



12 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Oasis Academy Don Valley Spring 1 Update

I am writing to you following the initial week of Lockdown to provide a brief update on how things are moving forwards here at Oasis Academy Don Valley. Firstly, I would like to thank you on behalf of all our staff across all phases of the Academy. We have received many kind messages of support over the week and they have been very much appreciated.

Remote learning

Our staff have done a phenomenal job in getting our remote learning offer up and running this week across both our primary and secondary phases. I am proud to say that our Academy remote learning offer exceeds the guidance from the government and more importantly I believe that our children are getting a fantastic deal. Across both phases children are accessing their regular teachers remotely and following our Academy curriculum. We know that our children are well-practiced in accessing remote lessons through Microsoft Teams and it has been fantastic to see so many children attending online. However, should you remain unsure full details of our remote learning offer are available on our Academy website. If you have any problems accessing online sessions please do not hesitate to contact the Academy or Oasis Community Learning service desk on 0207 921 4330. It is crucial that your child continues to engage in their education in order to continue to make progress during this period. We all know that there is no substitute for being in a classroom however, the expectations remain high for all children in terms of participation and engagement during this period and we are looking forward to when we can welcome everyone back in to the Academy again.

Horizons Project

I am sure that you will agree that we are in a positive position as an Academy to be a pilot Academy for the Oasis Community Learning Horizons project. This has ensured that every child at our Academy has their own iPad, which has had a huge impact on the number of children attending their remote lessons when compared to previous periods of Lockdown. Over last week our Attendance was above 80% every day we are obviously striving for 100% to every lesson as we know that for progress and learning to continue children need to be joining us online. Again if you have any issues with accessing lessons please contact the Academy.

Summer examinations 2021

I am sure that you will be aware, the secretary of state confirmed last week, that no examinations will take place in the summer of 2021. This means that for this year children at the academy will not sit the Phonics screen, End of key stage 1 or key stage 2 SATs. Instead we will be providing teacher assessed outcomes with support given to ensure that outcomes are fair and consistent. I know that this will not stop any of our children working hard in order to ensure they make good progress throughout this year.

Principal: Mr J Pape

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Free School Meals.

We have been working hard alongside Sodexo, our catering contractor, to provide food hampers to all eligible Children (both those accessing free school meals and universal free school meals). We are pleased to say that this week we have started a positive partnership with Morrisons who will now be providing our food hampers moving forwards. We are also currently investigating a different approach to avoid the requirement for parent/carers to collect them from the Academy.

Vulnerable Children and children of critical workers

To provide clarity, vulnerable children, regardless of their year group, are expected to attend the Academy as usual during this period of Lockdown. In addition, children of critical workers are eligible to attend if they meet the current government criteria. Please note the current government guidance is that parents and carers who are critical workers, should keep the children at home if they can, in order to reduce contact and the spread of the virus.

Coronavirus testing a site (secondary phase only)

You will be aware of the COVID- 19 testing arrangements that have been announced to take place in Secondary schools. We are currently working with the Oasis Community Learning executive team to finalise our plans around how this process will work here at the Academy during the period of lockdown. As we complete our plans we will be in contact to let you know how this process will work including the provision of consent.

Thank you again for our support during, these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Pape', is located below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

James Pape, Principal
Oasis Academy Don Valley

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