



Ottery Primary School Newsletter



4 September 2020

Welcome back

After what feels like an eternity, we are looking forward to welcoming all of the children back to school next week. For many this will be the first time they have been in school since March, while for others they have continued to attend a very different school with far fewer children in it.

The children are the heart of our school and all of the staff are waiting to greet them and support them through any worries or anxieties they may have after such a long time away. They are also eager to return to the business of teaching and helping all of the children to achieve the best that they can. Our key focus will be on supporting children emotionally so that they will be in a better place to learn and thrive.

School will look different to some, and there will be different systems in place (such as one way systems and desks in rows) but all the staff are here for all the children and experience shows that the children of this school are incredibly supportive of one another as well.

It may look different and it may feel different, but everyone's focus and determination will be the same as it always has been in supporting the children.

Drop off and collection

You will be aware of the staggered start and end times of the school day which, like schools across the country, are a key part of the safety measures employed to keep children, staff and parents as safe as possible in the current crisis. Please support us in maintaining a smooth flow of arrivals and departures to and from school. It will not be possible for teachers to talk with parents at the classroom doors as they have children to supervise in class arriving over a 30 minute period.

If you have any information that you need to pass on to your child's teacher, please either send a note in with your child or phone the office to pass on a message or request an appointment to speak with the teacher.

PE kits and Equipment

This year we are asking that you send your children into school wearing their **outdoor PE kit** on the day they do PE. This will greatly help to limit the amount of things that children have to bring into school and also to save time during the school day trying to get children changed safely. Details of the school PE kit can be found in the parent hub on the school website on the [School Uniform page](#).

The current PE timetable is as follows. Please note that Year 2 will commence PE lessons from the week of Sept 14 while other year groups will start theirs from the first week of term.

Year group	Day (and class)
Year 1	Thursday (Class 3)
	Friday (Class 4)
Year 2	Monday (Class 5 and 6)
Year 3	Tuesday (Class 7 and 8)
Year 4	Wednesday (Class 9 and 10)
Year 5	Friday (Class 11 and 12)
Year 6	Thursday (Class 13 and 14)

On all other days, we ask that children come to school in their normal uniform. If your child is taking part in forest school, we will communicate with you separately. Children will be asked to keep their equipment at their desks, as most cloakrooms are not in use this will include coats and bags, it is essential they come in with only what is necessary (for example, we are providing pencil cases for every child).

Face Masks

The DfE advice remains that facemasks are not necessary for primary aged pupils. If your child wishes to wear a facemask on the way to school, it must be removed upon entering the classroom and kept in a bag inside their school bag. Visitors to the school may be required to wear a facemask. Teachers may be wearing facemasks in corridors or in situations where social distancing is harder to maintain whilst moving around. Further information can be found on the DfE website:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education

Lunches

Lunches can be ordered as usual through the School Grid system <https://app.schoolgrid.co.uk/> It would be incredibly helpful if as many people as possible could order meals in advance via the system so that we can limit the number of children who need to order in class during the staggered start to the school day. Packed lunches may be brought to school in lunchboxes, but these must be taken home at the end of the day to be washed, prior to being brought back in to school.

Tuck Shop

KS2 children would usually be able to purchase tuck during morning break, however this will not be possible initially. We will let you know if and when this can reopen. If your child wishes to bring in a snack (nut-free please) in lieu of tuck, then that is absolutely fine.

School website

We anticipate that there will be a lot of communication and information that will need to be shared as the term progresses. We will continue to communicate via email but we will make extensive use of the school website to store information as well. Please refer to the website and especially to the [Parent Hub](#) which can be accessed directly from the home page for copies of the latest information, handbooks and other useful resources to support the children.

Supporting your child

We have produced a workbook for families to help children who are struggling with anxiety, this can be found in the [Wellbeing](#) section of our website. You may also wish to use the [Communication In Print](#) resource to discuss with your child the changes they will see in school from September. This can be found in the [School Changes September 2020](#) section of our website.

Please rest assured that everyone across the entire staff team continues to work hard to ensure that we can support our community as much as possible during these unprecedented times.

Keep well everyone

Mark Gilronan