26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Primary – March Return

I am writing to you today with the great news that all schools have been asked by the Government to prepare to open, with all pupils required to attend school from Monday 8th March.

As always, our priority is the safety and wellbeing of the children, your family, and our staff. In this letter I will briefly explain how we will be re-opening safely.

Also attached is an in-depth explanation of how we as a school will be set up to prevent the potential spread of the coronavirus (lots of these measures are the same as when we were last open to all pupils), and a reminder of what to do if your child develops symptoms.

Please note that if your child is well and does not have symptoms, attending school from 8th March is required. We will of course be supporting the pupils as they return, ensuring that they are comfortable and confident with all the arrangements we have in place.

Summary of Measures

Our preparations closely follow the guidance from the Government. You can read the advice by searching for 'DfE What parents need to know during COVID-19.'

The best way for us to control the virus is by putting in place measures to prevent it spreading in school. You can read more in the attached note, but in short it means:

- We have completed an in-depth risk assessment which has been reviewed by the academy's local health and safety committee.
- Everyone washing their hands well, and more often
- Everyone following 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' when blowing their nose
- Us cleaning the school, and areas where lots of people are (like the dining area), more often
- Class groups being made into 'bubbles', where children only interact with their class teacher and classmates
- A staggered start to school for each year group to minimise mixing
- 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.)

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If your child has a school-issued laptop or iPad, they are required to bring it in, fully charged, for their individual use. **What happens if a child has symptoms?**

As previously it is so important that children or staff do not come to school and self-isolate for at least 10 days if they:

- Have symptoms or have had a positive test
- Live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- Are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

If anyone develops symptoms at school, they will have to return home to self-isolate, and all those who have been in close contact will also be required to self-isolate.

Questions and feedback

I know that there is a lot of information here, but we wanted you to be fully informed. We completely understand that you will need to feel confident about the arrangements. Please read all the information here carefully. If after reading everything you have any questions, please contact us by email at byron@oasisbyron.org

Thank you for your ongoing support of the staff and the Academy. To open safely, we will need everyone to continue to follow all the safety measures carefully.

Until 8th March we continue to welcome children of critical workers and those identified as vulnerable at school, and will support all other children with their remote learning. We look forward to being back together again soon.

Yours sincerely,

Principal
Oasis Academy Byron

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More information on our arrangements

Please see below further detail around the arrangements we will have in place at the Academy to reduce risk when every pupil returns on Monday 8th March. You will note that these are very similar to the arrangements we had in place in September.

1. Attendance

The Government's guidance is clear that students are expected to attend school on Monday 8th March. This means that parents have a duty to ensure that their child regularly attends school, and that schools have a responsibility to record attendance and follow up absence.

2. Social Distancing

We will have 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.

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. Class Bubbles

As part of our social distancing precautions, your child's year group will become a 'bubble' which includes their classmates and their teacher. This will help us to minimise contacts and mixing, while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum.

4. Amended start and end times dependent on year group

Each year group 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 contact pupils outside of their bubble. Please be aware of social distancing whilst dropping off your children and picking them up, and do not gather close to the school gates. Please wear a face-covering when on school site or close to other parents and families.

Year group	Arrival time between	End time	Enter via
Reception	8.55- 9am	3.05pm	Internal gate by Children's Centre
Year 1	8.50– 8.55am	3.10pm	Internal blue gates
Year 2	8.50– 8.55am	3.10pm	Internal blue gates
Year 3	8.45 – 8.50am	3.15pm	Internal blue gates
Year 4	8.45 – 8.50am	3.15pm	Internal blue gates
Year 5	8.40 – 8.45am	3.05pm	Internal blue gates
Year 6	8.40 – 8.45am	3.05pm	Internal blue gates

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5. Reduced access to outdoor visitors

To help us reduce the risk of infection, we are asking parents to communicate with us via the telephone 02086684877.

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

6. Hygiene and cleaning

We will ensure that pupils and staff understand that good hygiene is everyone's responsibility and that we are all responsible for each other'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.

