22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Plans for the safe re-opening of Oasis Academy Long Cross

Further to my message to you last week, I am writing to you today as a parent or carer with a child in nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 with information about the preparations we are making for the gradual return of pupils to the Academy next month.

The Government would like children of your child's age group to return to school from 1st June, after the half-term holiday. This is in addition to the children who are able to attend now (children of key workers and other eligible children).

While our aim in writing to you is to provide you with as much clarity as possible about the reopening plans, of course, as things stand, we still do not know whether the Government will confirm its recommendation that schools should reopen from 1st June. This has always been dependent on the R factor but we have now been advised that this decision will be made next Thursday, 28th May. If you don't hear from me, please assume that these arrangements stand. If however things change we will be in touch with you on Friday, 29th May.

We plan to open for **pre-school nursery children** (those due to start in Reception in September) on Monday 8th June. Unfortunately we do not currently have capacity to open to any Nursery children who are not due to start school in September. The re-opening will only happen if the Government and the medical experts say that it is safe to do so, and once we have made all the necessary arrangements to keep your child and our staff safe.

Our number one priority is the safety of your child, your family and of our staff. Since the lock down began, we have remained open to provide childcare for the children of key workers and other eligible children. We have shown that with care and sensible planning and strong teamwork the children in our care have been safe. Our plans will build on their successes.

The details over leaf set out when we would like your child to attend the Academy together with the detailed arrangements we have put in place to ensure as high a degree of safety as possible.

Questions and feedback

I know that you will have many questions about returning to school and about how things will work in this 'new normal' environment. We understand that you will need to feel confident about the arrangements. To help address some of these questions I have provided a frequently asked questions document also over leaf along with this letter. If you have further questions or concerns you would like addressed, please contact us at longcross@oasislongcross.org or call the Academy office on 01179 030333.

We will also be providing a short video showing the arrangements we have made in the Academy as soon as possible and this will be on the website and our social media channels.

Principal-Karen Sheppard

Long Cross, Lawrence Weston,Bristol,BS11 0LP
T: 0117 9030333 **http://www.oasisacademylongcross.org/content/contact-us-94**

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We will keep all aspects of our school preparations under review and take feedback from staff, parents and carers.

What do I need to do now?

There is a lot of information here, but I wanted you to have the full detail of what we are doing to make the Academy safe and welcoming for our pupils. While it will be a little different to normal, we will of course take as long as it takes to introduce the changes to the children and make sure they are calm and happy when we welcome them back.

Having considered the information in this letter and the FAQs, and if you have no further questions or concerns you'd like to ask, please let us know by emailing longcross@oasislongcross.org or calling the Academy office, whether you intend for your child to attend on Monday 1st June. This will help us significantly in the planning.

Please be aware that if your child returns to the Academy they may not be with their teacher due to the need for small groups. Wherever possible we will use familiar teachers to each year group.

Thank you as ever for your patience and understanding during this time, and the support you are showing the team who are working exceptionally hard to do all they can for the children.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Sheppard

Principal, Oasis Academy Long Cross

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Details about arrangements

1) Attendance

We will be implementing the **2 square metre** social distancing rule everywhere for everyone. We have completed a careful evaluation of the space and our staff capacity and have established that we can safely accommodate between 4 - 6 children per classroom.

As a result we have had to implement rotas, to ensure that every child gets fair entitlement.

Here are the arrangements for your child:

Year group	Class	Offer
Nursery	Ladybirds and Caterpillars	2 x ½ days per week on different days – 1 morning and 1 afternoon
Nursery	Bumblebees	No provision currently available
Nursery	Cherry Tree (2 year olds)	No provision currently available

2) Drop-off and pick up and communication through the day

As you can imagine, dropping off and picking up poses a challenge for managing social distancing for you and other parents and all the children Being outside does significantly reduce the risk but we will be asking parents to drop off their child at the Nursery door. This will need to be accessed from the gate on Long Cross nearest the main carpark entrance. Please be aware that only one parent can do this and should avoid bringing siblings. There will be sanitiser to use at the gate. To reduce the risk of spreading the virus, parents will not be able to take children to classrooms as normal.

On arrival you will be asked to wait at the marked spaces to ensure 2m distancing is in place until you reach the entrance and your child can enter.

Once you have dropped off please follow the one-way system and leave the site via the car park as soon as possible.

Age Group	**Drop-off time**	**Pick-up time**
Morning session	8:30am	11am
Afternoon session	12:30pm	3:15pm
If you are running late your child will not be able to attend on that day		

During the day, we ask that you communicate with us only via the telephone (01179 030333). To reduce any risk further, parents, and all other external visitors to the Academy, will not be allowed onto school premises for the time being.

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3) Temperature Testing and Testing for Corona

While it is not a requirement, each child will then have a temperature check, before entry, with a thermal (non-contact) thermometer. If your child has a temperature we will ask you to take them home to reduce the risk of someone who may have the virus from entering the Academy.

Please be assured that staff will be undergoing the same checks.

If you think your child is displaying symptoms of the virus it would be helpful to get them tested. You can do so by checking here for the nearest centre (https://www.gov.uk/apply-coronavirus-test). If they are positive we depend on you to alert us at the soonest possible moment so that we can advise other parents and take the necessary steps to isolate children and staff.

