

# Oasis Academy Ryelands Newsletter

## 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

As we start of our fifth week of school closures, I hope this finds you and your families all keeping well and not climbing the walls as a result of the dramatic change in weather! It must be more difficult for many of you to motivate your children now that they are less inclined to go outside into the garden and let off steam (I feel your pain!) – fingers crossed some dry warm weather is just around the corner.

The longer the lockdown goes on the greater impact it has on our social and emotional wellbeing. The messages the children are sharing highlight how much they are missing each other and all the staff. We too are missing them all and very much looking forward to seeing them all again and yourselves, hopefully soon!

There are a great many rumours going around at present about phased returns to school, coming out of lockdown, etc. Please don't start to worry yourself about this 'hear say' for that is all it is at the moment. The school receives daily correspondence from Oasis and Croydon Council, and there has been absolutely no mention of any such measures at present. Rest assured, I will let you know as soon as I do receive any concrete information from the appropriate authorities about when and how schools will re-open.

Some of you have called in and asked for 'motivational' messages – particularly where some of the older children are resisting your instruction. This is entirely to be expected, so please don't worry too much – for many children home is completely distinct from school and they don't understand why they should be doing school work at home, again I am having this personal battle with my son in Year 8. If you are having issues please let us know.

I think it is important to all celebrate the fantastic job you are doing. Huge well done in these challenging circumstances.

Glenn and the Ryelands Team



### School Reports

As we do not know how long school will be closed to the majority of pupils, I have asked staff to prepare annual achievement reports for the children. These will be a briefer format to usual and obviously they can only reflect the children's attainment up to the end of the Spring Term. However, I am keen for all the children to have a school report to record and recognise their efforts this school year. These reports will be with you in July and we are investigation at present how these can be sent to you electronically via email.

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### Free School Meals

For those of you entitled to Free School Meals, vouchers have now been sent. Please check your junk mail, clutter or spam if you have not received an e-voucher yet and email to let the academy office, [office@oasisryelands.org](mailto:office@oasisryelands.org) know as soon as possible. Please note, the vouchers do have an expiry date, so spend them as soon as you can before they go out of date. We can see lots of families have not claimed them. We have contacted you to tell you. We have requested vouchers for the next two weeks too, so look out for these and please let us know of any problems you are experiencing and we will do our best to help you resolve them. Please remember this is not a system we have used in school or have had any training for, we are adapting and using the system that the Government are telling us to.

### Welfare Calls - PLEASE PICK UP!

As you know, we have been calling you at home each week, just to see how you are all getting on. The staff taking responsibility for these calls have all said how lovely it has been chatting to you and I have thoroughly enjoyed speaking with some of the children as well as yourselves - we do miss you all.

However, there have been a number of families that we have not been able to make contact with because nobody is picking up. The number will usually come up withheld of private, this is due to how the telephone system works at Shirley Park. Please, please, please answer your phones, we are not calling to check up on you or your child's learning - just to see how you are. From this week we are going to be calling on a Wednesday and Thursday. If we haven't managed to make contact with you last week or this, we will have to venture out to do 'doorstep visits'. Please help us by picking up when we call, you don't have to stay on the line for more than a minute if you don't want to chat, but we do need to know that all is well with you and your family. Thank you.

### VE DAY

This year marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day. The bank holiday has been moved to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May to match the date of the first VE Day, so that the nation can commemorate this anniversary together. VE Day itself was a celebration of the end of war in Europe. The first VE Day was a brief pause in the difficult and challenging times before getting back to the task of rebuilding the country. VE Day is also a time of remembrance. It is about paying tribute to the service and sacrifice of the entire Second World War generation, from British, Commonwealth and Allied Forces to evacuees and those who served on the home front. Our provision at Stroud Green will be closed on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. If this is going to cause an issue to any of our key worker families please get in touch and we can support you in finding alternative childcare.