

December 10th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas holidays and the return to school

I hope you and your family are well and will be able to enjoy some time off together during the Christmas holiday. I am writing to you regarding a change in our term dates, and with a reminder about being especially aware of your child's health during the break.

Final day of term – Thursday 17th December

The Department for Education announced this week that schools are permitted to close on Friday 18th December for an INSET day. The reason is to maximise the time between the end of term and Christmas Day so that if children develop symptoms in the six days before the 25th, they can isolate before any planned gatherings with other family members.

Following consultation with a wide range of Local Authorities and the DfE, Oasis Community Learning has decided to go ahead with closing all Oasis academies to pupils on Friday 18th.

We do understand this will inconvenience some parents, while others will be pleased. As with all of Oasis's decisions throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, this is based primarily on what is best for the health and wellbeing of all members of our academy community.

Therefore, our last day of term will now be Thursday 17th December.

You can read the latest guidance about Christmas gatherings by searching for "gov.uk Christmas bubble" or by accessing this webpage:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/making-a-christmas-bubble-with-friends-and-family

COVID-19 over the Christmas holidays and the return to school

Despite the promise of the vaccine we are likely to experience more disruption next term. COVID-19 exists in our wider community outside of school, and therefore it is important to remain aware of how you and your child are, and whether they have symptoms of COVID-19. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child or any member of your household develops symptoms of COVID-19 they must get a test and remain at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms first appeared until they receive a negative



A STARS School 2019/20



Principal – Mrs Clare Wingrave

St. David's, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2XE
Tel and Fax: 020 8668 4877 Email: Byron@oasisbyron.org
www.oasisacademybyron.org

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test result. Anyone with symptoms can receive a test by going to <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

After the holiday finishes if your child has symptoms, is unwell, or it has been confirmed that they have COVID-19, it is **very important that you keep them at home**. Those children with a confirmed case are required to self-isolate at home for 14 days.

If you are in any doubt, please contact us **before** bringing your child to school, and we can advise you.

If your child is well and is not required to isolate at home, they are to return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

In the new year we will continue with all our precautions (class bubbles, social distancing, face coverings and visors, additional handwashing, staggered start and finish times etc) so that we can open safely. We can only do this however if every family follows this advice and is extra vigilant of their child's health. Please only bring your child to school if they are well, have no symptoms and have not tested positive for COVID-19.

Sincere thanks from me and the whole staff team for your support over this term. As expected, it has been challenging but the children's determination to learn has been excellent.

Yours sincerely,



Principal of Oasis Academy Byron



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