

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid-19 precautions over the summer and next term

I am writing to you about our Covid-19 arrangements over the summer and in the autumn term.

I would like to thank everyone for their support this year. Our young people have shown great maturity in following the Covid-19 precautions we have had in place and adapted well to the changes.

As you may know, the Government has published new guidance for schools around Covid-19 precautions to come into effect shortly. You [can read the guidance here](#) or by searching 'Schools COVID-19 operational guidance Step 4.'

As we are so close to the end of term, we will be keeping all existing arrangements in place until the summer holiday. Over the break we will be making changes as per the new guidance.

In September, what precautions will be the same?

Hand Hygiene

Pupils and staff will continue to wash their hands thoroughly and often.

'Catch it, bin it, kill it'

We will continue to follow good hygiene around sneezing, using and then disposing tissues safely.

Cleaning

We will continue to have a thorough cleaning schedule with regular cleaning equipment and a focus on frequently touched areas.

Ventilation

We will continue to ensure that the school is well ventilated.

COVID-19 symptoms and positive tests

Pupils and staff must not come to school if they have symptoms of Covid, have had a positive test, or are required to quarantine. If a pupil shows symptoms at school, parents will need to collect them and request a test.

The household (including any symptoms) should follow the [Public Health England stay at home guidance](#) for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Risk assessments

Senior leaders at school will continue to meet regularly to assess the risk at school. If necessary and in consultation with Public Health England, we will make changes to our arrangements to increase the precautions we have in place.

Asymptomatic testing

There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to test over the summer period, or in September. Those staff who consent will continue to take two LFD tests each week at home in the new term until the end of September, when the government will review this. **Principal - Mr Adam Dawson**

Oasis Academy Watermead

Barrie Crescent, Sheffield S5 8RN

Email: info@oasiswatermead.org **Tel:** 0114 201 6800

www.oasisacademywatermead.org

Oasis Academy Watermead - a place where everyone of every age can sparkle and shine

In September, what precautions are changing?

Bubbles

The government's new advice explains that they are no longer recommending that it is necessary to keep children in consistent groups (or bubbles). This means that assemblies will be able to resume, lunch service can return to something like normal, and that the pupils will be able to use all the subject-specific classrooms.

We will spend some time over the summer considering what will work best around pupils moving around the academy. It is a requirement of the new guidance that we can quickly move back to bubbles should positive cases rise within the academy or in our local community.

Tracing close contacts and isolation

After the 19th July schools will not be responsible for contact tracing. Instead NHS Test and Trace will contact the family of the pupil with a confirmed case to identify who they have been in close contact with.

In addition, from September children under the age of 18 will not be required to self-isolate if they are a close contact of a confirmed case. Instead they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and advised to take a PCR Test.

Free school meals across the summer break

Free school meal vouchers will be provided to those who are eligible across the summer break and are being provided by the Local Authority. If you are having issues with the vouchers, then please contact the Sheffield City Council directly and they will be able to assist you.

As ever this is a lot of information, but we wanted to provide you with a full update. We are of course pleased that some of the COVID-19 precautions are reducing, however we will only open safely if everyone continues to take the pandemic seriously.

Children must only come to school if they are well, and everyone is responsible for following all precautions that remain in place. As is clear in the guidance, we as a school will be prepared to reintroduce further COVID-19 precautions should it be necessary, and we are advised to by Public Health England.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Dawson'.

Mr A Dawson

Principal

Principal - Mr Adam Dawson

Oasis Academy Watermead

Barrie Crescent, Sheffield S5 8RN

Email: info@oasiswatermead.org **Tel:** 0114 201 6800

www.oasisacademywatermead.org

Oasis Academy Watermead - a place where everyone of every age can sparkle and shine