

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to Staff and Parents

I hope that you are all well! We have had a few COVID related closures recently but as of Friday this week we are all looking forward to being back together again. I would like to say a huge thank you to my wonderful team who have gone above and beyond to provide some phenomenal live learning over the past few weeks. This is so different to teaching in a classroom and very brave to project themselves into thirty homes too. The quality of the teaching and some of the outcomes have been amazing, and a big congratulations to all of the families concerned who have embraced and supported our online offer. I've been so proud to share our achievements with Oasis as part of our Horizons Pilot feedback.

Just a few additional points to communicate this week:

Early pick ups and drop offs

Please can you try your very best to drop your child off at the gate between 8:30 and 9:00am and then pick them up from the playground between 3:10pm and 3:30pm. We are seeing an increasing number of children being picked up early or dropped off late, and while we appreciate that this is occasionally necessary in an emergency situation, or in the event of a medical appointment we must be aware that this increases the contact that our office staff are having with families. We have a commitment to the safety and well-being of our staff and want to protect them as much as possible, especially during the lockdown period. I will be monitoring footfall into the academy office in the coming weeks, and thank you once again for your support in what we are trying to achieve.

Autumn 2 Study Guides

I'm sure you have all had a chance to have a look at the study guides which are on our Year Group pages on our website. They are brilliant and will really give you insight into curriculum coverage for each term. We are so proud to have been able to share these more widely within Oasis as exemplar of exceptional practice. Please do encourage your children to be able to find them using their iPads. Children who return to learning content regularly have more chance of retaining information – and what a great dinner table discussion point too!

Fourteen days of isolation

A few parents have been in touch questioning isolation periods set by the academy in the event of a class closing down. The guidance is based on being fourteen days of isolation from the last contact with the positive case. If the news of the positive case takes a while to reach us (this is often the case with slow test results), then the period of isolation will be reduced. Please be assured that we are now practically experts in this field, but for each individual case we do go through a rigorous data and calendar tracking exercise as an academy, with the national crisis team in Oasis, and we also take guidance from the DfE. I hope this helps to clarify the guidance we are working within if you were unsure.

Principal – Clare Robinson

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Christmas Cards

I am going to make the same suggestion that I did last year (partly motivated by being a parent of two primary aged children myself) and in no way want to be perceived as a baa-humbug. Last year I proposed that if children would like to send a Christmas card to children in their class, they send one to the class as a whole, rather than writing out 30. This was really well received last year and allowed the teacher to make a lovely display of class cards above the board. If 30 children in a class write and send 30 cards to each other we can end up with 900 cards floating around classrooms. This is obviously not great for the environment and there is the potential spread of the virus to consider too. Please note this is not a mandate, just a suggestion which I hope will be well received.

Christmas Extravaganza Day

Keeping on the festive theme, we wanted to notify you of our Christmas Celebration Day which will be on Tuesday 15th December 2020. This year our Christmas celebrations will be much different, but we hope that as a Leadership Team we have come up with some exciting, if a little different elements. We are hoping to put on a fabulous outdoor carol concert on this day (further details to follow in terms of times and arrangements but it is likely to be in the afternoon). This will also be the day that we will have our Christmas Dinner and we will also celebrate Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on this day. We can't wait to be able to celebrate this special time of year with you and your children – and we keep our fingers crossed that this will be able to go ahead and that all children will be here with us.

Thanks you as always for your kind words and continued support,
Clare