



Ormiston Cliff Park
PRIMARY ACADEMY

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Principal: Mrs L Watkins BEd (Hons)

 **Anchored in excellence**

Wednesday 23rd July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you

Following the events of last week, I want to begin by saying how incredibly proud and grateful I am to everyone in the Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy community. The strength, kindness and resilience shown by our pupils, families, staff and wider community has been incredible to see, and greatly welcomed.

We have been overwhelmed by the support, care and offers of help, from our remarkable staff and families, to the emergency services, local authorities and members of the public. The messages of support, and generous actions people have taken, have meant a great deal to us. Despite the challenges we must now navigate, I am confident that the unity and spirit shown will help us return stronger than ever.

Friday's incident

On Friday, our staff acted quickly to safely evacuate all pupils and staff from the building, in line with our rigorous health and safety procedures. Emergency services swiftly arrived on site to support, and our pupils followed our processes with a maturity and calmness that we can all be incredibly proud of.

Since then, I am hugely grateful to the many staff who have worked tirelessly to support the recovery process, and to families who have assisted, including by collecting personal items. If you have not yet been able to do so, please be assured that any remaining belongings will be stored safely over the summer, ready for collection in September. If your child urgently needs an item before then, please get in touch and we will do our best to help, wherever possible.

Support for pupils and families

None of us could have anticipated the final day of term unfolding as it did. Despite it being managed to the best of our ability, it was of course a very worrying experience for all involved. We know that for many, this has been made harder by not being able to come together again afterwards or to send the children off for summer in the positive way we had planned.

We have done our best to communicate with families since the incident, both via Parentmail and social media and also in person at the academy on Sunday 20th, to check in with children's wellbeing, and we are really pleased that everyone is doing as well as possible. We hope your child is now feeling safe, reassured and looking forward to a well-earned summer break.

However, we remain committed to doing all we can to support pupils, families and staff in the weeks and months ahead. Below are several services you may find helpful if you or your child needs additional support, and we have also enclosed some guidance for supporting your child through such an event:

- **Fire and Emergency Support Services (Norfolk Fire Services):**
<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/43849/Fire-and-Emergency-Support-Services-FESS>

- **Young Minds:** <https://youngminds.org.uk>
- **NHS Every Mind Matters:** <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>
- **NHS Mental Health Services:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>
- **The Mix (for under 25s):** <https://www.themix.org.uk/get-support/>

Pastoral support will also be available for children and staff when we return in September, to help ensure that everyone feels safe, supported and ready to re-engage with school life, with a positive year ahead.

Looking ahead to September

I hope you can appreciate that we are still in the very early stages of understanding the impact of Friday's fire on our school building, with a full investigation currently underway.

While our firm ambition and intention is to re-open our provision fully as planned in September - including wraparound childcare - given the extent of the fire, the work required is complex and will take time. We are working closely with Ormiston's estates team to assess the damage and put a clear plan in place, with great progress already being made.

Our absolute priority is to ensure there are suitable, safe learning spaces for all pupils when they return in September. We are therefore focusing on the essential works required to return previous classroom spaces to normal, and we're also exploring opportunities to convert other spaces to suitable classrooms where needed, to ensure there are plenty of options.

It is very likely that other, less essential parts of the building will require ongoing work from September, so our focus here will be ensuring building works can safely take place beyond then, with any disruption to learning minimised.

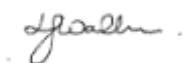
We will keep you informed over the summer when we have confirmed updates to share. However, please know that we are doing all we can to ensure we can welcome pupils back into school, ready to learn, in the safe, and inspiring learning environments that they are used to.

Keeping in touch

Staff will continue to monitor communications regularly over the summer break, so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have questions or need support and we will respond as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your continued support, understanding and collaboration. We are so proud to be part of such a remarkable community.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Louise Watkins

Principal

Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy