

Oasis Academy Ryelands Newsletter

6th April 2020

Hello Everyone,

Whilst this may not be our usual style of Newsletter, I thought it would be really valuable to try to keep our Ryelands School Community linked together as best we could.

Last Monday morning, we opened our doors to the children of our Key workers and those most vulnerable and needy of children. On this point, I want to say that we are incredibly grateful for the massive respect and support that Ryelands families have shown to the school team, during this time. Most families, are rightfully observing the lockdown protocols and are caring for their children safely at home, which is exactly what the nation needs us to do. Thank you!

As a result, we have been able to stay open for our Key Worker families, so that in turn, they can continue to support the national infrastructure and ensure that our essential services are maintained.

This is Ryelands Community Teamwork at its absolute best!

On behalf of all at Ryelands, we also extend thanks to all our Key Worker families for their precise support of our school situation. They have been absolutely amazing at staying in contact with school, they regularly update us with their shift patterns and changes to rotas, as their own work load is stepped up due to changing demands and have been simply wonderful, in unprecedented times.

Consequently, this has meant that we have been able to offer those youngsters who do have to be in school, the very best childcare provision, with the very best teams in place to help them during these difficult days.

Our Team arrived, early doors with all staff at Oasis Academy Shirley Park, Stroud Green Campus by 8.00am.....ready to face whatever challenges were to be thrown at them. Every single member was ready, willing and more than able to hit the ground running. We were so pleased to see the children arrive and were keen to be able to reassure them and their families that we had very strict guidelines in operation, firm structures in place and an insistence of the social distancing strategies, that will help prevent the virus from spreading.

We continue to have anything up to 15 children of key workers on a daily basis. The children are getting on with their home learning whilst in school, just like their class mates are at home.

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Easter Holidays – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We are open for critical key worker children over the Easter holidays, 9:00am until 3.00pm.

The Government advice is that children are safer at home.

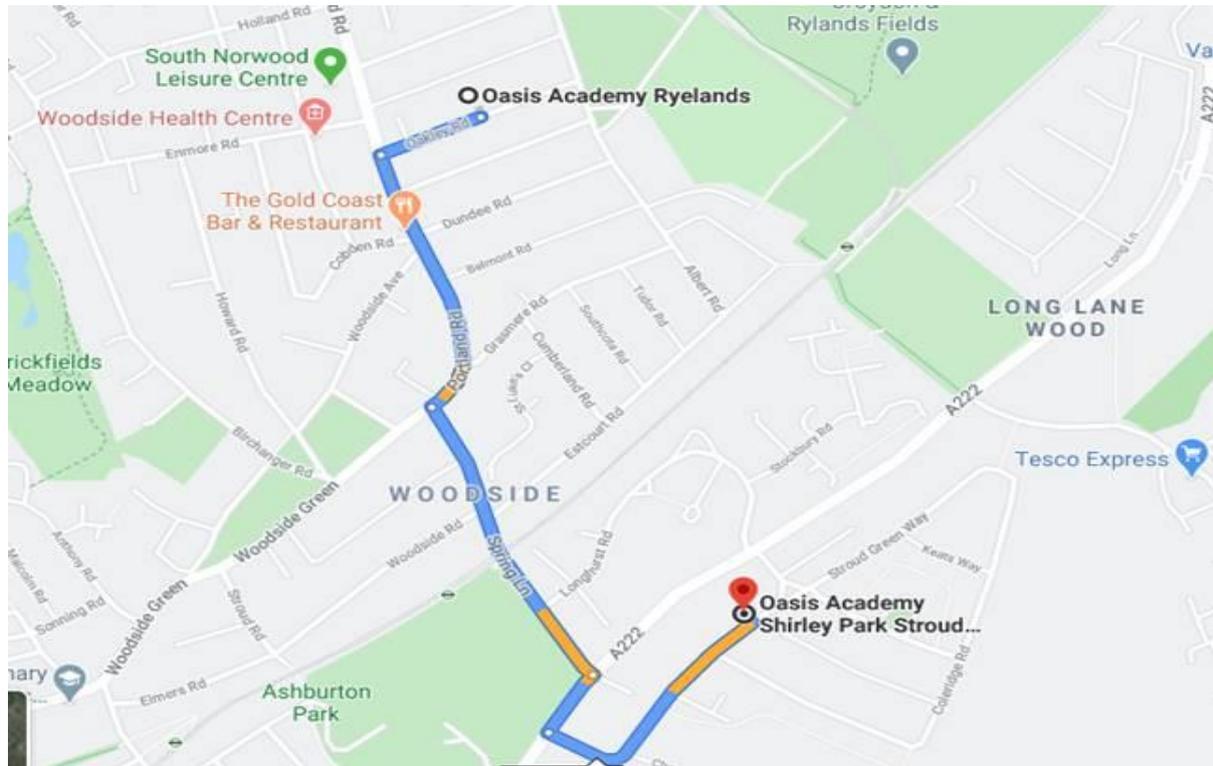
We are closed on Good Friday, 10th April and Easter Monday, 13th April.

We are based at Oasis Academy Shirley Park – Stroud Green Campus

This is a childcare facility. We are not teaching or holding lessons.

Lunch is provided.

Children can wear comfortable clothes.



