



Orritor Primary School

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Principal:

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Vice Principal:

Mrs K Black BA (Hons)

Friday 27th August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is hard to believe that the new school year is upon us; I hope that you and your family have had a restful and enjoy summer break.

I would like to begin by taking this opportunity to introduce myself to you all and to convey how delighted I am to be taking up the post of Principal of Orritor Primary School. As a school with an excellent reputation for many successes and following on from an exceptionally confident and competent predecessor, I am excited for the future and hope that I help to build on the already firm foundations. Although this will always be remembered as the year where 'normal' was turned on its head, I hope that the transition from Mr Wright to myself is a smooth one as I get to know the school, the staff, the parents, the governors and most importantly, the pupils. If you see me outside, please take the time to say hello and introduce yourself to me – but let's not forget the need to socially distance!

At this stage, we are still feeling the consequences of Covid-19 in every area of life and unfortunately for school, this is still the case. As a school community, it is important that we all continue to play our part in ensuring that we help to mitigate the risks and stop the spread of the virus throughout our school. As a staff, we will continue to meet and review the current mitigations in place and evaluate these in line with updated guidance, as this becomes available.

Staff Changes

We are delighted to report that Mr Alan McClung will be continuing as a school building supervisor. In addition to this, we are delighted to be welcoming Mrs Mary Loughran to our staff to assist with cleaning duties. Over the summer, Mrs Karen Donnelly left us to take up another post and in light of this, we are glad to be welcoming Mrs Donna McAdoo, in her place. As a school, we wish Mrs Donnelly well in your new career.

Return to School

In mid-August, the Department of Education issued new guidance on the school day. Have reflected on this guidance, there has been little advice regarding changes to what we are currently doing, therefore, arrangements for drop-offs and pick-ups will remain the same. Please be reminded that doors will not open until 8:30am and children should not be left off early as they will not be supervised until this time. As things develop and change regarding arrangements, we will inform you.

We have been delighted to welcome the Nursery children to their induction sessions. We look forward to receiving Primary 1 for their induction on Tuesday 31st August and then having all pupils in to school on Wednesday 1st September.

School Holidays

School holidays for the incoming year are available on the school website. Please ensure that holidays are booked outside of these dates.

Buses

Buses will be operational from Wednesday 1st September. Pupils must apply for buses on the transport sections of the Education Authority's website.

School Bags and Lunch Boxes

School bags and lunch boxes are permitted in school. We suggest that items which are being handled at home, are carefully sanitised before coming into school. We would encourage each pupil to have their own stationary as they will not be able to share with their peers.

Visiting School/Speaking with Staff

In light of Covid-19, we would like to remind you that visiting the school is prohibited at this time, without an appointment. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please make an appointment for a telephone call. Similarly, when leaving off children or picking them up, please do not stand talking with the teacher; this puts both of you at risk regarding Covid-19 and also means that children are not being properly supervised by staff.

Uniform/PE Kits

Please ensure that your child wears the correct, full school uniform, including black shoes. On PE days, pupils can wear their PE kits. The PE kit consists of the school jumper, a red polo t-shirt, black shorts/skort/dark and plain jogging bottoms. In addition to this, pupils should also have plimsolls with them. Please note, skins are not permitted underneath shorts.

Healthy Snack

Pupils should have a healthy snack with them each day. Pupils in Nursery will be given a snack each day.

Dinner Money

Dinner money will be collected on Wednesday. Money wallets can be purchased at a cost of £4 per wallet. Dinners continue to cost £2.60. If you feel you are entitled to FSM, please apply for these through the Education Authority website, even if your child does not intend to avail of this.

Medication

A form will go home with your child on Wednesday regarding medication in school. If there is anything urgent which we should know before then, please contact the school on Tuesday. Please ensure that inhalers etc are in date.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Andrew Frizzell
Principal