

14 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and virus free, and I hope that you are finding snapshots of peace and tranquillity as and when you can.

It was a truly crazy week for us last week working around the logistics of remote learning, in-class learning and care for our vulnerable children too. There were also so many other tasks to complete and I cannot speak highly enough of this wonderful team that I'm so blessed to be working with, as each one of them is so utterly dedicated to making sure our children continue to thrive throughout this lockdown.

There are a few notices and pieces of information to share and I aim to continue doing this weekly so that everyone remains updated. Some are messages focused on in-school families, some focus on remote learners – so please have a read through and take note of the information which is applicable to you.

Remote Learning Punctuality

Remote learning is going so well. I've had the absolute pleasure of joining lots of TEAMS learning meetings this week to see the great stuff going on! Please do try to ensure that your children are joining promptly – although the meetings are recorded and can be accessed later on, the children will benefit so much from being on the live session with their teacher when possible. We have made the timetable super-simple so that you can access most learning on the hour. Also, skill your children up in setting alarms and reminders on their iPads so that they can get in to their online lesson on time. Please join just a minute or two before the scheduled meeting.

Attendance in Academy

If your child has been given a place at school (more about that later), please let us know if they will not be attending because of illness or for any other reason. It is still just as important that we report accurately on where children are and reasons why they are not here if they are in fact absent.

Phone calls home

We are monitoring behaviour in lessons in both remote and in-class contexts and I have asked teachers to pick up conversations with children if they need to address behaviours which are really distracting from learning. I know you'll be fully in support of this as we all want the best for the children and for them to get the most out of the wonderful opportunity they have with live lessons.

8:40am gates close

As outlined in communications last week, the drop off time for children attending school is 8:30-8:40. The gates will then be locked at 8:40am. Every late family who has to be let through the office puts Colette at an increased risk of contracting the virus and also takes her from the other work that she is assigned in a morning. On the odd occasion

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we understand that lateness will occur but there are families regularly turning up after the gates have been locked. Colette had to greet and sign in 12 families yesterday. Please arrive promptly. As of next week we will be calling persistent late arrivals to discuss alternative arrangements for childcare if the school times are inconvenient and the places might not be required.

Breakfast and After School Club

Unfortunately, as of next week I have had to take the difficult decision to furlough our Breakfast and After School Club staff. As you are probably aware, the income generated from breakfast and after school club supports the salaries of these posts and as we are now closed to the majority of children, demand for places is much less and it has become financially challenging to continue providing this provision. Don't worry though, Sarah and Geri remain a very important part of our team, and Oasis will ensure they don't lose out financially either. We will look forward to reinstating our wrap around provision just as soon as we're able to get back to normal in some way.

Need for places

Thank you for being patient with us last week as we worked through the logistics of prioritising academy places for those who had applied. We apologise that we couldn't allocate everyone a place, but I know you will fully understand the boundaries within which we are working. We have to cap numbers to protect our staff and to protect our families and therefore have had to be strict around the allocations. If you need to apply for a place, please contact the academy office who will send you a detailed form to complete, and we will re-assess provision allocations every Wednesday in our Leadership Meetings. This could mean that we have to readjust current allocations if need increases. I'm sure you'll understand that as lockdown progresses, many more of our families will be considered vulnerable, and priority will be given to supporting these children and families. A massive thank you to those families, who despite having critical workers at home, have managed to accommodate also looking after their children. This has meant that we can really offer the places to families who are in desperate need. If you consider that you are no longer in desperate need of your place, please let the office know via email and again, this will be considered every Wednesday.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support! Your emails of thanks and encouragement and kind words on the gate all mean so much at such a difficult time.

Mrs Paterson and I are looking forward to starting assemblies up soon and these will be posted to your TEAMS in due course.

Take care of yourselves,

Clare