

## **Covid-19 – Notification of infection and tips for home learning**

### **Update on Covid-19 Infection:**

A member of staff in our Primary Phase has tested positive for Covid-19. Close contacts have been traced and informed of the requirement to isolate. This means our Reception bubble will be closed until 13<sup>th</sup> January with students who are isolating able to return on Thursday January 14<sup>th</sup>.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the need for increased vigilance as infection rates increase locally. Please keep yourself and your family safe by following the lockdown rules; only leave your house if you absolutely have to for work or for food supplies. If you are out of your house, ensure you maintain a two-metre social distance from others, wear your mask and wash your hands frequently, and specifically when you have been anywhere other than your own home. If anyone in your family has symptoms, please ensure you book a test. Please do not send any child with symptoms of Covid-19 to school.

### **Home learning – tips and advice:**

- The first and most important outcome of this situation is that we all survive (physically and mentally) this pandemic!
- There is more to child development than academic attainment and improving knowledge. Being with your child and supporting as best you can is “good enough”. Do not put added pressure on yourself – there is enough to worry about! Do what you can, access all the support available and don’t compare yourself with others.
- Staff are available, through teams, for children to ask questions or just check-in at their usual timetabled lesson time. This is why we are uploading lessons rather than live teaching. So that children can access the learning at their pace and then speak to their teachers for clarity/support. It allows you to manage your family around your individual needs and access to technology.
- There are many resources in addition to those provided by The Academy. Oak National Academy and BBC broadcasts to name just two. Others are signposted by individual subjects teachers.
- Your children will be okay and if you explain something incorrectly, it will not affect them forever. We need the children back with us, with well parents, when we get out of this situation. When we’re all back together again physically, we will work with your children and help them catch up again. Educationally, we will together make it okay in the end.



- Reading is a quick and relaxing activity you can do together so try and do this each day.
- Doing something creative/arts and crafts can really help boost learning and will also help detract from any anxieties you and your children may have.

I, like you, am shocked by the daily reported death rates over the last few days. We must all play our part in ensuring our amazing NHS are able to do the job of treating those who are becoming ill with the virus, and able to function to treat other illnesses which have not gone away.

If recent events are proving difficult to manage. Please know that we are all feeling this. There are lots of avenues of support, some of which we have summarised in the Covid-19 section of our website. You can also flag any issues when a member of The Academy staff contacts you by telephone to check in with your child/ren.

Finally, there has been much confusion and changes in guidance (often overnight) in relation to access to learning on-site. There is no requirement to send your child to school. The government guidance states "parents and carers of critical workers should keep their children at home if they can". As local infection rates increase and the national picture worsens, it is essential that you do not use the on-site learning unless you have no other choice. We are already at full capacity in our Primary Phase. Please support us in ensuring we are able to deliver remote learning in addition to providing learning for those on site by only accessing on-site provision if you absolutely have to.

Please stay safe and continue to monitor communications from The Academy.

Yours Faithfully



Tehmina Hashmi  
Executive Principal

