



Oastlers School

Flockton Road, Bradford

BD4 7RH

Headteacher: Mrs Lyndsey Brown

Tel: 01274 307456

Email: office@oastlers.co.uk

www.oastlers.com

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Dear Parent/Carers

Let me start with my usual huge thanks to you all for your patience and understanding during this unprecedented time. I remain in awe of my families and their dignified response to the disruption in school due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. I will be eternally grateful to your cooperation and understanding and kindness you have shown towards myself and my staff team.

There are other updates worth sharing with you for the moment.

We have started our Lateral Flow Tests in school, currently in the process of testing all the staff then we will plan rolling out the offer to those children who would like to be tested for COVID, and for whom we have received parental consent forms. Thus far the system appears to be working well and I am pleased to tell you that all those tested so far are negative! There are some changes to the guidance in that we will not be doing the serial testing for any contacts of one who has tested positive. In this instance we will be asking contacts to self-isolate and seek a PCR test in the normal way for a period of 10 days, following the government guidelines.

There continues to be much debate between the DfE and Ofqual about how young people will be assessed in summer on GCSE's and other quals. We know it will once again be teacher assessment but the details are not yet clear. One thing I have read is that results will be issued sooner, in July I believe, to allow plenty of time for appeals. As soon as I know any different, I will be in touch with you about this.

For those of you have requested leave of absence for your child, due to the health & safety risk surrounding COVID and family circumstances that have concluded you wish your child to remain at home until the situation changes, I would be grateful that you confirm this is still your intention. I have attached a leave of absence form for you to sign and return to school for my records.

I am hopeful that work being sent home, either paper based or wholly VLE based, has settled into good learning routines. I have placed a new update about this on our website for your information. But, just as a reminder, if you have any concerns at all about home learning, do not hesitate to contact Mr Ray Sutcliffe on 01274 307456 or in the case of the VLE please contact Mrs Raj Kaur on 01274 307456.

Our school counsellor, Mr Phil Parr, is on hand for any child who is becoming anxious about school issues, COVID or home learning. Again, if you believe remote counselling would be beneficial for your child, please give him a ring on 01274 307456. If you prefer to discuss this further with your welfare call link (Mr Duncan Beckley or Mrs Joanne Taylor) please refer through either. The service is there to support you especially during these very difficult and testing times.

I am conscious that some of you may be getting multiple calls from school, for different reasons. Please bear with us as we know this is frustrating!



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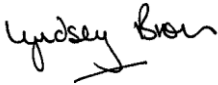
You will have heard that Free School Meal Vouchers are being distributed once again, and our families entitled to them will have received theirs, or about to. For all enquiries about this scheme please contact Jeanine Fairbairn on 01274 307456. If any of our families need help with food or other hardships, it is always worth giving us a call as we may be able to help. I realise entirely how difficult this is, but put aside any embarrassment, we are here to support you. Times are tough at the moment and we are in this together.

A special request now, due to the resignation of a much valued parent governor, I now have a vacancy and would like to seek a replacement and wonder if anyone may be interested in joining our vibrant, hugely supportive, school governing body. Parent governors are hugely important and play a vital role in the shaping of the school. If you think you have some available time and a willingness to help me keep this school great, please get in touch and let me know you may be interested in becoming a governor. If you could register your interest no later than 12 February 2021 that would great.

Finally, we are on with purchasing chrome book technology for all our learners to have so they can access the internet for learning purposes at home at any time. This is a huge undertaking for the school, but a necessary one. The chrome books are on order and we will be in touch with you to discuss how they will work when they arrive. It is great news though, all our learners have the right to access the world of learning opportunities that the internet offers and we are keen to bring this about. Any enquires about this please contact Jeanine Fairbairn on 01274 307456.

For now, please all stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyndsey Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lyndsey Brown
Headteacher