



28th August 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Arrangements for the return to school

I hope you and your family have had a peaceful summer despite all the restrictions.

I am writing to you to update you on our plans for the safe reopening of the Academy for all pupils. We are looking forward to welcoming them back, and also to being able to come back together again as a whole school. Some of this guidance may be familiar from my previous letters but, because things have continued to change over the summer, we have continued to work on the issue of safety and there are therefore some significant changes that I would like to make you aware of.

As you will know, the Government expects all pupils, in all year groups, to return to school full-time from the beginning of September. You can read their guidance by searching for 'Guidance for full opening: schools.'

The Government have set out the actions our academy must take to minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus, and have guided us to consider how this will impact on school operations, curriculum and behaviour, assessment and accountability, and the plans we have in place to continue education should there be a local outbreak.

Our response is to do everything that we can to maximise safety for our pupils, families and staff. I will summarise the arrangements in this letter, attach more detail in the accompanying document, and finally provide a shortened copy of the Government's latest advice to parents for your reference.

Summary

1. As part of Oasis Community Learning, we have completed an in-depth risk assessment which has been reviewed by the Oasis' national leadership and by the academy's health and safety committee. The risk assessment will be updated on a weekly basis by the academy, reported to Oasis and the local committee will continue to meet weekly until further notice.

2. In order to reduce the risk of transmission across the whole academy and each group of children, we have thought carefully about how we use the space in our Academy. We are repurposing some of the Academy to maximise the space both between pupils, and between pupils and staff.

This is in addition to how we will group our young people which we wrote to you about at the end of term. Pupils from each Year Group will be taught in one part of the school and have break and lunchtimes together. This will reduce the number of contacts each pupils has with other year groups, and reduce the chance of spreading infection.

3. Hygiene remains an essential part of a safe return. Pupils and staff will be required to wash their hands thoroughly upon arrival at school, before and after eating, and after break times. Pupils will have access to a sink for handwashing. We will also have hand sanitiser dispensers at all receptions, all entrances and exits, dining rooms, halls and first aid rooms.

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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Everyone will be reminded of the importance of 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach, and we will have enough tissues and bins available throughout the school to follow this routine. Hygiene will be everyone's responsibility, including all pupils, to ensure we make the Academy as safe as we possibly can.

The Academy will be cleaned every day as normal, and we will be wiping down surfaces and equipment more frequently to reduce transmission of the virus.

We will also have additional cleaning provision throughout the day to ensure that toilets and communal areas are cleaned throughout the day.

4. The Government does not recommend that face masks are used by primary-aged children within school, but has mandated the use of face coverings for secondary students as they move around their school, and left it up to the discretion of schools about further use.

Again, this is a matter that Oasis has given a lot of thought to. Oasis believes that health and safety is **not** a discretionary matter. It is not permitted for primary students (children 11 or under) to wear face coverings but we will be requiring all staff to wear visors when they are teaching and face coverings when social distancing is not possible.

Questions and feedback

Please take the time to read the included arrangements document where we explain in more detail how school will work. If you have any questions or concerns that are not addressed in these documents, please contact us at longcross@oasislongcross.org or call the Academy office where there will be someone available from Tuesday 1st September.

I wanted you to have the full information on the preparations we are completing to make the Academy safe and welcoming for everyone. I recognise that for some of our pupils this will be the first time back in school after many months and the arrangements will be unfamiliar. We will take the time to ensure they understand the changes as soon as they return and will provide additional support for those who are apprehensive.

If you don't have any further questions, we look forward to seeing your child on their first day back at school.

Thank you for your continued support as we make these arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

K. Sheppard

Karen Sheppard

Principal, Oasis Academy Long Cross

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