



The Oratory R.C. Primary and Nursery School

"Shine as to be a light to others"



Head Teacher: Mrs C. Dickinson

COVID – 19 UPDATE: Full return to School

Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Return to School Update No 2

It has been lovely to see so many of our Oratory families returning to school (91%) after nearly six months. The past few days have been absolutely incredible... the sounds of prayer, laughter, friendship and learning have been echoing through our school premises. We are delighted to have our children back.

The children have been exceptional. They have responded well to the new routines and rules which will keep everyone safe. We have been impressed with their positive mindset, focus and keenness to get on with their learning. Our Twitter feed shows the children engrossed in their learning!

Your patience, words of encouragement and co-operation in relation to the many changes required have really made a huge difference to the smooth running of the school; especially at the start and end of the day.

The purpose of this letter is to provide on the following changes in addition to including a few important reminders:

1. Change of contact details

Please inform the school on communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk or by calling 0121 454 0600, if there has been any change in your contact details, for example: mobile phone number, email or home address.

2. Medication

If your child has received a medical diagnosis during lockdown please inform the school as soon as possible by emailing communication@oratory.bham.sch.uk. Mark for the attention of Mrs Herrera.

Also, please be reminded that if your child requires medication which needs to be kept in school, this needs to be brought into school via the Main school office. It is very important that medication is not handed to teaching staff but it is taken to the Main school office, this is because you will need to complete some paperwork with regards to the medication. If we currently have medication in school for your child, you do not need to do anything. We will be in touch when this is about to expire for you to bring a new one.

3. Breaktime Snacks

If you wish your child to have a break time snack, they can bring in a small healthy snack, for example: fruit, popcorn (low sugar variety), bread sticks etc. We no longer operate the £1 a week system for snacks. No crisps, bars of chocolate or products containing NUTS are allowed. Some of our children have an allergy to nuts and coming into contact with products containing nuts could trigger a serious allergic reaction.

4. Summer Target Work

Please bring your child's Summer target bag back to school next week. We have been amazed at the amount of work some of our children have completed during the Summer and the number of beans / seeds that have grown!

5. PE

The table below indicates the day your child has PE from **week beginning Monday 7th September**:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Y2	Half of Y6 Half of Y3	Half of Y6 Half of Y3	Y1	Reception Year 5 Year 4

We ask that your child comes to school in their PE kit, not their usual school uniform on the day they have PE. Your child may wear black or grey jogging bottoms over their black PE shorts and their school sweatshirt or cardigan over their white PE T shirt. Black pumps or trainers can be worn. **No football tracksuits.**

Please ensure that all your child's clothes have their full name and year group on.

For children in Year 6 and Year 3 their PE is split over two days. You will receive an email stating which day (Tuesday or Wednesday) your child will have their PE lesson.

6. Oratory Book Bags, Reading Books and Reading Diaries

Currently, we are completing baseline assessments in phonics, spellings (common exception words) and reading. This will enable us to ascertain each child's starting point and inform their next steps in learning. This will take another week in Reading.

Children will therefore begin to bring home a reading book, and reading record book from week commencing Monday 14th September. However, your child may bring their book bag into school.

7. Class, Curriculum and Homework Expectations

Next week, you will receive information on the expectations within your child's new class. This will include an overview of the 'Recovery Curriculum', class and homework expectations.

8. First Holy Communion and Confirmation Dates

First Holy Communion

- Year 4 – Saturday 12th June 2021
- Year 3 – Saturday 13th June 2021

Confirmation

- Last year's Year 6 (currently Y7) - Tuesday 20th October 2020

Finally, I appreciate that this is going to be a period of readjustment for everyone – staff, our children and families. However, by working in partnership, we will ensure our Oratory family continues to grow in love, learning and faith.

Thank you for adhering to our new morning and end of school routines, especially in terms of the social distancing rule. By 9:15am this morning Reception, KS1 and most of KS2 were in class and beginning the day!

Please remember that every decision we make is based on trying to keep all of the children in our school, their families and the staff who work with them, as safe as possible.

Keep safe, keep well.

God bless,

Mrs. C. Dickinson
Head Teacher