

Oasis Academy Ryelands Newsletter

11th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We really hope all of our families are keeping safe, well and upbeat during these unprecedented times.

We wanted to update you on some key messages from school and answer some of the queries we are aware some of you have.

Our staff have been working really hard to ensure that there are daily lessons for your child. Teaching staff are on hand during the day to answer any queries you may have or to receive photos of work that you send them through the school office which they will then share on the school website.

Emotions are all over the place - tearful, cross, despondent, tired ... things are just too much. Some of you are worried about the school work your children have been set - that you're not doing enough or that your children aren't responding to you as they would to their teacher, you have bad days but hopefully better days too. We must reiterate to you that we understand and are sympathetic to the fact that all of our families have different circumstances. Some of you have limited access to technology, some of you have multiple children at home sharing technology, some pupils are sharing technology with parents who are working from home and some of you are key workers who have your child(ren) in school. Our message to you all throughout this period is to do what you can and what works for you as a family. Should you require additional activities we would direct you to the BBC Bitesize website and Spell Shed. These websites will consolidate learning.

At least one member of the Senior Leadership are in school every day and are responding to updates from the Department for Education, The Local Authority and the Unions. We have made the decision NOT to stream live lessons via platforms such as Zoom. There are many reasons for this. First and foremost, is linked to safeguarding. These live sessions cannot take place in staff or children's bedroom. Everyone has to be dressed correctly. We also cannot be responsible for things that are said / on display in households and shared across the classroom. Some children do not have photo/video permission therefore cannot be involved in these lessons and if they were, we cannot control someone deciding to screen shot them. Another reason is that not all of our families and staff have access to this technology and we value a consistent approach. A live lesson cannot replicate the dialogue and interaction that takes place in a normal lesson and we are happy with the system we have put in place. This decision is in line with all of the advice that has come into school from the Unions. Obviously any suggestions we will take on-board as this virtual approach is alien to us as well and we are all learning.

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We know many of you are concerned about when we will return and how we will facilitate this. Even though the Government has said we might open the academy to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children we await for more details as to how this will happen. Rest assured our Senior Leadership Team are working hard in the background to plan for this and we will support all of our children when they do return. As I have more specific details I will share these with you all.

Please ensure you maintain weekly contact with the school. We are calling every family every week. If you miss our call please email with a message, some work or a photo as it is important we know the children are keeping well and happy.

There is lots happening in the background that comes with the daily running of the school. Staff are writing end of year reports and adapting these to reflect the closure, we are recruiting for September and supporting remote working for all of our groups of staff. Mrs Flyud our Business Manager is working hard on the budget model for next year and the office staff are organising the transition of new children into Reception in September plus many more tasks. Change is inevitable and we respond to this in school.

We know this is a challenge for all of you and want to thank you for your efforts. School closure has been imposed upon all of us and we have to adapt in the best way we can. We would love for our children to be in school, we miss them and we know that the interaction with their friends and teachers cannot be replicated at home. All of the decisions we make are under the guidance of our professional bodies, through consultation with the school leaders and with the best interests of all of our families and staff at the heart. Please try to remember that we are trying to do our very best. There are over 375 families in our school and you all have different expectations. We are all trying our best. If there is something you need please just email.

Look after each other, keep smiling, stay safe and remember we will continue to do our very best to support each and every one of you through this process.

Warmest wishes,

Glenn and the Ryelands Team



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Reading Tip: Read At Home

Reading regularly at home provides children with the practice they need to become great readers. Remember, “The more children read, the better they read,” and the same holds true for the opposite effect, “the less children read, the poorer they’ll read.” Beyond practice time, reading at home reinforces a positive attitude around reading—children start to enjoy reading! The best way to incorporate reading in your house is to put aside 20 minutes, at the same time every day, for family reading time. Make it part of a daily routine. Another fun idea is to have children read to their pets, siblings, or stuffed animals, like a game.

Help And Support

We know that you will want to help your children learn whilst they are not at school. We also know that home learning is new for a lot of us and it may just take a bit of time to get used to. We don't want your child getting upset or becoming anxious. So if you would like any help please contact us on office@oasisryelands.co.uk all messages are passed on to the correct person.

All class teachers will be telephoning the children this week. As parents and carers if you have any worries please have that conversation as well. As always we will try our best.

Free School Meal Voucher System

Vouchers are now being issued to families of children entitled to Free School Meals (sadly not for the Universal Free School Meals that all KS1 children are entitled to). These will be emailed to you directly. Please keep an eye on your Inbox and your Junk folder. The code in the email will allow you to access a voucher that can be redeemed at the supermarkets listed. Ms McCrea is contacting families that have not redeemed them as they have a cut-off date. Any problems, please let Ms McCrea know by emailing office@oasisryelands.org

Support With Bereavement

Very sadly our school community will be and has been affected by the death of those they love as a result of this hideous virus. Please allow us to support you during this most difficult time. If you require support with bereavement, **please TEXT Miss Eaves on 07519 344 877** with a very brief outline of what has happened and your name. If the number you text from is not the best number to contact you back on please provide contact details too. This will ensure that this support is provided as swiftly as possible.