

Ms. S. Talib. Principal.
BA (Hons) QTS Med NPQH
QTS M, NPQH

17th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Oasis Academy Temple reopening for all pupils in September

Following my recent letter to you about the government's guidelines for all children to return to school in September, I am writing today to update you on our plans.

As you will be aware, the Government has made it clear that all pupils, in all year groups, are expected to return to school full-time from the beginning of September. You [can read the guidance here](#)/by searching for 'DfE guidance parents.'

To ensure that all pupils and staff can return safely, there are a significant number of actions that the Government have asked us to take. We must:

- Minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus
- Be able to continue teaching and learning in the case of a local outbreak
- Alter how we run the Academy day-to-day to meet the new safety requirements
- Amend our curriculum, behaviour and pastoral support offer in the context of all the new arrangements.

The purpose of this letter is to explain some of the changes – the final details regarding timings will be sent to you in August. As always, our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of the children, your family and our staff. We will take every precaution, so that we reduce the risk as much as possible and be in a position to finally welcome back all of our pupils.

The arrangements we are putting in place will be lengthy and very detailed so I am providing a brief summary of them below and the details that specifically relate to your child/children will follow in August. I have also attached a shortened copy of the Government's latest advice to parents for your reference.

Summary of arrangements

1. With the support of Oasis Community Learning, we have completed an in-depth risk assessment which has been reviewed by the academy's local health and safety committee. This committee will continue to meet weekly until further notice.
2. In order to reduce the risk of transmission across the whole academy each year group will be part of a 'bubble' that will stay together throughout each day, being taught in their 3 classrooms 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.
3. 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.)

4. Hygiene is an essential part of a safe return, and pupils and staff will be required to sanitize and wash their hands thoroughly upon arrival at school, before and after eating, and after break times. Hygiene will be everyone's responsibility, including all pupils, to ensure we make the Academy as safe as we possibly can.

As per normal, the Academy will be cleaned every day, and we will be wiping down surfaces and equipment more frequently to reduce transmission of the virus. We have 2 extra cleaners doing this throughout the day.

We completely understand that you will need to feel confident about the arrangements. Please take the time to read the details where we explain in more detail how school will work in this 'new normal' environment. If you have any questions or concerns that are not addressed in these documents, please contact us at admin@oasistemple.org.

What do I need to know for September?

Years 1, 3 and 5 will return to school on Thursday 3rd September with a new start time of between 9am and 9.20am. Their school day will finish between 3.10pm and 3.30pm – specific times for each class will be given and must be adhered to. **These year groups will not attend Friday 4th.**

Reception, Years 2, 4 and 6 will return to school on Friday 4th September with a new start time of between 9am and 9.20am. Their school day will finish between 3.10pm and 3.30pm – specific times for each class will be given and must be adhered to. **These year groups will not attend Thursday 3rd.**

All children will then return on Monday 7th September.

Each year group will have a specific entrance and exit – Nursery and Reception via the nursery gate, Years 1 and 2 via the back gate, Years 3 and 4 via the gate into the Y6 playground and Years 5 and 6 via the car park.

What do I need to do now?

There is a lot of organisation to finalise to ensure the safe arrival and exit of 700 children so the full timings for your children will follow, but I wanted you to have an outline of what we are doing to make the Academy safe and welcoming for our pupils. While it will be a little different to normal we will of course take the time to ensure all of our pupils understand the changes when we welcome them back, and will provide additional support for any of our young people who are apprehensive having been out of school for such a long time.

Other information

The cost of school dinners is going up to £2.30 per day which is £11.50 per week. For anyone needing uniform Ziggy's now has a website offering online purchasing.

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Thank you as ever for your patience and understanding during this time, and the support you are providing to your child. We cannot wait to welcome them back in September so that they safely and happily can get back to their studies.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Crew

Some general details about our arrangements

Attendance

The Government's guidance is clear that pupils are expected to attend school from September following the DfE statutory guidance.

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.

Please ensure that if you are travelling over the summer you leave enough time for 14 days quarantine before the start of school to avoid any unauthorised absences/fines.

Social Distancing

In addition to the information in my letter, 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.

Amended start and end times dependent on year group/class

Each year group bubble will have a different start (between 8.30 and 9.20) and finish time (between 2.40 and 3.30). It is important pupils are dropped off in their allotted time slot so as not to make contact with pupils outside of their bubble.

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.

Risk assessments

The risk assessment described overleaf 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 and will remain under constant review as we monitor our progress and as the country's situation changes.

Coming into school - mask procedures

Public Health England does not recommend the use of face coverings in schools.

When pupils arrive at school 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.

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

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.

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 or email. Parents will not be allowed on the playground in the mornings and only to allocated spots at pick up times.

Food and packed lunches

For the first 2 weeks the school dinners will be a packed lunch with a plan to move towards hot food after that.

Pupils may bring in packed lunches, but they must remain in disposable bags/containers and be kept within their bags throughout the day.

Payments

We are unable to take any cash payments in the office now so all dinner money payments and breakfast club payments must be made through parent pay. The Family Support Workers will help with setting up the accounts for anyone that needs support in September.

Uniform

All pupils will return to full uniform.

Ms. S
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Behaviour

We will be making some minor amendments to our behaviour policy to reflect our new arrangements. We will publish this on the Academy website's policies page before the beginning of term.

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.

It is absolutely vital that no parent, child or staff member comes to the Academy if either themselves or anyone in their household is displaying any symptoms.