

January 5th 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Arrangements for children returning to school on Wednesday 6th January

I hope you and your family have had a restful Christmas despite all the restrictions.

I am writing to you inform you about the arrangements for the children who are returning to school on Wednesday 6th January.

The Government have set out the actions our academy must take to minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus, and so we will still have in place all of the previous arrangements in order to maximise safety for the children, families and staff.

Summary

1. As part of Oasis Community Learning, we have completed an in-depth risk assessment which has been reviewed by the Oasis' national leadership and by the academy's health and safety committee. The risk assessment continues to be updated on a weekly basis by the academy, reported to Oasis and the local committee will continue to meet weekly until further notice.
2. In order to reduce the risk of transmission across the whole academy and each group of children, there will continue to be four 'bubbles' – Reception, Year 1 and 2, Year 3 and 4 and Year 5 and 6. These bubbles will that will arrive and leave the academy at the same times and have break and lunchtimes together. This will reduce the number of contacts each pupil has with those in other year groups and reduce the chance of spreading infection.

For primary-aged pupils, there is no in-class social distancing required. However, we are implementing a no touching policy from year 1 upwards (no hugging, high fives, hand holding etc.)
3. Hygiene remains an essential part of a safe return. Pupils and staff will be required to wash their hands thoroughly upon arrival at school, before and after eating, and after break times. Pupils will have access to a sink for handwashing. We will also have hand sanitiser dispensers at all receptions, all entrances and exits, dining rooms, halls and first aid rooms.
4. Everyone will be reminded of the importance of 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach, and we will have enough tissues and bins available throughout the school to follow this routine. Hygiene will be everyone's responsibility, including all pupils, to ensure we make the Academy as safe as we possibly can.
5. The Academy will be cleaned every day as normal, and we will be wiping down surfaces and equipment more frequently to reduce transmission of the virus.

The Government does not recommend that face masks are used by primary-aged children within school. Again, this is a matter that Oasis has given a lot of thought to. Oasis believes that health and safety is **not** a discretionary matter. It is not permitted for primary students (children 11 or under) to wear face coverings but



we will be requiring all staff to wear visors when they are teaching and face coverings when social distancing is not possible.

Questions and feedback

Please take the time to read the arrangements below where it is explained in more detail how school will work. If you have any questions or concerns that are not addressed in these documents, please contact us at the academy by phone on 02086684877 or by email byron@oasisbyron.org.

I wanted you to have the full information on the preparations we have in place to ensure that Academy continues to be safe and welcoming for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support as we make these arrangements.

Yours sincerely,



Principal

Oasis Academy Byron

More details about our arrangements

1) Social Distancing

In addition to the information in my letter, there will continue to be a number of one-way systems in place, and there will be 2m distance tapes in place around the Academy so that pupils can be reminded of the need for distancing wherever possible. There will also be notices reminding students about the need for good respiratory hygiene (catch it/bin it /kill it) and we will ensure ventilation wherever possible.

2) Amended start and end times dependent on year group

Each year bubble will have a different start and finish time. It is important pupils are dropped off in their allotted time slot so as not to make contact with pupils outside of their bubble.

During pick and up and drop-of, please would you wear a face covering. This is for everyone's protection.

Bubble	Arrival time between	End time	Enter via
Reception	8.5 am	3.05pm	Internal gate by Children's Centre
Year 1 and 2	8.55am	3.10pm	Internal blue gates
Year 3 and 4	8.50am	3.15pm	Internal blue gates
Year 5 and 6	8.45am	3.20pm	Internal blue gates



4) Hygiene and cleaning

We will ensure that everyone understands that good hygiene is everyone's responsibility and that everyone is responsible for everyone else's health.

We will maintain intensified cleaning routines with a focus on regularly wiping down door handles and hard surfaces. As per normal, the Academy will be cleaned every day and there will be disinfectant sprays and paper for cleaning purposes in each classroom.

5) Risk assessments

The risk assessment continues to be in place and is regularly revised to respond to new situations. It has been developed through risk assessment following guidance from the Government and detailed guidelines from the Oasis Community Learning.

The risk assessment will be signed off by the Oasis national leadership team along with myself as Principal and will remain under constant review as we monitor our progress and as the country's situation changes.

6) Getting to and from school

The Government continues to advise that pupils should try to avoid public transport especially at peak times and, where possible, travel to and from the Academy by walking or cycling. We have staggered arrival times with this in mind – see point 3. We know that this will not always be possible, so please let us know any concerns around this.

7) Coming into school - mask procedures

When pupils arrive at school they will be required to use sanitiser on entrance to the building and wash their hands immediately. They will then be required to dispose of any temporary face coverings they may have been wearing in a covered bin, or place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag which they can pick up later when leaving to go home, and then wash their hands again before heading to their classroom.

Pupils who wear face masks on the way to school must remove them on arrival by using the straps rather than the front of their mask.

Pupils are not permitted to wear masks inside classrooms, as the latest advice from government is that social distancing and increased hygiene regimes within school is sufficient. However, as explained overleaf, staff will be required to wear visors when teaching. They will be required to also wear a face mask when social distancing is not possible i.e. when they are supporting an individual student.

We continue to have a stock of PPE within the Academy, including face-masks, disposable gloves, disposable aprons, hand sanitisers and soap, if required.

In light of Government advice, we will no longer be undertaking thermometer testing upon arrival.

8) Water bottles and other equipment

Pupils are required to bring in their own water bottle for their individual use. These must be labelled and can be re-filled during the day.

Pupils should not bring in any unnecessary equipment into school. We will be giving pupils their own pens and pencils to use while they are at school and these will be dedicated for their personal use.

We are asking children to limit the items they bring to school to only a coat and lunch bag if necessary.



9) No access/no visitors

To help us reduce the risk of infection, we will not be able to receive visitors or parents until further notice. During the day, we ask that parents communicate with us only via the telephone 02086684877.

If it is required for you to come into the Academy, you will be required to wear a disposable face covering provided by us.

10) Food and packed lunches

Each bubble will have a time allocated to eat during the day and there will be hot food provision. Children entitled to universal free school meals or free school meals will receive a hot meal as usual.

Pupils may bring in packed lunches, but they must remain within their bags throughout the day, and any rubbish should be taken home each day.

11) Uniform

All pupils will return to full uniform which will need to be changed daily

If possible please can your child wear Velcro footwear as it will be difficult for staff to support with tying laces

As our usual uniform policy states, all long hair must be tied up and no jewellery is to be worn by children.

12) Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will not be running during this time.

15) Suspected symptoms, a confirmed case, and multiple confirmed cases

We will be following the government's direct guidance on what to do if there a student or staff member has suspected coronavirus symptoms or is confirmed to have the virus.

