



27<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - AlArbia'a 5 Shawwal 1441

Assalaamu Alaikum – 'Peace be upon you'

**Dear Parent,**

I hope that you and your family are well. Thank you for all your support during this very difficult time.

As you know, the Government has provisionally decided to open schools to some pupils from the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June. Ministers will confirm this decision on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May when they next review lockdown measures.

School will reopen gradually. Having small numbers of classes returning will help us to keep children safe.

**Which pupils will return to school and when?**

Children who have been attending school throughout lockdown will continue to attend on a daily basis.

In addition, children in Reception and Year 1 have been prioritised for return by the Government. Ministers have made this decision because they know the importance of children's early reading, numeracy and personal development skills.

If the Government's five tests are met on Thursday, then our reopening for Reception and Year 1 will be as follows:

School will be open on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 for Reception**. Reception children will then attend daily.

School will be open **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 for Year 1**. Year 1 children will then attend daily.

Children in other year groups will stay at home and continue to benefit from online lessons; study packs provided by the school and through Oak National Academy/BBC Bitesize Daily.

**Arrival and departure arrangements**

We are putting arrangements in place to keep children and staff safe. There are a number of changes to how we will organise your child's day.

Reception, **Bint Muhammad**, children should arrive at school between 8:10am – 8:25am and enter the school from **Byron Road entrance**.

Reception, **Ibn Umar**, children should arrive at school between 8:25am – 8:40am and enter the school from **Byron Road entrance**.

Year 1, **Bint Qays**, children should arrive at school between 8:10am - 8:25am and enter the school from the main entrance on **Waverley Road**.

Year 1, **Ibn Salaamah**, children should arrive at school between 8:25am - 8:40am and enter the school from the main entrance on **Waverley Road**.

The Government's advice is to avoid using public transport where possible. If your child travels to school by bus, the following information may be helpful.

- Plan journeys ahead and allow for possible delays due to high number of passengers and requirements for social distancing.
- Wear a mask on public transport.
- Maintain personal hygiene and wash hands/sanitise regularly.

If you drive your child to school, please park on Waverley Road (Mon-Thur) for Year 1 and for Reception always park on Byron Road. Car sharing between members of different families is not advised.

Please do not enter the school and avoid forming groups outside school – for the sake of everyone's health it is important that we continue social distancing where possible. Please leave school straightaway once you have left your child safely.

If you have more than one child attending school, please bring both children in at the earlier time.

Children must not bring any toys or equipment into school from home.

**Children will leave school at the following times, from the following exit points:**

Reception, **Bint Muhammad**, children will leave school at 2:40pm from Byron Road entrance.

Reception, **Ibn Umar**, children will leave school at 2.55pm from Byron Road entrance.

**On Friday**, Reception, **Bint Muhammad**, children will leave school at 11:30am from Byron Road entrance.

Reception, **Ibn Umar**, children will leave school at 11:40am from Byron Road entrance.

Year 1, **Bint Qays**, children will leave school at 2:50pm from the KS2 playground on Waverley Road **(Mon-Thur)**.

Year 1 **Ibn Salaamah** children will leave school at 3:00pm from the KS2 playground on Waverley Road **(Mon-Thur)**.

**On Friday**, Year 1 pupils will be dismissed from the playground outside their normal classroom at 11:50am from the Byron Road entrance.

To maintain the safety of our pupils and staff, please adhere to the arrival and pickup arrangements. Late collection of your child/ren can potentially put a strain on our procedures.

Please avoid gathering in groups outside the school gates when you collect your child and follow the one-way system in place.

**Lesson arrangements**

We will organise children into groups of 15 or less. Each group or 'bubble' will have its own classroom to work in and will have the same staff members at all times. **This arrangement is in line with Government guidance and means that children can be kept safe and well supervised.**

We will focus on children's wellbeing as well as work on basic skills such as reading, writing and numeracy. We want children to feel comfortable and enjoy being back in school. We are very aware that they have been away for a long time and that the experience of coming back will be quite strange. We have thought carefully about the curriculum and will be avoiding activities that bring children into

very close contact with each other. Children will use individual resources rather than sharing materials with their friends. If any resources are going to be used by more than one child during the day, then they will be disinfected before being used by a different child.

