

Dear Families,

As we reach the end of this academic year I am pleased to be writing to you of our plans for a full re-opening of school in September 2020.

We are looking forward to welcoming **ALL** our children back to school, as the government have made it clear that attending school is compulsory again from September. We must, however, make sure that this is done in such a way as to keep everyone safe and well, with appropriate measures in place, in line with government guidance, to prevent transmission of coronavirus.

The measures put in place to maintain social distancing and good hygiene will help reduce the risk of transmission and it is **essential** that everyone follows these.

We expect these measures to be in place for a number of weeks. We will, however, keep everything under review to ensure we are following Government guidance and we will keep you updated, as and when necessary.

School is a very clean environment. We have increased daily cleaning times and we are now allowed to use bleach and detergents. The scientific evidence shows that children are very low risk, especially those under the age of 5. Therefore, our measures reflect this advice. Good hygiene is the key to defeating the virus.

It is now clear that children will not be expected to socially distance within their own class “bubble” but our measures will ensure bubbles are not crossed. Adults are required to socially distance from children and from other adults, apart from in Nursery and Reception, where the risk is lower. In most classes, the tables will be positioned to ensure all children are facing in the same direction.

In the short term, in each of our class bubbles, there will be at least two members of staff, who will remain in that class bubble. Teachers like Ms Donnelly, who usually works across several classes, will remain in one bubble.

The table below shows which staff members will be in which bubbles

### **EYFS (Nursery and Reception)**

Mrs Milligan, Miss McAnespie, Miss Moor, Mrs Mackell and Miss Farrier

<b>Year 1</b>	Miss Wood and Miss Quinn
<b>Year 2</b>	Miss Justice and Mr Ramsay
<b>Year 3</b>	Miss Hodgson and Ms Donnelly
<b>Year 4</b>	Miss Limer and new appointment
<b>Year 5</b>	Mr Quigley and Miss Khanom
<b>Year 6</b>	Miss Elliott and Mrs Clamp

Children and staff will not be wearing face coverings in school. Children are not to bring book bags or rucksacks into school. They should only bring their coats, if required, packed lunches, water bottles and inhalers. We will update you about P.E. kits in September, but contact sports are not allowed at present. At the moment, we have no plans to take children offsite for any visits, including swimming. Current advice is that singing should not take place in school.

Children are asked to wear clean uniform each day. The virus will be killed in your washing machine. This is for the safety of everyone.

## Staggered start and finish times to the school day

Children in different year groups will have different times to start and end the day. Years 1 -6 return on September 8<sup>th</sup>. Only one parent or carer should drop off and collect at the times and gates below. If you have children in more than one class, please bring them together at the earliest time and place, and collect at the latest time and place i.e. If you have a child in Year 1 and Year 6, bring them both at 8.40 to the main gate and collect at 3.15 from the Villa Vic gate. The child who is arriving earlier will go straight to their own class bubble. All children will be collected by school staff and **no** parents will be allowed on the school premises, without an appointment.

	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Gate</u>
Yr 6	8.40 am	2.55 pm	Main
Yr 3	8.40 am	2.55 pm	Villa Vic
Yr 5	8.50 am	3.05 pm	Main
Yr 2	8.50 am	3.05 pm	Villa Vic
Yr 4	9.00 am	3.15 pm	Main
Yr 1	9.00 am	3.15 pm	Villa Vic

## Nursery and Reception Class start on September 14<sup>th</sup>

Nursery	9.10 am	2.45 pm	Nursery door
Reception	9.10 am	2.45 pm	Villa Vic

It is essential that families keep to these times in order to reduce congestion. Because of limitations in parking, please do not arrive early or late. We aim to bring the children in quickly and we need to make sure parents are not congregating. Staff will not be able to engage in conversation. All messages should be via the school office, by telephone or email, initially.

We will be operating pre-school provision for working families, but we no longer have access to the free funding we had last year, so we will have to charge. We will open from 8 a.m. and the charge will be £2 per day. Initially, this will be care only, so we will not be providing food. Children must not bring food into school with them, apart from packed lunches. Please ensure they have breakfast at home. This will need to be booked in advance so we know exactly how many people to expect on our site. If you wish to make use of this facility, please ring the school office (0191 2325496) or email [ourladyadmin@olsa.org.uk](mailto:ourladyadmin@olsa.org.uk) with details of your requirements.

There will be no after school provision or extra-curricular activities until further notice.

## Lunches

We have been working with City Cuisine about lunch provision in the first few weeks. We are trying to avoid using the hall in order to reduce hard surfaces the children will use. They have agreed to provide us with a range of hot and cold food each week, which will be delivered to the class bubbles. The menu is attached. We hope these measures will be temporary but will continue to follow the government guidance.

## Hall

We will be minimising the use of the hall in the first few weeks. Whole school Collective Worship and Assemblies will be led using Teams or Zoom, if the technology allows.

## Curriculum

The work we do in class will be a little different as we are planning a 'recovery curriculum' to catch up on what has not been done in the previous year, whilst still moving forward in our new year.

We will continue to teach reading in school, but we will not be sending physical reading books home. Instead, we will be asking you to access e-books and Reading Eggs. We have been given a trial for Reading Eggs starting this week, lasting until the end of September, and we will consult with you as to how this trial has worked, with a view to taking on a permanent subscription. To set this up we need to share the following information with Reading Eggs - name of child, Year group and name of teacher. When we give you your login details, I urge you to use it regularly as we try to plug any gaps in children's learning.

It is likely that, initially, all homework will be electronic.

When your child returns to school in September, please return any home reading/library books that they have had over the last few months.

We would like to remind parents of the lockdown work school has provided, if you are looking for some relevant educational activities over the summer holidays. They can be accessed on the school website, [olsa.org.uk](http://olsa.org.uk), by following the school Closure: Home Learning Activities link at the top of the page. All children have access to TT Rockstars and Oxford Owl Reading to support them with Maths and Reading and further information will follow about Reading Eggs.

## Home/School Communication

As parents will not be able to speak with staff on the yard at the beginning or end of the day, we are working on providing all parents with electronic communication about class expectations early in the autumn term. This will be followed with further communication about your child's progress later on in the term.

Parents are asked not to come into the school building but to contact the school office by email or telephone. If the query cannot be dealt with using email/telephone then an appointment must be made.

It is vital that families notify school **immediately** if a child or member of their household displays any symptoms of coronavirus (high temperature, cough or loss of sense of smell/taste).

If a child displays symptoms at school then parents will be notified. Parents will be asked to request a test <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested> or <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/> or order by telephone via NHS 119. The child must self-isolate for 7 days. Other household members will need to isolate for 14 days from the day the symptoms first presented. If a negative test result is confirmed then the child may return to school.

If your child is not able to attend school, the school office **must** be informed as to the reason why. School must be contacted before 9.10 am where possible. We have an answering service to enable messages to be left (0191 2325496).

Please ensure that the school office is notified of any changes of contact details.  
(email: [ourladyadmin@olsa.org.uk](mailto:ourladyadmin@olsa.org.uk) )

Please ensure you check parent hub regularly over the summer holidays. Our work does not stop on July 17<sup>th</sup> and we hope to give you regular updates if the guidance changes.

Best wishes for a lovely summer holiday.

M. O'Brien