

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another newsletter for you this week - I don't want to bombard you with information, but I just want to touch base over a few things as we approach the end of term.

Dinner Money Payments

Please ensure that you keep your dinner money balance topped up if your child in Year 3 or above is not entitled to free school meals. If the balance is in a deficit you will need to provide a packed lunch for your child. Last year thousands of pounds of dinner money debt from parents not eligible for free school meals were absorbed by the academy, but this means that the children then miss out on additional resources and opportunities as a result. You can top up the balance via the MCAS app. If you feel you might be eligible for free school meals, please follow the link here <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/link2ict> . Many thanks for your support with this.

Website

Heather has been working incredibly hard on our website over the past few weeks and we are delighted to launch our new year group pages this week! You will find these on the academy website <https://www.oasisacademymarksburyroad.org/> under the Curriculum tab, you can then select your child's year group. Here you will find curriculum information, a weekly update on learning, links to any homework that has been set, reminders for the week, a link to letters sent out... This will be the 'go-to' page for accessing information. This is of course the initial steps for us, and it is and a platform that will grow and be added to as we progress through the year. Please do have a look at this with your children. When they receive their iPads we will be encouraging the to use the academy website to access some of their learning and this is certainly the portal we will use in the event of a lockdown of classes, year groups or the whole school. I want to say a huge thank you to Heather for all of her work on this - she has been amazing!

National Lead for Primary Reading

I know many of you might have seen on our twitter feed, but I'm really delighted to let you know that I am now the National Lead for Primary Reading for Oasis. So many of you will know how strongly I feel about the Reading entitlement that children should get and I'm so excited about this role which will involve me shaping the Reading entitlement for all of our primary academies and working with senior leaders to improve provision and outcomes for all of our little people across the country. I've always said that leading a school was my dream job and career goal - but to get to do this as well - well I feel like I have the two best jobs rolled in to one! The role is 1.5 days per week, but I will be based at the academy on these days until a time where travelling to other schools is permitted.

Principal – Clare Robinson

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Office triage

If you call the office with a query or to speak to a teacher or a member of the leadership team about an issue, they will ask you what it is concerning. I'm aware that some issues are sensitive, but please do share as much information with our lovely office staff as possible. It will all be treated in the strictest of confidences, but will allow the office to direct your query to the most appropriate contact. In many cases this will be class teacher, who can then escalate it to a senior leader if required. We really appreciate your help with this - so thank you on advance.

Summer Learning

We have a fabulous children's hamper being put together which will be ready for the taking for the children who have returned their home learning books - all of the names will be entered into the prize draw, although all of the children who returned books will get a certificate and a medal for taking part - thank you again for engaging so well with this initiative!

Dinner choices

I have been in touch with Sodexo over some of the portion sizes and meal substitutes that we have see recently. Portion sizes, particularly for the older children have been addressed and dinner substitutes are only put in place when either the product hasn't been delivered on that day or an unexpected number of children order that meal choice and there then isn't enough to go around. I fully appreciate the frustration that this can cause, and apologise for any inconvenience caused. Please remember that if you are particularly anxious over potential substitutes, you are more than welcome to send your child in with a packed lunch instead.

Have a wonderful weekend and do take twenty minutes if you can to have a look at the year group pages with your children.

Kind regards,

Clare