

**November 2020**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

As you are probably aware, the Government has announced that schools should fully open during the month-long lockdown. They have reached this decision in light of:

- Time out of school being detrimental to children's development.
- The new NHS test and trace system being in place.
- Measures being in place to create a safe environment in schools.
- The low risk to children of becoming severely ill from coronavirus.

Whilst Oakwood Community School has been open throughout the pandemic, we wanted to get in touch to explain what you can expect from us, and how we would like our parents and carers to play their part.

**Attendance**

Attendance from September has been mandatory, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. We will be recording attendance and following up on any absences. However, if you've received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. We'll be offering remote education to those pupils affected in this way, including an invite to join live lessons on Microsoft Teams and personalised learning packs.

**Safety measures**

When your children come into school, we will have the following protective measures in place. We would ask all parents and carers to respect them for the safety of all pupils, staff and themselves.

**Procedures for going to and from school**

Parents/carers who need to drop off and pick up pupils should:

- Minimise adult to adult contact
- Please remain in your car
- Only have one parent/carer in attendance with their child
- Wear face coverings at all times whilst on school premises

### **Rules on what pupils can take to and from school**

- Pupils should only bring in 'essential' items (e.g. bags, PE kit, stationery)
- Pupils will be provided with their own book bag by the school to keep their own set of stationery in.

### **How pupils will be kept safe in school**

- We will ensure good personal hygiene
- Keep them in 'bubbles', i.e. their class groups of 6
- We will conduct a regular and thorough cleaning protocol
- We will have 2m social distancing measures in place
- Staff and pupil temperatures will be taken on arrival and at midday

### **How we'll make sure pupils are aware of the rules**

- We will repeatedly reinforce the school's expectations to pupils and will conduct refresher lessons throughout the week on how they can stay as safe as possible.

### **Information about uniform and school meals**

- All pupils should be in school uniform
- School meals and breaks will be taken in classrooms

### **How we'll respond if a pupil or staff member develops symptoms at school**

- The person will be isolated in an outdoor or suitable space until the parent or carer can arrive to take them home. We will recommend that they complete a COVID-19 test and share the results with us
- A staff member will be asked to return home and complete a COVID-19 test and share the results with us.



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### **What we'll do if there's a confirmed case**

We will inform the local health protection team to decide if additional action is needed.

### **Curriculum**

Although there will need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the

lockdown, we will be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum.

Our plan is:

- To baseline assess pupils to identify their starting points and gaps in their knowledge that

may have risen due to lockdown

- To provide individual catch-up teaching, prioritising Literacy, Numeracy and social and emotional growth

- To deliver our normal curriculum

Should a student need to return to remote education, for whatever reason or circumstances, we have appropriate plans in place. Marking and feedback will continue in line with our policy. For those pupils remote learning we will contact you individually. For pupils taking qualifications, we are waiting for further details about how these exams will be run in summer 2021.

### **Pastoral support**

We are aware that lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our pupils. It's also difficult to start at a new school under such strange circumstances. Please let us know if you think your children might need extra support, such as if they feel anxious about coming in or they're experiencing bereavement. You can get in touch with the headteacher to do this.

**Our plans to support your children's wellbeing during this time are:**

- We'll support general pupil wellbeing through pastoral and extracurricular activities, such as

time at the beginning of every day to talk with trusted adults

- We will specifically help pupils who are vulnerable or who have difficulty re-engaging in school, through targeted support tailored to meet their needs

If you have any questions or concerns about the points we've set out above, please get in touch with the Headteacher or Assistant Headteachers. We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received so far from the school community. We will continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice.

Warmest Regards,

Siobhán Long

Assistant Headteacher