



## **Frequently Asked Questions for Year 6 Parents**

### Who is the best person to contact about my child's progress and / or welfare?

Your child's tutor is the person who sees them every day, twice a day. He/she will build a strong relationship with your child, and oversee their day to day journey through school, so unless you have a very subject specific question for a class teacher, the tutor is the best person to contact.

### What are the rules about mobile phones?

We know that mobile phones are important for pupil safety travelling to and from school. Therefore, phones are allowed on site but they must be switched off throughout the school day, unless asked specifically to use their phone for learning purposes by their teacher. Any headphones seen will be confiscated immediately. We ask that parents support this approach as it is essential for pupils' focus on learning.

### What happens if my child is ill or injured at school?

We will contact you and advise you of the situation and whether you are required to collect your child. Pupils should not phone home and ask a parent to collect them from school – we ask that parents support this approach for safeguarding reasons.

### How can I help my child with homework?

Ensuring they have a quiet place to work with appropriate equipment will help. Also, maintaining a routine that works for your home situation, and encouraging pupils to show you their work regularly and talk you through it.

### How will I know how my child is getting on at school?

We hold a 2 parents' evenings for Year 7, and send home subject reports at the end of each term. Subject teachers will contact you if they have a concern, and you will also view your child positive sims points on Class Charts which are given as reward for good work, effort or contribution.

### What should I do if my child seems lonely or unhappy at school?

Let us know straight away! We have a whole range of pastoral support mechanisms that can help; your child's happiness at school is a priority for us.

### What type of opportunities are there beyond classroom lessons at Orsett Heath?

There are lots of clubs and activities that offer a range of experiences for pupils, as well as wider opportunities for making friends and building confidence. These clubs will include sports, performing arts and a whole other range of activities such as public speaking, science, and some nurture groups for those who need a little more support.

### What should I do if my child needs medication in school?

We can only accept medication that has been checked in at Reception – please refer to your booklet about medical support in school. Any child returning to school in a cast / airboot will also need a risk assessment being carried out prior to coming back into school.

### How do I find out what my child is eating at school?

You can check what has been purchased on your Wisepay account – purchases are all listed.

### Who can help my child with homework if I can't?

We encourage pupils who might be struggling with homework to attend Homework Club – this runs twice a week after-school. This can also be useful for pupils who might find it hard initially to get into routines for working at home effectively.

### How can I check my child's attendance and behaviour information?

You have login access to your child's Class Charts platform. On this platform, you can see your child's attendance figure and any behaviour points that have been added.

### What is the Accelerated Reader Programme?

This programme gives pupils to opportunity to improve their reading and comprehension skills at their own pace, quizzing regularly to check progress and seeing their word count build. Prizes are awarded across the different levels to encourage and reward pupils.

### What does my child need to bring to school?

PE uniform when appropriate, a pencil case containing pencil, black ink pen, rubber, ruler and maths set. The maths department requires pupils to have a specific calculator. Pupils are also encouraged to have a bottle of water to use throughout the day, but no fizzy drinks please. Coloured pens / pencils would also be helpful.

### What should I do if my child is unwell or has an appointment and can't come to school?

Any absences should be phoned in to the school office on every day of absence please. If a child has an appointment (e.g. hospital) during the day it is expected that they will attend school before / after where distance and time make that possible.

### Where will my child leave his/her coat and books during the day?

Pupils can leave coats and PE kits in tutor rooms. If they choose to carry coats around instead they must be in their bags. Each pupil will need a school bag for carrying books and equipment around school during the day – the school does not have lockers.