



OIA news

Issue 5
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Dear Parent and Carers,

Well, we made it through our first 2 days of the national lockdown. All our new processes seem to be working, and everyone, as always has embraced the changes with positivity and determination to do what is right for our children.

The one thing that has not worked quite as well is the accelerated pick up time. Before reverting back to the original 10-minute slots, I would like to propose that those parents picking up from Panda class and Dolphins now exit back through the front gates. We will open up the large gates to help with distancing. Please do keep to your time slot and do not arrive early. We appear to have a surge of parents arriving early for the first pick up. This is causing a big problem outside the school. We cannot open the gates early so please do not arrive early. To help with this, I have tweaked collection to a 5-minute window like drop off time. Thank you for your understanding.

Please always keep your distance from other family groups. And please ensure you are following national lockdown restrictions.

Initial of surname	Arrival Time	Collection Time
A to G	8.40 - 8.45	2.50 -2.55
H o O	8.45 – 8.50	2.55 – 3.00
P to Z	8.50 – 8.55	3.00- 3.05

Virtual Teaching

Some of you may have heard or read on Facebook that we have embraced teaching with a difference this week in Giraffe Class! Just so everyone is aware, this has been really positive, and we are very proud of how it has gone. The Year 1 team having been amazing. This way of teaching could well be seen in other classes if any teachers are asked to isolate due to COVID -19 exposure. Please do not worry. In these cases, it may be that the teacher will continue teaching the normal planned lessons virtually and live, whilst a member of our staff team is physically based in the classroom. This will be monitored and managed carefully, but we are confident from what we have already experienced that this will prove a real success. We all have to keep an open mind for new ways of working, and this is one such way for schools across the country that we are all trialling and being encouraged to use by the Government. It may sound crazy but, in some ways, it is a very exciting initiative! We cannot currently use external teachers and even if we could, having our own wonderful OIA teachers on a screen would still be my preferred option.

Clubs

Although we have had to make the difficult decision that our new after school extra-curricular clubs will be postponed, please remember Kidz Club is available and bookable online via Parent Mail. Kidz Club is designed as childcare for working parents, this includes parents who are currently working from home to assist you to carry out your job.

Poppy Appeal:

Poppy accessories are still available. If you would like to purchase please send in money in a clearly labelled envelope, stating what you require, and we will get this to your child safely.

Walk to school month

We are fully supporting our children to remain as active as possible during these times of cancelled clubs and are therefore fully promoting November as 'Walk (bike, jog, scoot) to School' month. Please try your very best to enjoy the fresh air and walk to school. This is a great opportunity to talk to your children about road safety.

And finally...

Please remember over these coming weeks of lockdown that we are here to support you in whatever way we can. If you or your children are struggling, or finding things difficult, please do email or phone in - we will do whatever we can to help!

Thank you all for your continued support. We cannot tell you how much that means to us all here.

With warm wishes,



Sarah Armitage