4) Risk Assessments

We have completed a thorough risk assessment following guidance from the Government (you can read this guidance and the guidance from the Government to parents by searching for *'Opening schools guidance for parents.'* and detailed guidelines from the Oasis Community Learning Trust.

We have reviewed every procedure in the school in the light of the virus including how we will set out classrooms, the use of PPE by staff, how to manage drop-off and pick up, the use of temperature checks, how the children will have access to hand washing, how they will move around the Academy safely and many more issues etc.

The risk assessment will be signed off by the Oasis national leadership team along with myself as Principal and will remain under constant review as we monitor our progress and as the country's situation changes.

5) Social Distancing

As indicated above, we have created social distancing routes around the Academy and we have rearranged classrooms to meet requirements for social distancing. We have prioritised the use of classrooms with sinks, or nearby to washing facilities.

It is important to say that we fully understand any anxiety you may have about young children not being able to manage social distancing.

With this in mind, we will be developing strict routines for the children to follow and we have kept the ratios of children to staff very low. We will keep them in small groups which will remain the same throughout the time they are in school. **Please be aware that they may not be with their class teacher**. They will stay in one classroom with limited movement around the Academy. Where possible they will have their food and drinks brought to them. If they use any equipment it will be washed down afterwards and before it is allowed to be used by others.

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6) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

We have a stock of PPE within the Academy, including face-masks, disposable gloves, disposable aprons, hand sanitisers and soap. While we are not expecting to have any shortages of PPE, we will only remain open if we have enough equipment.

Please note that the latest Government guidance is that wearing a face mask in schools is not recommended; effective cleaning, excellent hygiene and developing new routines are deemed the most effective way to control the spread of the virus. However, we have agreed that if staff wish to wear to a mask they have the opportunity to do so. Masks for children, particularly young children is considered unsafe.

PPE will be work by staff providing any intimate care or First Aid. We will have designated staff members taking on these roles.

7) Uniform

As children are returning to school they are required to wear school uniform. In order to take every opportunity to limit any spread of the virus we respectfully recommend that you wash your child's uniform which they have worn to school at the end of every day.

8) Hygiene

We have increased cleaning across the Academy, with a focus on regularly wiping down door handles and hard surfaces. There will be disinfectant sprays and paper for cleaning purposes in each classroom. The school will be thoroughly cleaned each day and will have been thoroughly cleaned before the children return. We have established routines for hand washing on coming into school and leaving and also before and after breaks. There are hand sanitizers around the academy.

9) Getting to and from school

The latest advice from the Government is that you should try to avoid public transport especially at peak times and, where possible, travel to and from the Academy by walking or cycling. We have tried to stagger arrival times with this in mind – see point 3

We know that this will not always be possible, so please let us know any concerns around this.

10) Equipment

Please do not allow your child to bring any equipment into school including any school bags. Your child needs to bring their own water bottle without using a bag. Please label this with their name.

We will be giving the children their own pens and pencils etc to use while they are at school and these will be dedicated for their use and kept in personalised containers.

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11) Curriculum planning and online learning

Online learning will continue for:

- Those year groups who are not in school
- Those children who cannot come into school because they need to be shielded or are shielding others
- Those we cannot currently accommodate due to space restrictions or unforeseen circumstances

Arrangements are different for each year group, but our teachers will be sharing the teaching and learning. Some will be providing the teaching within school, while others will be providing the online learning from home.

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Frequently asked questions

I know that you will have many questions about returning to school; I have tried to anticipate some questions, and also reproduced some of the Government's latest advice:

Can my child return to school?

From Monday 1st June, at the earliest, we will be inviting children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to return in a phased manner. We will also continue to provide childcare to the children of key workers and other eligible children.

What if my child is eligible but has siblings who are not?

We are only able to welcome back children in the above groups. This does not include siblings in different year groups unless those siblings are in a priority group, for example, the children of key workers.

If my child is eligible, is it compulsory for them to attend school?

The Government strongly encourages children in the eligible year groups and priority groups (such as children of key workers) to attend, as requested, unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence (such as shielding due to health conditions).

Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Do all children eligible for childcare who are not currently attending have to go back to school?

The Academy remains open for all those children who are eligible for childcare, in every year group, and attendance is strongly encouraged.

Should I keep my child at home if they have an underlying health condition or live with someone in a clinically vulnerable group?

- Children and young people who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should continue to shield and are not expected to attend.
- Clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) people are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. A minority of children will fall into this category, and parents should follow medical advice if their child is in this category.
- Children who live in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable and shielding should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and the child or young person is able to understand and follow those instructions.
- Children and young people who live with someone who is clinically vulnerable (but not extremely clinically vulnerable) as defined in the social distancing guidance and including those who are pregnant, can attend.

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What happens if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus at the Academy?

If a child or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. We need you to ensure that your child can be collected as soon as possible. Those they live with should also self-isolate for 14 days. As you know, tests are available for anyone who displays symptoms.

Where the child or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class/group will be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class do not need to self-isolate unless the child or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As we are observing guidance on infection prevention and control, that reduces the risk of transmission, closure of the whole Academy will not generally be necessary.

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