

Questions and Answers

Will the academy re-open on 1st June?

We are planning to reopen the academy on this date, however only if it is safe to do so. Our safety measures have included extensive planning and risk assessing to ensure that we can keep both staff and children as safe as possible during their time with us. The government and Oasis Community Learning will make a final decision on whether we can go ahead with opening at the end of next week – sometime after 28th May.

Have sufficient risk assessments been undertaken?

Yes. The Leadership Team have spent weeks meticulously risk assessing every possible aspect of school life. These assessments have been scrutinised by the executive board of Oasis Community Learning and union representatives.

Who will the academy be open to?

The academy will be open to Reception, Year 1 and Year 4. We do not have a Nursery or a Year 6 cohort, so we have therefore made the decision to invite our oldest children back. We will still continue to provide emergency childcare for our key worker families and our most vulnerable children.

What will happen if I have a child eligible to return and one who is not?

Unfortunately, we are only opening learning classes to the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 4. You will need to make your own arrangements for caring for any children who are not in these year groups unless they fit into the keyworker or vulnerable category.

What time will the academy day run from?

The academy day will start at 8:30am and finish at 3:30pm. We will have a soft start and finish and you will be given a recommended drop off/pick up time so that we can manage volumes of people effectively and safely. If you have more than one child they will be attending on the same day and you can drop them off and pick them up at the same time. Just bring them with whoever should be in first. Drop off and pick up times are as follows. Please do not turn up any earlier as it will make queuing to get to the gate incredibly difficult.

	Drop off	Pick up
Key Worker and Vulnerable children	8:30am	2.50pm
Year 4	8.40am	3.20pm
Year 1	8.45am	3.10pm
Reception	8.50am	3.00pm

Do I have to send my children back to school if they are in one of these year groups?

No – it is entirely your choice about whether you send your child back to school. There is no legal obligation to do so and we would encourage you to make a decision based on your own views and circumstances. There will be no fines for non-attendance and there will be no rewards encouraging attendance for the near future.

Do I need to email the academy and explain the reason that I'm not sending my children back?

Not at all. It would be incredibly difficult for us to respond to everyone individually. All we ask you to do is return the Microsoft Form that you will receive if you are in a returning year group, and simply let us know if you are coming back on the week beginning the 1st June, subject to the cabinet decision.

What if I change my mind after initially saying no?

We will only be catering for the number of children who say yes they wish to come week beginning 1st of June. If you do change your mind please contact the office by phone or email and we will get back to you with the next possible date your child can start.

Will other year groups return before September?

We will await government guidance on this issue and be in touch with other year groups as soon as we can.

How many children will be in each classroom?

There will be no more than eight children in a 'family' room. This will be referred to as their homeroom and they will spend most of their time there.

If I send my child back to school will they attend all week?

No- children will attend on two days. Each child will be allocated a Monday and Tuesday **or** a Thursday and Friday. There is no flexibility in these days due to sibling co-ordination and other considerations. The academy will be closed to most children on a Wednesday for teachers to prepare materials and for the classrooms to be thoroughly cleaned before we welcome in the next groups of children. Provision for Key Worker and vulnerable children will continue to run on a Wednesday.

Will my child be taught by their class teacher?

Possibly. Children in your child's class have been split between the class teacher and one other qualified teacher who is employed at Marksbury Road. We will not be using supply teachers to cover 'families'. We are committing to small 'family' sizes and each teacher will teach a 'family'.

How will the classroom be organised?

Children in Years 1 and 4 will have individual work stations in their 'family' room which commit to the 2m distancing rule. They will have all of their own equipment in trays at their stations. No-one will be using any shared resources.

Will staff and children be able to wear face masks?

You can make the decision about whether you want your child to wear a facemask to school. We would ask you that you talk to them about how to wear them safely and hygienically if you make the decision to provide them with one. All staff will be provided with PPE if they want to wear it. They will be required to wear it if administering first aid or intimate care.

How will children enter the academy?

Entry to the academy will be strict. One adult will need to drop off the child/children at the academy gate. The children will then have their temperature taken each day. Any child with a temperature, which is at or above 37.8 degrees, will be sent home. A member of staff will meet the children at the bottom of the ramp and send them on to their family room where they will be met by their family teacher.

Will parents be able to visit the academy?

No. The office will not be open to parents in order to protect staff and our families. All communication will need to be by phone and email.

Can I pick my child up early/drop them off late?

No. You will need to stick to the designated times for pick up and drop off so that we can ensure we are able to manage the situation carefully.

What happens if there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 in the academy?