### **Break time**

Children will spend break time with other children from their bubble. They will spend time outside in the fresh air whenever possible and will be supervised.

### **Lunch arrangements**

All children in Reception and Year 1 who attend school for any full days will be provided with a school meal. The choice will be more limited than usual.

Children will eat their lunch with other members of their bubble.

Lunch will be eaten in the in classrooms and children will be served with their meals by staff to avoid them needing to queue. Children may bring packed lunches to school if they prefer.

### **Hygiene and safety**

We take the safety of children and staff very seriously indeed. All children will need to wash their hands as soon as they enter school, every time they use the toilet, before and after they eat lunch, and when they leave school. They will also wash their hands following some lesson activities and, in the event, that they cough or sneeze. Please help by making sure that your child knows how to wash their hands, using soap and water, for 20 seconds.

We will ensure that materials used by children are disinfected after each individual child uses them. Our cleaning staff will wipe down surfaces in the classroom, including tables and chairs, regularly during the day. We will ensure that toilets, washbasins, and taps are thoroughly cleaned after each use.

Children will be given stationery and resources for their individual use when they are in lessons. These items will be bagged and stored separately from other children's resources.

Our school has completed a thorough health and safety risk assessment. This has been reviewed and approved by the Trust, along with our broader risk assessment and reopening plan.

### **Expectations of students' behaviour**

We have high expectations of children's behaviour when they return to school. It will be very helpful if you can talk gently to your child about these before they return. Our rules continue to be based on the STAR values and we will explain them to children in a way that they can understand. We expect children to be kind and fair and to do as adults ask them, straightaway. This includes washing their hands regularly and not standing or sitting too close to their friends. We are asking children not to touch each other – this includes hugging and holding hands.

### **Uniform**

Children should wear their uniform to school, or other comfortable clothing, such as plain trousers and plain T-shirts that can be washed easily. We strongly recommend, children should wear clean clothes to school every day.

### **Children who are unwell**

Any child who is unwell should remain at home.

If a child develops symptoms of COVID-19 in school (a new persistent dry cough, high temperature, change or loss of smell or taste) they will be taken to a medical room and you will be asked to collect them from school as soon as possible.

**Children or staff who are tested positive for COVID-19**

If a pupil or a staff member is tested for COVID-19, then the whole bubble of which they are a part will be asked to stay away from school and self-isolate for 14 days. In this way, the possibility of disease transmission throughout the school will be reduced.

**Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable**

If your child, or anyone in your household, is clinically extremely vulnerable, and therefore at high risk of becoming severely ill if they are infected by COVID-19, they will have received a letter from the NHS advising them to shield. In these circumstances, your child should not attend school. (Your child should not attend if anyone else in your house is clinically extremely vulnerable, even if your child does not have a severe medical condition themselves.)

If your child is clinically vulnerable, you should take advice from a medical practitioner before sending them to school.

We understand that you may be feeling anxious about sending your child back to school. Please be assured that we will look after them. We very much want to welcome your child back. Many things may have changed during the lockdown period but our commitment to working with you in the best interests of your child remains firm. We will, however, respect your decision and not take any action against you if you decide that you do not wish your child to return to school yet.

**Please update us**

If you are a key worker and require a place for your child (in any year group) to enable you to return to work, please contact school [info@olivesmallheath.staracademies.org](mailto:info@olivesmallheath.staracademies.org) so that arrangements can be made.

(Parents of children who are already attending school daily do not need to reapply.)

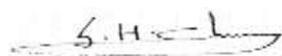
We also need to hear from you if your child is clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable, or if a member of your household is clinically extremely vulnerable. Please contact on the above email address.

Following confirmation from the Government later this week, we will inform you if there are any changes to the arrangements set out in this letter.

Thank you once again for all the support that you give to your child, and for working with us. I am very proud of the way in which our Star community has pulled together to look after each other during the pandemic.

Finally, as you know, Star Academies is running a campaign to support families who may be struggling to afford essential food and hygiene products during this period. If you need help, please let us know.

Yours sincerely



**Shawkat Chowdhury**  
Principal