



Our Ref: LTM/kmd/oeupdate

23 September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Open Events at Oldbury Wells School

Can I first thank all Headteachers across our feeder primary schools for sharing this letter during what is an important time for all parents as they make decisions with regards to their child's secondary school from September 2022 and beyond.

Here at Oldbury Wells School we have been looking forward to meeting prospective parents on our scheduled Open Events. In addition, we have ensured that our website and social media feeds contain a wealth of information about our school to support parents while making important decisions.

You may also be aware that despite the lifting of many Covid restrictions across all educational settings, concerns still exists with regards to transmission rates and numbers of positive cases. In Shropshire and across Telford & Wrekin, the numbers of cases have risen and at times been above the national average; schools continue to keep a watchful eye while acting on advice from Public Health.

Our Trust has worked with us to carefully monitor the Shropshire and local infection rates, including other local schools. The Trust has agreed with us that unfortunately we cannot safely run large scale Open Events for parents and pupils this September/October, nor can we operate classroom-based tours when our schools are open to pupils. Sarah Godden, our CEO, has commented to us that large Open Events, by their very nature, bring families together from a large number of primary schools and from different geographical areas, and that such events would in all likelihood, significantly increase infections across primary schools. It has therefore been our joint decision that the responsible thing to do is to move to alternatives, where we can reduce mixing across schools, keeping our school communities safe, and others too. In Telford & Wrekin and across Wolverhampton decisions have been made to cancel such events, with many schools in Shropshire considering the same decision.

Having liaised with Headteachers across our area; to ensure we keep our community safe and do all we can to prevent further transmission, we have made the decision to replace our published events. For those families who have already booked slots to visit us we will be in contact shortly to make an alternative arrangement with you. You will understand that our priority is to support all schools and safeguard students and staff in all settings.

Moving forward, from Saturday 25th September families will have a good range of extra dates where they can book a visit to the school outside of our normal school day; we have increased the number of after school tours for you to book. These will be a small group tours, where you can meet with myself, as Headteacher, receive information about our school, have your questions answered and enjoy a guided tour. In addition, we would encourage parents to make contact by using the school email (school@oldburywells.com) should they wish to discuss any key information.

Can I thank all parents and primary schools for their ongoing support, we look forward to responding to any questions families may have about how Oldbury Wells can support their child's transition from Primary to Secondary School.

Yours sincerely

Mr L Tristham
Headteacher

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