



27th 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 1st June. Ministers will confirm this decision on Thursday 28th May, when they next review lockdown measures.

School will reopen gradually. Having small number 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 Early Years 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.

The Government has also prioritised pupils in Year 6 so that they can receive some support as they approach the transition to secondary school. We have undertaken a risk assessment that confirms we do not have the capacity for Year 6 pupils to return on a full-time basis. We will, however, be inviting Year 6 to come to school on specified days.

If the Government's five tests are met on Thursday, then our reopening for Year 6 will be as follows:

Year 6 will attend school every Friday starting from **Friday 12th June 2020**.

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

We hope that your child will continue to follow the programmes of work that we have set for them during lockdown, these include student packs, the Oak National Academy, BBC Bitesize as well as many other online and web-based work.

Arrival and departure arrangements

We are putting a lot of arrangements in place to keep children and staff safe. There are a number of changes to how we will organise the school day.

- **Year 6 Arrival:** Year 6 students should arrive between 8:00am and 8:15am using 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, they should wear a mask for the journey, in line with Government advice.

If you drive your child to school, please park considerately, on Waverley Road. Car-sharing between members of different households 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 equipment into school from home.

Year 6 children will leave school at the following times from the following exit points:

Year 6 pickup arrangements:

Year 6 will be dismissed from the KS2 playground near the main entrance on Waverley Road Ibn Abee Talib at 11:50am and Ibn Umayr at 12:00pm.

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 when you collect your child.

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 be doing a lot of work to help children's wellbeing as well as working on basic skills such as reading, writing and mathematics in preparation for secondary school. 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 carefully 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

Children who are eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with a grab bag on Friday.

Free School Meals

All children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals will continue to receive vouchers through the Government's Edenred scheme. The next free school meal vouchers will be issued for the four-week period from Monday 1st June. If you would like more information about eligibility for free school meals please visit: <https://www.olivesmallheath.com/pupil-support/free-school-meals/>

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 activities and, in the event, that they cough or sneeze.

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 and reopening plan.

Expectations of pupils' 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, handshakes, and horseplay. It is important that children understand the reasons why they are learning and socialising in 'bubbles' and that they do not try to interact physically with friends from other bubbles, however tempting this might be. Please emphasise to your child that avoiding close contact is a way of keeping themselves safe and keeping each other safe.

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 child 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 info@olivesmallheath.staracademies.org so that arrangements can be made. (Parents of children who are already attending school daily do not need to reapply.)

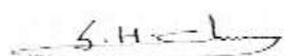
We also need to hear from you if your child is clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable, or if a member of your household is clinically extremely vulnerable. Please contact the above email address.

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