

Friday 8th January 2021

Parents/Carers,

As I write to you about the plan for online learning in the weeks ahead I only hope that there is harmony in all of your homes at the moment. I know only too well the stresses and pressures that home learning brings, and the added intensity of lots of people being at home together. Make sure that you find time for fresh air and space - we are absolutely allowed that, and it works wonders for all of us - small and bigger people alike!

I wanted to write to you this week to try and outline our intention for our online learning offer from Monday 11th January. Thank you for your patience this week while we've had time to get everything organised and also while we've been teaching the children who have still needed to attend school.

Teachers and support staff are really excited about delivering teaching to your children, and they are also excited about teaching the same content to the children in school. We are aiming to deliver the same offer to all children which we know is ambitious, but if there is any team that can rise to the challenge it's this team! Although staff are really looking forward to the challenge of the next few weeks, they are also a little nervous as I'm sure you'll understand. Many of our teachers and support staff will be putting themselves up for scrutiny, live teaching in 30+ homes at a time, and teaching in a way that is new and unfamiliar. It is a time where so much is being asked of teachers and of schools and they are rising to the challenge. The staff here exceed expectations daily and I know that this will be no different. I know that you will be understanding of this new way of delivering, and that you will have patience with us as we find our way. There are likely to be technical difficulties, there are certainly going to be steep learning curves for staff, children and parents, but I know that with everyone working together, we can help make the time that the children are away from school a productive one, where learning and progress is prioritised.

During the last lockdown we were in a position where children were mainly recapping on previous learning and practising known and previously taught skills.

This time we are really committed to taking the learning forward and taking the children forward so that when we get them back - hopefully in the not too distant future - we can pick up in classrooms without much of a deficit in learning. For this reason we will be providing live learning from teachers alongside some pre-recorded lessons which teachers are already working on. There will be tasks to complete and an easy timetable to follow which is attached to this letter. So that we can do the very best for the children we will be really focussing on their engagement and their progress over the coming weeks. This is not intended to put any pressure on you - as a working parent I am only too aware of the demands of working and parenting and home-educating. But we are ambitious for the children and for all they can achieve. Now that we have the one to one device initiative, we believe the children can really excel this time around.

Principal – Clare Robinson

Marksbury Road, Bedminster, Bristol, BS3 5JL
Tel: 0117 312 6500 Email: info@oasismarksburyroad.org

www.oasisacademymarksburyroad.org



Please do try to ensure that your children engage with as much of the online learning content as is possible. You'll be pleasantly surprised at how attentive they will be and how much they can do when their teacher is talking to them through their iPad. Do find them a space to work and some useful materials like pen/pencil/paper. I know that teachers will communicate the resources that will be useful and if you're struggling with getting anything you need, school is open. So drop us a message and we can arrange to get some things ready for you to pick up if that would help. Don't worry, you won't need any professional equipment for anything! If your child is attending school during lockdown, please don't try to make them cover these lessons in the evening. They will have had all of the same learning during the academy day.

We are focussing the curriculum for Spring 1 on the same curriculum that we had planned (Study Guides will be published online shortly), but for obvious reasons, we'll be holding back on subjects like DT, some elements of Art, and some elements of Music as it will be easier to pick these up when the children are on site with the right access to the specialist equipment. Some practical lessons will go ahead if equipment required is minimal and accessible.

Please see attached two separate plans - one for Reception and another for year groups 1-5.

We will be in touch with you throughout the process - please do not feel that you are on your own. Make use of the class and year group TEAM through which the learning will be delivered - you will be able to ask any questions and clarify any points with the teaching team. We will be reinstating the year group email boxes and we will communicate with you next week when these have been made active. You will be able to use these mailboxes to communicate with teachers and support staff in your group, though you'll obviously understand that these will only be monitored a few times a week as teachers will be delivering to both children at home and children in school. I will also write to you regularly to pass on any generic messages, and academy staff will be in touch with you if you're struggling to engage in online learning for any reason to see if we can help.

We know that all children now have an iPad - how lucky we are to be in this position! If you are struggling for internet access please do let us know.

Please keep reading - this will always be the message from me - you all know how important this is and I share regularly my feelings on how reading to and reading with children might easily be the most impactful thing we can do to support them. I always say to teachers, but often remind myself of this as a Mummy too, especially when life is busy; ***“if you didn't read to your children today, what did you do that was more important?”***

So much love to you all - we're in this together and I know you will fully support my wonderful and dedicated teaching team - they really are the best!

Clare