

# OLIVER GOLDSMITH PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Inspiring a love of learning”

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Thursday, 04 June 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you and your families are staying safe and well. As you will have read in the letter from our Board of Governors sent home yesterday, the school will begin its wider phase of re-opening **from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June**. Initially this will **ONLY be for children in year six as well as continuing child care provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers**. Please note that children in year six will only be able to attend school Mondays to Thursdays.

This letter provides more details for all parents regarding our wider phased re-opening and I ask that all parents read them carefully. As yesterday's letter stated, the government has been very clear that **parents will not be penalised for not sending their child/children back to school**. We fully understand that different families are in different situations and there will be reasons why you do not send your child back to school.

If your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5...

- **School is closed for these pupils UNLESS they are vulnerable or children of keyworkers.**
- Children in these year groups will be able to continue to access online home learning in the way we have been providing since after the Easter break. Don't forget to use the email addresses to communicate with class teachers.

If your child is classified by the school as vulnerable...

- We have already been in close communication with all children in this group, you will have been in contact with Mrs Dean (Deputy Headteacher) or with Mrs Amui (SENDCo).
- They will be in contact or will have already spoken to you to discuss your child's needs.

If you are a key worker as described on the government list...

- We aim to keep our key worker provision running as previously, five days a week, but this will depend upon parent demand and the availability of staff.
- We ask **ALL key worker parents** to contact the school office by telephone by 3.30pm on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June to let us know whether you require child care provision from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June.
- With staff availability a key issue, we may not be able to meet every request but we will do our very best to meet demand!
- We will contact all key worker parents by the end of Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June to confirm our arrangements for the following week.
- If you do not contact us by Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, we will not be able to provide provision for your child from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June – **we must know in advance so we can plan our provision.**
- **We do not have the ability to provide breakfast club or after school club provision for any children.**



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## If your child is in Year 6...

- We will have strict start dates for children in year six so that we can manage our provision safely for children and staff at the school. Children will not be able to join from any date from 15<sup>th</sup> June onwards as we do not have capacity for this flexibility. **We must know in advance so we can plan staffing and our provision.**
- A member of our school office team will call you on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June or Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June to ask you the following questions...
  1. Would you like your year six child to start back from the week beginning Mon 15<sup>th</sup> June? Please tell them yes or no.
  2. Would you like your year six child to start back from the week beginning Mon 29<sup>th</sup> June? Please tell them yes or no – **we cannot guarantee that we will have staffing available to create additional bubbles at this point but will do our very best to support parents.**
- We will review feedback from parents on Weds 10<sup>th</sup> June to plan our provision. We will then contact parents by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June to confirm arrangements for the following week.
- A reminder to parents that...
  1. Children who are classified as extremely clinically vulnerable **SHOULD not come to school** and should remain at home. This should also be the case for any child where there is someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable in their household and is shielding at home following medical guidance.
  2. If children or members of their household are classified as clinically vulnerable, please tell the office team during your phone call as we will need to risk assess their personal circumstances to ensure they are able to return to school.
  3. If your child or a member of your house displays symptoms (fever, cough, loss of taste/smell) at any time, then they and the household should self-isolate for 14 days. This would mean children **SHOULD NOT attend school**. We would urge families to use the government test, track and trace systems.
- The arrangements for year six children are as follows...
  - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June Staff CPD and preparation day
  - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June Staff CPD and preparation day
  - Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June Y6 return to school (grouped into smaller numbers)
  - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June Y6 return to school (grouped into smaller numbers)
  - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June Closed to children in year 6
  - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June All children in year 6 small groups in school from this date
- **Don't forget that the school will be closed to year 6 children each Friday – they cannot use keyworker provision as this would break the safety of the bubbles we are creating.**
- **We do not have the ability to provide breakfast club or after school club provision for any children.**

Many of you will be wondering what school life will be like when we start to re-open, I hope the following information will help you to reach a decision...

## What will school be like for children returning from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June...

### Groups called Bubbles

- Children will be put into bubbles with a maximum of 10 in each bubble.
- Y6 children will be in bubbles with other y6 children from their class.
- Key worker children will be in bubbles of mixed ages.



