



'Believe you can'

25th September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Asalaamalaykum!

I pray this letter reaches you safe and well.

I hope, by now, you feel your child(ren) have settled in well. Whilst the media had played a big part in portraying a problematic return for children to school following the extended lockdown, the children have actually returned happily and are very settled masha'Allah! A big 'thank you' to all parents, staff and pupils for your joint efforts in enabling this.

Obviously, the start of the term has not been without challenges or disruption - especially the issue of coronavirus (COVID-19) and the closing of class bubbles. Closing a class bubble is always done following discussions with the Public Health team, but please do help us to reduce the risk of infection by adhering to government guidance at all times - both at collection and drop off times and through your daily interactions with others outside of these times.

COVID-19 symptoms:

If you, your child or somebody in your household has COVID-19 symptoms you must self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. If you, your child or somebody in your household have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 symptoms you must self-isolate for 14 days from the last contact. Under these circumstances, **please do not send your child to school**. The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature);
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual);
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

For more detailed guidance regarding COVID-19 please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Home-learning during self-isolation:

In the unfortunate event a child or class bubble is advised to self-isolate, we will immediately switch to our home learning arrangements – which can be found on our school website at the following link:

<http://www.theolivetreeprimary.com/home-learning.html>

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Should you have any questions about this or any other aspects of your child's learning, please contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo.

COVID-19 Recovery Plan:

In order to accelerate children's learning following their return to school, we have implemented a robust learning recovery plan which includes:

- Baseline assessments in English and Maths for all children;
- Targeted teaching and 'catch-up' interventions for pupils where needed.

We will be issuing a letter next week to invite children to attend designated catch-up lessons after school (Monday to Thursday) and on Friday afternoons. As stated, these lessons will be via invite only for those pupils who we feel will benefit from catch-up lessons at this time. The catch-up groups will be reviewed later in the term and if we feel your child would benefit from attending, we will contact you.

Meet and Greet:

A warm welcome to the parents of our children in EYFS (Reception) – especially those families who have joined the school for the first time! Ordinarily, we complete 'Meet and Greet' sessions with parents at the start of the autumn term. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions we have been unable to do these sessions face-to-face. Instead, your child's class teacher has created a short presentation of key information which is accessible via both your child's Class Dojo page and / or your child's class page on the school website using the following link:

<http://www.theolivetreeprimary.com/class-pages.html>

Please do take a few minutes to review the information and contact your child's class teacher via Class Dojo if you have any questions.

And finally...

Supporting the school and its staff at all times:

Thank you to the many of you who have responded to the school's arrangements for COVID-19 with such support and positivity. Whilst we appreciate the anxiety the current situation with COVID-19 may cause, please do continue to support the school and its staff to ensure the safest possible outcome for all concerned. This includes engaging with our school staff positively at all times so that they can provide the best possible support under the given circumstances.

I hope this information is useful to you and despite the challenge ahead, look forward to working in partnership with you for the year ahead to ensure the best learning outcomes for your child(ren) – inshaAllah!

Yours sincerely,



Mr. H. Asghar
Principal

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