If anyone is displaying one of the three key symptoms of COVID-19 they will be referred for a coronavirus test and the 'family' will be shut down immediately and children will be sent home. In the event of this happening, the family room will be closed and cleaned, and re-opened after a negative test result. If the result is positive the whole 'family' will have to isolate for 14 days. We will explain all of these steps in more detail in the event of someone displaying symptoms of the virus.

How will playtimes and lunchtimes be different?

Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered and will take place in 'family' groups to ensure that there is no contamination across rooms and between children. Lunch will be brought to the children in their home rooms and the 'family' will eat together before the room is then cleared and surfaces cleaned.

What will my child eat?

Your child will be given a school dinner for free, even if they are not eligible for free school meals. This is the immediate plan, though this could change in the coming weeks. Every child and every member of staff will have a meal which has been prepared on site. Disposable cutlery will be used to ensure hygiene standards are maintained. We will provide a fruit snack for every child who attends school.

Can my child bring their own lunch from home?

No. Our risk assessment is really clear about all staff and children enjoying a school prepared meal together.

Can they bring anything else?

Nothing is to be brought to and from the academy expect for a jacket and a sunhat. Sun cream must be applied before they come to school. The children will not be bringing bags or reading books from home. Bikes and scooters can not be brought to school.

How will my child get a drink?

The academy will provide all children with a water bottle to use while they are in school- this will remain in school where it will be washed. The water fountains will be closed for the foreseeable future.

Can I send my child back to school if they, or anyone else in our house has a shielding letter from the NHS?

No, if anyone in your home has an NHS shielding letter, you must not return to school.

How often will my child be expected to wash their hands?

Children will be encouraged to wash their hands approximately six times per day including on entry and exit from the academy. They will be given plenty of opportunity to do this.

Will the academy be observing social distancing?

Yes – this will be in place in classrooms and around the academy. We anticipate little movement around the building. We understand that our youngest children will find social distancing more difficult, but we will do all that we can to ensure safe distancing throughout the day.

How I help prepared my child for the return to school and explain what it will be like?

Please take time to share the details contained in this document with your children in a child friendly way and use the social story which is also attached to this email.

How can I be confident that all staff are keeping our children safe?

We will all work as hard as we can to keep everyone at Marksbury Road as safe as possible. All staff have received intensive INSET training on changes to academy life in preparation for opening. During lockdown all staff have completed basic infection control training course. On entry to the academy, all staff will be required to wash their hands, check and record their temperatures and confirm that they, nor anyone who they live with has symptoms of the virus.

How often will academy rooms be cleaned?

Rooms will be cleaned each day and frequently touched surfaces will be wiped after each learning session. On a Wednesday each room will be thoroughly cleaned. A deep clean will take place in the event of a confirmed case of the virus

Will my child need to wear a school uniform?

Yes, uniform will be re-instated for all children from 1st June, but we ask that ties are not worn to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. We recommend that where possible, you wash your child's clothes at the end of every school day.

If my child attends key worker provision, can they still return to their 'family'?

Yes. They can attend school with their 'family' on two days and then access key worker provision for emergency care when needed. Please remember that if at all possible, children not in returning year groups (i.e. Year 2 and Year 3) should be kept at home if there is someone there to care for them.

Where will I collect my child at the end of the day?

One adult will come to collect any given child/children. You will be asked to stand on a red cross in the playground (2m apart) and then you will be invited to step forward to collect your child. You will then exit through the delivery gate on to Marksbury Road, but we must insist that you take great care as the gate is so close to the road. We will be asking all parents and carers to observe strict social distancing measures on the playground.

What will the children be learning?

For returning year groups, we have prioritised key learning objectives to ensure the best possible start to the next academic year. If parents of children in these year groups decide not to send their children back to school, online packs will continue to be provided on our website. This is also the case for year groups who are not yet invited back to school. Any children attending school will then be given a follow up pack of work to consolidate in-school learning. This is not to be brought back to school the following week. Teachers will not be touching children's work and they will give feedback to children, but will not be marking.

Will teachers still be available to answer emails about home learning?

Whilst home learning for years 2 and 3 will continue as normal and still be in place for those children in reception, one and four not wishing/able to return there will no longer be a member of teaching staff free to answer emails every day of the week as all teachers will have teaching commitments. Teachers will look at the email boxes on a Wednesday.

How will ongoing risk be assessed?

We will continue to hold H&S committee meetings, but these will now take place daily and we will respond and react reflectively to any issues which arise. We ask you to be patient with us as it is likely that practices and procedures will change as we move through the coming days and weeks.