7. Cleaning hands

Everyone will be asked to clean their hands thoroughly and more often than usual. This can be done with soap and water or hand sanitiser. Pupils will clean their hands:

- when they arrive at the school
- when they return from breaks
- when they change rooms
- before and after eating

8. Risk assessments

The thorough risk assessment we follow has been developed from the Government and detailed guidelines from the Oasis Community Learning. Our completed 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.

9. Getting to and from school

The Government explain that pupils and staff may use public transport where necessary, but encourage everyone to walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so. We know that this will not always be possible, so please let us know any concerns around this.

People aged 11 and over must wear a face covering when travelling on public transport. People who are exempt do not need to wear a face covering.

10. Face Coverings

Pupils in primary school do not need to wear a face covering in school.

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If your child wears a face covering on the way to school, they must remove them on arrival by using the straps rather than the front of their mask. They will be required to 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.

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

11. Food and packed lunches

Each bubble will have a time allocated to eat during the day and there will be hot food provision.

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.

12. Devices, water bottles and other equipment

If your child has a school-issued laptop or iPad, they are required to bring it in on the days specified by their class teacher, fully charged, for their individual use.

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.

13. Uniform

All pupils will return to full uniform. The uniform needs to be kept clean but does not need to be changed daily. If possible, can your child wear Velcro footwear as it will be difficult for staff to support tying laces.

14. Breakfast Club

There will be a Breakfast Club which will operate from 8am each day. The Reception and Year 1 /2 bubbles will be in two separate groups in the small hall and the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 bubbles will be in two separate groups in the main hall. Hygiene is essential and pupils will be required to wash their hands thoroughly upon arrival at school, before and after eating and surfaces and equipment will be wiped more frequently. Children should come in the main entrance as previously.

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 pupil or staff member has suspected coronavirus symptoms or is confirmed to have the virus. We have provided this guidance in the attached note.

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Note on actions to take if there is a case of coronavirus

Advice on parent and academy actions in the case of coronavirus

1. Suspected symptoms of coronavirus amongst the school community

The Academy will fully engage with the NHS Test and Trace process and contact our local Public Health England health protection team.

Students must not come into the school if they have symptoms and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop.

Parents/carers need to be ready to:

- Book a test if they or their child has symptoms (by searching 'NHS Test and Trace', or calling NHS 119). The main symptoms are:
    - a high temperature
    - a new continuous cough
    - a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste
- Provide details of anyone you have been in close contact with if you or your child test positive for coronavirus or if asked by NHS Test and Trace
- Self-isolate if you have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus

Parents must inform the Academy immediately of the results:

- if you or your child tests negative, and if you or your child feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), you can stop self-isolating.
- if you or your child tests positive, you should follow the 'Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and your child may only return to school if they do not have symptoms other than a cough.

2. Confirmed case of coronavirus amongst the school community

The Academy will take swift action if we become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus. We will contact the local health protection team that will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.

Based on the advice from the health protection team, we would then send home those students who have been in close contact with the person who has tested positive, advising them to self-isolate for the next 10 full days counting from the day after contact with the individual who tested positive. Close contact means:

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- anyone who lives in the same household as someone with coronavirus symptoms or who has tested positive for coronavirus
- anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus:
    - face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within 1 metre
    - been within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer without face-to-face contact
    - been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)
    - travelled in the same vehicle

The health protection team will provide definitive advice on who must be sent home, and we will keep a record of students and staff in each bubble to help in this instance.

Household members of those contacts who are sent home do not need to self-isolate themselves unless your child who is self-isolating subsequently develops symptoms.

If someone in a bubble that has been asked to self-isolate develops symptoms themselves within their 10-day isolation period they should follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection'. They should get a test, and:

- if the test delivers a negative result, they must remain in isolation for the remainder of the 10-day isolation period.
- if the test result is positive, they should inform the Academy immediately, and should isolate from the day of onset of their symptoms and at least the following 10 full days. Their household should self-isolate starting from when the symptomatic person in their household first had symptoms and the next 10 full days, following guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection

3. If we have more than one confirmed case

If the Academy was to experience an outbreak (2 or more confirmed cases of coronavirus among students or staff within 14 days, or if there is an increase in absence due to suspected cases of coronavirus), we will contact our local health protection team. This team will advise any additional action, though the closure of the whole school will generally not be necessary.

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