



10 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are – back to school – I’m sure you’ll agree it has felt like a very long week getting back in to routines but the children are settling brilliantly back in to their new year groups and enjoying building early relationships with their new teachers and support staff who also work in classrooms. Thank you as always for your patience as we establish routines and get truly into the swing of things this term.

Here are a few notices which I hope you will find useful;

New Staff

We have a number of new staff who have started with us this term. Classroom based staff will be introduced to you via your year group newsletters (more about that later), but I’d additionally like to let you know about two new members of our wider staff team. We have Millie who has joined our admin team in the office and also Claire who is our new Family Liaison Worker. You’ll often see Claire on the gate with us in the mornings and the afternoons and she will be around to support our families in many different ways. I know you will all make our new members of staff feel very welcome!

Newsletters

Teachers have been busy creating newsletters which are being published on the [year group pages](#) on the website. Please check these carefully for messages from teachers about curriculum, top tips and requests. As of Friday 24th September the weekly updates will be back on the website so that you’ll be able to keep up to date with all of the exciting work going on in our new curriculum.

New Curriculum

As a trust we have been creating a really exciting curriculum which we are piloting at Marksbury Road this year. Our Horizons initiative has given us real potential to develop a bespoke curriculum which the children will love. I have been heavily involved in the development of the curriculum and am excited about what it will offer the children. I look forward to sharing more with you about our approach and direction of work, but for now, I really want to reiterate how important it is that your child has their iPad in school, fully charged every day. The iPad is now being used innovatively across the curriculum and we don’t want children missing out on vital learning because their iPad is at home.

Facebook Messaging

Please don’t use the Marksbury Road Facebook page to leave important messages. I used to obtain notifications when messages popped into the mailbox but now that Facebook have changed procedures/settings I no longer get any notifications, so messages sometimes sit in the inbox for a long time without being checked – please make sure you use the academy office number (0117 312 6500) or the info@oasismarksburyroad.org email box to share urgent messages or queries.

Pick up and drop off

As I wrote to say at the end of the term, we now have both gates open at the end of the school day between 3:20 and 3:30 – please do make sure that you are here by 3:30 as we will otherwise have to log a late pick up. If these happen very regularly it will obviously cause us some concern. In the same way, we are now carefully monitoring early pick ups via the office. Please remember that early pick ups disrupt education, and you should only be picking up early in exceptional circumstances and only very occasionally. Thank you for your understanding.

Y6 transition

Our founding class have somehow now reached Year 6 – if you are a parent of a Year 6 child please follow this link, [Applying for a Secondary School Place 2022-2023](#), to access information about applying to secondary schools. The admission window is now open so do check the arrangements that you will need to follow. All local secondary schools are advertising open days so make sure you have a good look around so that you can make the best decision for your child and your family.

Lost Property

We are in the process of ordering two large containers which will contain any lost property that gets found around the academy. In the first instance we will always check for names to reunite the item with its owner, but if we can't tell who it belongs to, it will be put in the boxes which can be accessed by the children during the school day and by parents after school at pick up time in the playground.

National role leadership cover

I wrote to you towards the end of the last academic year to let you know about the new national role that I was moving in to for two days of the working week. My academy days are now a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On a Tuesday Mrs Paterson is leading the academy, and on a Thursday Mrs Blackwell is leading the academy. On both days they will be ably supported by the senior leadership team. Again, thank you for your patience as we adjust to these new roles – and I might even get to see you on the playground as a parent on a Tuesday or Thursday from time to time!

COVID updates

Just so you are aware, the new guidance around covid tracking and tracing (as I wrote to you at the very end of the summer term to explain) is as follows. In the event of a positive covid case in school, we are no longer allowed to identify or notify close contacts. This is now the responsibility of the positive case and their family in liaison with NHS track and trace. If your child receives a positive lateral flow or PCR please do let us know immediately and ensure you follow the procedure of contacting track and trace, but we will no longer be notifying or isolating classes. This does feel quite uncomfortable considering the cautious attitude and proactive responses we have been taking previously. So, as the cases in South Bristol are so high, we can only urge you to regularly lateral flow test your children and your families to detect any sign of the virus promptly. We will of course let you know in due course if this guidance changes. Please remain highly vigilant around the key symptoms, and do not under any circumstances bring your child to school if they are showing any of these.

Enjoy the weekend everyone, and we look forward to seeing you at 8:30am on Monday – with a fully charged iPad!

Clare