

20th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Plans for the safe re-opening of Oasis Academy Watermead

Further to my message to you last week, I am writing to you today with information about the preparations we are making for the gradual return of pupils to the Academy next month. The Government would like children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to begin 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).

We plan to open on Monday 1st June for year 1 children, children of key workers and other eligible children. 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. **Unless you have requested a place in reception, nursery, year 1 or 6, we cannot admit your child in to school without prior notice.**

Our number one priority is the safety of your child, your family and of our staff. Since the lock down began, Oasis Watermead has remained open to provide childcare for the children of key workers and other eligible children. They have shown us that with care, sensible planning and strong teamwork, the students in our care have remained safe. Our plans will build on this success.

The details, on the next page, 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, on the next page of this letter.

If you have further questions or concerns you would like addressed, please contact us at info@oasiswatermead.org. Mr Dawson will also be available to answer any questions or concerns from Tuesday 26th May until Friday 29th May 9am-4pm, if you wish to call the Academy or email.

We will also be providing a short video showing the arrangements we have made in the Academy later this week on the website and our social media channels so you can watch this together at home.

Principal - Mr Adam Dawson

Oasis Academy Watermead

Barrie Crescent, Sheffield S5 8RN

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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.

It is entirely your decision to send your child/children in. We will still be providing the home learning that we have been so far.

It is not mandatory to send your child into school- there are no implications in terms of attendance. 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 pupils.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Adam Dawson", is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely,".

Principal

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Details about arrangements

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 a maximum of 5 children per class.

As a result, we have had to implement rotas, where necessary, to ensure that every child gets fair entitlement. Each year group, except for key worker and other eligible children, will be in school once a week. The timetable below outline this:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 1	Year 6 (all day)	Key worker and other eligible children only		Reception
	Nursery (morning only) 08:30-11:30			

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 one parent to drop off their child at the school gate. Your child will be greeted by an adult who is teaching that specific group. Please note your child's current class teacher may not be the adult who is teaching them during the reopening of the Academy. The adult will be stood on a spot with five other spots spaced equally out.

There will be sanitiser to use at the gate. To reduce the risk of spreading the virus, parents will not be able to access the school site under any circumstances.

If you decide that your child is not attending the reopening, please inform the Academy via telephone immediately.

If wish for your child to join the provision and they are in nursery, reception, year 1 or 6, they will join the following week so that we are able to create a new group with an appropriate adult.

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Age Group	Day(s) in school	Arrive at the school gate	Drop-off time to adult waiting at the school entrance / gate	Pick-up time/ Home time
Key worker and other eligible children	Every day (Monday to Friday)	08:30	08:35	15:15
Year 1	Monday only	08:55	09:00	15:00
Year 6	Tuesday only	08:55	09:00	15:00
Nursery (morning only)	Tuesday morning only	08:25	08:25	11:30
Reception	Friday only	08:55	09:00	15:00

During the day, we ask that you communicate with us only via the telephone on 0114 201 6800, info@oasiswatermead.org or, if you need to speak to the class teacher, please contact them via 'Evidence Me', 'Class Dojo' or the habits email address. **To reduce any risk further, parents, and all other external visitors to the Academy, will not be allowed onto school premises before, during or after the school day.**

Temperature Testing and Testing for Coronavirus

While it is not a requirement, each staff member on site and child will have a temperature check 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.

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.

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. The link is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

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We have reviewed every procedure in the school in 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 the children will move around the Academy safely and many more issues.

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

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. 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 sanitised afterwards and before it is allowed to be used by others.

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.

Uniform

In order to take every opportunity to limit any spread of the virus we respectfully recommend that you wash your child's clothes which they have worn to school at the end of every day. In order to make this easier to cope with we are happy for the children to wear easily washable clothes if it is not possible to change their uniform daily.

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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 sanitisers around the academy.

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 staggered our start and finish times to accommodate this. This will be kept under review and adapted as necessary.

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

Equipment

Please do not allow your child to bring any equipment into school including any school bags. There is no need for children to bring additional bags, pencil cases and so on. Water will be provided in school using disposable paper cups, minimising the risk of contamination.

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

School lunches

All students who are able to attend school will be provided with a free school lunch. Therefore, there is no need to bring food into the Academy. The Academy will also provide additional snacks throughout the morning.

If you are eligible for the government's food voucher scheme, run by Edenred, then you will continue to receive a voucher in the usual way even if your child attends the academy and receives a meal there.

Curriculum planning and online learning

Online learning will continue for:

- Those year groups who are not in school (Years 2, 3, 4 and 5);
- 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.

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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.

Frequently asked questions

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

Can my child return to school?

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

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.

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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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.

I am a key worker, how can my child or children join the provision?

Please contact the Academy, via telephone or email, and the appropriate form will be sent to you to be completed. Your employer details will need to be supplied and verified before the confirmation of a place.

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