way. It is easier to meet with a smaller group as they will be held using Zoom. This term we have chosen Wednesday afternoons – this will vary during the year.

Oak – we held this week

Poplar – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2-2.30pm

Willow – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2-2.30pm

Maple – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2-2.30pm

We are hoping that class teachers will also attend

### **Parents/carer meetings**

These will be held remotely. They are an opportunity to discuss how the children have settled, ways to help and answer any questions. Please note that meetings will be 10-15min long and staff have to set up their next meetings. We will have parent meetings in February and the Summer. Oak will just be on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, other classes will be on the Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October. We are not family grouping and teachers will all be



in separate locations. Please sign up for a slot in the new office area; you will need to distance and anti-bac your hands.

## **Additional information re COVID**

I write as a local GP, and as the Medical Director for Oxfordshire LMC, the statutory body that represents GPs in Oxfordshire.

It has been brought to our attention that GP practices, out of hours services, and hospital A+E departments are all receiving queries from schools and parents, asking for access to COVID testing, for instance to enable a child with continuous cough, fever, and/or new loss or change in sense of taste or smell, to return to school and their household to return to work / cease isolating.

**Your GP, Out of hours service, and A+E cannot provide this service. They do not have any additional route to access COVID testing.**

Please note that the UK's "pillar 1" testing strategy (of symptomatic individuals, households, and symptomatic children of key workers) is CENTRALLY administered. Access to this is via the website NHS.uk or the DHSC Department for Health and Social Care's "119" telephone line.

This service is experiencing capacity issues and there has been some considerable confusion about the correct route to access testing, but local health services cannot facilitate access; we do not have "priority access".

**Please do not direct individuals and/or families to contact the GP, Out of hours service, or A+E if they have the above symptoms but are able to self-care.**

This will not facilitate testing and will only add to those services' workload.

They should follow national guidance on isolation and seek testing via the national process.

We are assured that the national system will be improved upon, as a matter of urgency.

Those that are unable to self-care should of course contact 111 or local health services.

Yours,

Dr James McNally  
Medical Director – Oxfordshire, BBOLMC