

Dear All

Following the announcements last night, I am pleased to say that Ongar Place will be opening on Monday 4th January. Breakfast Club will be open as usual and school will start at 8.55 am.

On Monday drop off and pick up arrangements will be the same as the last few months. I will then assess the situation to see if we need to put any changes in place.

I have already had a couple of emails from parents asking me my opinion on sending their children back to school and on the decision to reopen. Like all of us I have to follow the rules the government sets.

At Ongar

- We will continue to follow the strict cleaning regime set up last term.
- Children will continue to be taught by as few teachers as possible.
- Classes will not mix.
- The full curriculum will be taught including PE and music (with the additional distancing rules we put in place).
- School dinners will continue to be served.

In return I ask that parents:

- Move swiftly through the school site in the mornings and afternoons.
- Do not allow their children to mix with others in different classes on site, unless they are in a household bubble or a childcare bubble.
- Do not come into school unless invited.
- Follow the rules laid down by the government for tier four.
- Inform school quickly if anyone in their household or bubble shows symptoms of COVID-19 or has been told to isolate.

If you have concerns about your child returning to school because you feel they are specifically vulnerable, please speak to your doctor or consultant. If your child will not be in school on Monday please leave a message on the absence line or send an email. All absences that we do not know about will be followed up on Monday to ensure that children are safe and well.

If you would like to speak to Mrs Pirie or me please call after 9.30 am on Monday so we can ensure that children are settled in class.

These are going to be a difficult few weeks. Money is tight, the weather is gloomy, some jobs will have been lost, some of us have to supervise home-learning for our secondary aged children while trying to work and look after the rest of the family, there's no socialisation and that's not to mention the worry of becoming unwell! We need to be kind to each other and recognise each other's anxiety.

In the meantime, let me reassure you that every member of staff at Ongar Place will continue to endeavour to provide children with a safe and happy place to learn, where they are looked after and have some sense of normality.

I look forward to seeing you next week.

All best wishes

Mrs Tracy Good