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- Bubbles will be allocated a room – they will not be in their usual classroom.
- Each bubble will have one teacher and one learning support assistant to be with the children all day. They may not be with their usual class teacher or usual LSA.
- Each bubble will be separated from other bubbles throughout the day including playtimes and lunchtimes.
- The group of children and staff will remain the same at all times.
- We will send further details about drop off times and pick up times next week but these will be staggered to avoid large groups meeting on or near our site.
- We are encouraging space between children as much as possible and as far as our rooms and site allows. We cannot maintain 2m social distancing at all times.

### Morning Drop Off

- Each bubble will be given a time to arrive at school and a specific gate to use.
- We encourage children and parents to walk to school as far as possible.
- If you have to drive, please park away from the school gates and walk the last part.
- Please do not bike or scoot as we cannot manage storing these safely at this time.
- Please follow instructions, signs and lines!
- Only **ONE** parent should bring a child to school to reduce the number of people on our site.
- Children in Y6 can be given permission to walk to school on their own and you can tell the office team about this during your phone call. Please must make sure you speak to your child about following social distancing on the way to school to keep them and others safe. We would advise that they are dropped off by an adult but this is a decision for parents to make.
- It is vital that you arrive **ON TIME** for everyone's safety.
- Parents will **NOT** be able to enter the building and you will not be able to speak to the member of staff looking after your child – you will need to phone the school to talk to us.
- You will receive the exact time slot for drop off before starting back.

### Classrooms & Curriculum

- Children will wash their hands before entering the school building and again at key points throughout the day in the classroom and using our new outdoor sinks.
- Regular handwashing will be a vital part of our new daily routine.
- Children will be given their own desk to work at and must stay in this place each day.
- Children will only interact with children and adults in their own bubble.
- Children will be given their own stationery and books to use. They will not be able to bring books home.
- We will have lessons on hand hygiene.
- There will be a focus on mental health and well-being.
- Pupils will access outdoors learning as much as possible.
- Pupils will follow the same learning as is sent home to all other children, this will be led by the teacher in charge of the group.

### Break & Lunchtimes

- Children should bring in their own packed lunch from home.
- Free school meal children will have a packed lunch prepared by our lunchtime catering team.
- Parents can order a packed lunch meal from our catering team at the usual cost if they so wish. We will send home details of this menu next week.
- Your child **MUST** have a water bottle which we will send home each day for you to wash and refill.



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- Children will eat lunch within their bubble – this will either be in our dining hall or using one of our outdoor picnic areas. If the weather is bad, children will eat lunch in their classroom.
- Children will have a chance to play outside at break and lunchtimes but only with children in their bubble – they cannot mix with other groups. All breaktimes and playtimes will be staggered.

### End of the Day Pick Up

- Each bubble will be given a pick-up time – you must keep to this time for the safety of everyone on the site.
- Only ONE parent should come to collect children – we will tell you where to wait, please follow the signs and lines!
- Children in Y6 can be given permission to walk home on their own and you can tell the office team about this during your phone call. Please must make sure you speak to your child about following social distancing on the way home to keep them and others safe. We would advise that they are collected by an adult but this is a decision for parents to make.

As said earlier, we do not have the ability to provide breakfast club or after school club (school friends) provision for any children. There will not be any other after school clubs running for rest of the school year.

Parents MUST be able to collect their child immediately if they are contacted by the school if their child shows any Covid 19 symptoms. They should be taken for a test and we ask parents to share the results of that test with the school so we can take any necessary steps.

Whilst we are encouraging space between children as much as possible and as far as our rooms and site allows, we cannot maintain 2m social distancing at all times.

The free school meal voucher scheme will stop for those attending school BUT will remain in place for any children NOT in school.

Whilst we encourage children to attend school we do realise that this will be a personal decision for each family and we will respect your choice. Parents will NOT be penalised or fined for their child's non-attendance.

If you have a child in year six, please wait for our office team to call you on Monday or Tuesday next week. If you are a key worker, please call our office team on Monday or Tuesday next week. I will then be in contact with parents again later next week with all the final details you will need.

As we said yesterday, we are thankful for your patience, understanding and the way you have supported your children and the school at this time. Continuing to adhere to the Government's guidelines only supports the school further in ensuring our school is a safe environment for all the children.

Stay safe and well

My very best wishes to you all.

Mr James Simmons  
Headteacher