Safeguarding Our Children

Our Safeguarding and Child Protection policy is still relevant and in place, but we have been asked to provide an addendum to the policy for the purpose of safeguarding our children during these unprecedented times. This addendum is posted on the school website in <https://www.oasisacademyryelands.org/about-us/policies>

As part of our ongoing safeguarding duty we will be contacting all families and the children once a week – so please do not be surprised to receive a phone call from us. The number may appear as withheld or unknown – this is due to the phone system at Stroud Green.

Just as a reminder, if you have concerns or questions about anything whilst the school is 'closed', you can contact us in a number of ways:

By email – office@oasisryelands.org

Phone school office on 0208 656 4165

We have been busy over the last two weeks with organising rotas and various other things to be able to be as proactive as we would have liked to have been, but we hope you know that we will be reactive if you need us. We must keep in mind that everyone is working to different sets of rules now and we have to help out where we can, for the good of our children.

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Home Learning over Easter

No child is expected to continue with their home learning during the Easter holidays – they are meant to be holidays after all. We all appreciate that for some, the children may need a routine. We have created projects for the children to complete:

Nursery and Reception- the EYFS team have created a bank of 34 wonderful activities and projects for the children to enjoy over the 2 week Easter break, plenty to keep the children busy and focused. These range from cooking, painting and creating, reading, writing and singing.

Year 1 – A list of creative tasks related to the new Summer 1 topic *Paws, Claws and Whiskers* as well as some fun Easter activities.

Year 2 – A list of suggested activities related to the new Summer 1 topic *Wriggle and Crawl* as well as some practical Science activities.

Year 3 have been asked to complete some tasks around their new topic 'Predator'. They also have the option of completing a daily diary about the isolation period to remind themselves and to tell others about their experience once this is all over.

Year 4 have been assigned some tasks to give them a head start in their 'Traders and Raiders' topic, to find out about the Vikings. They have also been given the opportunity to complete a daily diary about their lives during the isolation period.

Year 5 - A list of tasks related to the new topic of 'Alchemy Island' which we will be covering in Summer Term 1. There are also some activities related to well-being and some fun Easter activities.

Year 6 - A list of tasks related to the new topic of 'Identity' which we will be covering in Summer Term 1. There are also some activities related to well-being and some fun Easter activities.

Teachers will be sending new work out after Easter, so watch out for the email from Monday 20th April.

Vouchers for meals

Please see email letter.

If you are a parent or carer, and receive any of the benefits below, then your child is eligible for Free School Meals.

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross household
- income of no more than £16,190)
- The Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Working Tax Credit run on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Please check now by clicking on the link below to check your child's eligibility. The school will be notified directly of the outcome and you will receive a text message to advise if you are eligible.

www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/link2ict

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Mental Health and Wellbeing

Public Health England have recently published COVID-19: guidance on supporting children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, some of which may be useful for parents to use.

The guidance goes through the importance of parents looking after their own mental health.

It suggests some key points to consider to support children and young people:

- Listen and acknowledge. Look out for any changes in their behaviour. Children may feel less anxious if they are able to express and communicate their feelings. Listen to them, acknowledge their concerns, and give them extra love and attention if they need it.
- Provide clear information about the situation: All children and young people want to feel that their parents and caregivers can keep them safe. Provide honest answers to any questions they have. Explain what is being done to keep them and their loved ones safe, such as washing their hands regularly.
- Be aware of your own reactions: It is important to manage your own emotions and remain calm, listen to and acknowledge children and young people's concerns, speak kindly to them, and answer any questions they have honestly.
- Connect regularly: Make sure you still have regular and frequent contact via the phone or video calls with them if you live away.
- Create a new routine: Make a plan for the day or week that includes time for learning, playing and relaxing; be active for 60 minutes a day; keep to bedtimes etc.
- Limit exposure to media and talk about what they have seen and heard: Try to avoid turning the television off or closing web pages when children come into the room. This can pique their interest to find out what is going on – and their imagination can take over. Try to answer their questions and reassure them in an age-appropriate manner, avoiding too much detail. The guidance also outlines how children of different ages may respond for example: 3 to 6-year olds may return to behaviours they have outgrown: toileting accidents, bed-wetting etc.

Keeping Children Safe Online

The Department for Education recently updated its advice on information for parents and carers during the closure of educational settings. This is of particular importance as children are now likely to be working online much more whilst carrying out their home learning. We would strongly advise parents to remain vigilant and constantly aware of what their child(ren) is/are doing online. This guidance now includes more information and resources for keeping children safe online, which parents may find useful:

- > Thinkyouknow (advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online) > Internet matters > Parent info > LGfL > Net-aware (support for parents and careers from the NSPCC)
- Just type these into the URL address bar of your internet browser and the relevant links should come up

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We are all trying to make sense of this dreadful time.....and in talking and sharing and helping to rid ourselves of these unbelievably powerful emotions.....we are moving forwards, we are keeping ourselves strong and maintaining a strength of spirit that means..... we will overcome!!

Finally, for now, may I repeat my thanks and appreciation for all the support you have given me and the whole school community through these difficult days. You may be assured that Ryelands Team will continue to do it's very best to guide and support us through these tricky times, until we reach that time when we can all come back together.

With very best wishes to you and your families and friends,

Glenn and the Team at Ryelands

