



# Oyster Park Primary Academy

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26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Planned Re Opening of School to ALL Pupils on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government's announcement on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February we are delighted to be able to welcome all our children back into school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

We understand there may be some reservations on the latest decision, however we hope that the robust safety procedures and systems of control detailed below that we have implemented in line with the latest Department For Education guidance will reassure you. The safety of our children, families and staff continues to be our main priority.

### Lateral Flow Testing

In January The Department for Education announced that a programme of Lateral Flow Testing would be made available for regular staff testing in Primary Schools for all school staff. This is intended to identify positive cases of coronavirus from staff who are asymptomatic and thus supporting to break the chain of transmission of Covid 19. Alongside other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to make the school environment as safe as possible for our school community. Staff who have opted in are testing twice weekly at home.

Testing takes place in an evening so if we need to close class bubbles, we can give parents as much notice as possible. If a positive Lateral Flow Test result is returned by a member of staff we will close a class bubble and ask all close contacts (staff and children) within the bubble to self-isolate. The staff member then takes a further COVID-19 PCR test, if the result is positive all contacts will need to complete 10 days' self-isolation. If the result is negative, then the class will re-open. There is no planned testing for primary pupils.

### Face Coverings

Unlike in Secondary schools, children in Primary school do not need to wear a face covering. It is recommended that face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible. This additional precautionary measure is for a limited time during this period of high coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence in the community. These measures will be in place until Easter. All staff have access to personal protection equipment to use in such circumstances necessary.

### School Drop Off and Pick Up

We will continue to operate the **one-way system** when entering and leaving the school grounds. Once again, we ask for only one parent per family to enter school grounds for drop off and collection.

Entrance onto school grounds will continue to be via the main electronic pedestrian gate, you will only be allowed to exit the grounds by the gate located across the playground. Social distancing markers are in place to support with social distancing and signage continues to be in place to support in directing foot flow. However, you are responsible

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for managing your own risk when on school grounds. **Face coverings** are to be worn by all adults when on the school site and when entering the school building.

In order to limit the number of parents on site at one time school and to avoid parents congregating we will operate a flexible start time 'window'. We would urge parents to drop your child off and leave immediately to minimise risk. The doors will open from 8:45am and remain open until 9:15am so children can filter into school. Nursery start and finish times will not be affected. Please ensure at the end of the school day when waiting for children to be released from school you adhere to social distancing. As the children were familiar with this routine last term, staff will only man the gates for the first few days.

### **Classroom Organisation**

The Government guidance on pupil groupings remains unchanged in that unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to adhere to social distancing guidelines. To reduce risk, children will remain in year group 'bubbles' throughout the school day including at playtimes and lunchtimes and will not mix with children or staff outside of their bubble.

Classrooms continue to be organised so all pupils are front facing with adequate spacing to ensure children can move around the classroom if required. Movement around the school building will be limited. All pupils will be provided with their pack of frequently used resources. Any other resources will be sanitised between use.

### **Hygiene Protocols**

Prevention Controls - On entrance to the school, the use of hand sanitiser and handwashing by staff and children will continue as well as during regular intervals across the school day. We will continue to promote good respiratory hygiene adopting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach as recommended by Public Health England and classrooms spaces will be well ventilated. Thorough enhanced cleaning routines will continue to be in place during the day to ensure frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, handrails, table tops and resources are sanitised to minimise risk.

### **Illness & Self Isolation**

In order to continue to ensure we implement all systems of control and therefore minimise transmission risk. Parents need to ensure that if your child does fall ill with Covid-19 related symptoms or a member of their household (including someone in their support bubble or childcare bubble if they have one) has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or they have had a positive test please ensure you keep them at home and follow the 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection' guidance from the Government. It is paramount that parents inform the school office in the first instance of pupils self-isolating and provide the reasons for self-isolation.

During periods of self-isolation, where pupils are well enough, it is expected that pupils will access and complete their learning remotely via our online platform.

### **Attendance**

DFE guidance states that school attendance will be **mandatory from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**, for all children with the usual rules on attendance applying, including parents' legal duty to secure their child's attendance at school. Children will be expected to wear their full school uniform with black shoes except on their PE day when as previously they will attend school in their PE Kit. Please ensure PE kit is weather appropriate as some lessons will be outside. Children will only need to bring their book bags, a coat and lunchbox if a packed lunch is their preference. Children are not permitted to wear face coverings when in school.

### **Breakfast Club**

From March 8<sup>th</sup> breakfast club will be limited to 30 places, for working families only. If you would like a place from please contact the school office. The places will be allocated on first come first serve basis.

## After School Clubs

Further details in regards to After School Club provision will be sent out in due course.

We would like to take this opportunity once again, to thank you for your continued support and commitment to your child's education, supporting them with accessing and completing their online learning during this last lockdown period. We understand that the last 8 weeks have been tiring both mentally and emotionally and have presented various challenges for our young people and whole school community. As teaching professionals, we too have had to navigate and adapt to numerous challenges that living through a global pandemic has thrown and are relieved at being able to welcome back all our children on the 8<sup>th</sup> March into their classrooms to resume face to face teaching. The children have been thoroughly missed, there is no compensation for the daily conversations, interaction and classroom dynamic teachers have with the children in their class.

Upon reopening we will continue to support the children to learn, stay safe, re-establish routine and enjoy being back with their friends and school staff. We will continue to support the mental health and well-being of our children through our bespoke social skills curriculum.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support.

Keep Safe,

Yours sincerely,

*J Lindsay*

Mrs J Lindsay