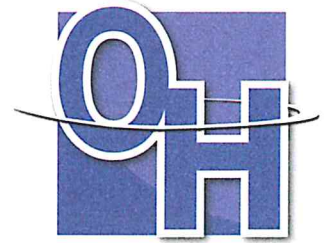


OCKER HILL ACADEMY

Gospel Oak Road, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 0DS • Tel: 0121 556 0445 • Fax: 0121 556 7371
www.ockerhillacademy.co.uk

Ocker Hill Academy



Aim High • Aim Higher

My Ref:

Your Ref:

24/08/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your families are keeping well and enjoying the summer break. We are very excited to welcome all of the children back on September 3rd. It has been an incredibly challenging time for everyone and I know that I speak for all the staff when I say that we are looking forward to resuming whole class learning and seeing the children again. We also are really looking forward to welcoming our new Year 3 pupils to the academy.

Naturally, there will be some changes to 'normal' academy life due to Covid-19. Our adaptations are as follows:

- The children will be taught, and spend their time at the academy, within year group 'bubbles'. This means that your child will only share indoor space with other children and adults in their classroom. Lunch time and break time routines will be altered to ensure that your child will only play on a playground with children from their year group and will only eat lunch with children from their own class.
- Teaching staff will be ensuring that all tables are facing the front of the classroom to avoid children sitting face to face.
- Additional cleaning will take place, especially in communal areas.
- Children may bring their own resources, including all usual items found in a pencil case, PE kits, lunch boxes and coats. We will be asking children to keep sharing of all resources to an absolute minimum. Staff have also organised desks so that each table has its own set of resources.
- The academy will ensure constant availability of hand sanitiser/handwashing facilities.
- Children will constantly encouraged to regularly wash their hands.
- From 8.30am – 8.45am, we will be encouraging children to enter school directly rather than meeting in the playground. We will be asking that classes **SB, MG, IW** and **EP** enter through the main academy reception entrance and classes **GM, PW, SC** and **JB** through the main entrance via the playground.
- We will also be slightly staggering the end of the academy day to avoid large congregations of people on site. As a result, we will be dismissing **Year 6** children at 3.15pm, **Year 5** children at 3.20pm, **Year 4** children at 3.25pm and **Year 3** children at 3.30pm. We do understand that these new times may cause clashes with collecting children from other schools and potential issues with collecting siblings in different year groups at different times. We would like to reassure you that if our temporary arrangements cause anyone a problem, we are happy for parents to collect siblings at the same time (either the later or earlier time if in different year groups) and are happy to keep children at the academy until 3.30pm if there are any clashes with collection times for other schools. Our intention is to stagger the amount of people on our academy grounds and to support families wherever we can.

It is also important to share how we have adapted our curriculum for September in light of lockdown. Our approach will be as follows:

- Sessions on mental wellbeing have been planned to ensure the children are confident to come back to school without the fear or anxiety that I am sure some will feel. These will cover their feelings on how 'things' have changed but also any worries they have regarding missed education. All staff have age appropriate resources to tackle any concerns they have and our school mentor is on standby for anyone who needs further support.
- For the first half term, literacy and numeracy will be planned around the knowledge of basic skills and objectives from the summer term of their previous year to ensure that there are no gaps.
- During the first half term, we will also use analysis of tests to identify areas of weakness that individual children may have. Therefore, their teachers can plan specifically what they require to



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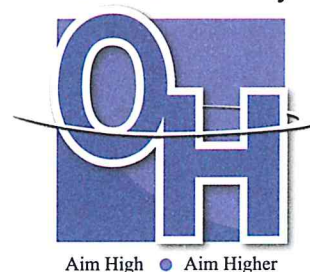
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help the children move forward. When it is deemed suitable, teachers will begin to build in their new year's objectives to help them progress further. This will be done on an individual basis as we are aware that children all learn at different speeds.

- Foundation subjects and humanities will continue as normal covering the topics that were originally planned for that year. As these are all knowledge based subjects, each will be new to the children. Where gaps in knowledge impact on new learning, such as in science, this knowledge will be covered first.

In summary, we will be doing everything in our powers to provide an educational experience that is as 'normal' as possible for the children at this time. We know that every child is different and want to reassure you that we will do our utmost to make up for lost time. We look forward to welcoming you back to the academy again and are here to help in any way that we can.

Kind Regards,

Mr A. Hollyhead



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