



Dear Parent,

16th March 2021

P4-7 return to school on 22nd March

From Monday 22nd March ALL children can return to school. Short notice, but **WONDERFUL NEWS!!**

We cannot wait to see everyone next Monday. Congratulations to our parents who have supported their children and Academy Nursery and Primary School through the whole process. I can only imagine the pressure this placed on family life. Thank you for working diligently alongside our dedicated teaching staff to ensure the children's education continued from a distance.

From Monday 22nd March start and finish times will be same as they were before Christmas. (See below for reminders) Arrival and dismissal locations will also be the same as before. Classes will continue to practise good hygiene and all Covid-safe protocols will be followed to the same degree as before Christmas. Classes will continue to operate in bubbles and the sharing of resources will be limited. Please remember to send in your child's pencil case, folders etc.

P.E. kits to be worn on PE days as before. Teachers will send a reminder to individual classes.

Reminder of staggered start and dismissal times:

Class	Start time	Dismissal time	Class	Start time	Dismissal time
Nursery am	0900	1130	P4L	0910	1510
Nursery pm	1230	1500	P4M	0850	1450
P1L/M	0850	1350	P5K/R	0900	1500
P1C/M	0910	1410	P5R/M	0910	1510
P2D/E	0850	1350	P6M	0850	1450
P2M/J	0910	1410	P6K	0910	1510
P3R/B	0855	1355 on a Mon, Wed, Fri and 1455 on a Tues and Thurs	P7E	0850	1450
P3C	0910	1410 on a Mon, Wed, Fri and 1510 on a Tues and Thurs	P7D	0900	1500

Meals

A menu for hot meals can be found on our website and you can start to book meals from 17th March onwards for the week beginning 22nd March.

School Transport

The school bus will also operate as normal from Monday 22nd January. If your child normally gets the bus, please contact our bus driver, Peter, directly on 07517965236 if you are wanting to avail of transport.

School Uniform

In November I wrote to parents detailing that we would reinstate shirts and ties in January. With lockdown this did not happen. From 22nd March pupils can wear a shirt and tie if you have purchased these. If you haven't, polo shirts are fine.

From 4th May our Summer uniform is acceptable. This is our usual practice annually. Girls can wear their gingham dresses (or polo shirts and jumpers) and boys can wear polo shirts and jumpers from 4th May onwards. Boys can also wear grey shorts if they wish. Apologies for the confusion surrounding uniform.

Paddington Lodge After School Care

On speaking to Paddington Lodge they are happy to facilitate after school care for those families who need it. This will operate from 22nd March. Paddington Lodge have assured me that all safety measures will be followed accordingly while on site. If you need to avail of after school care, please book in by contacting Paddington Lodge on 02897519295.

Learning and Well-being P4-7 pupils returning to school

The emphasis on 22nd March will be on reassuring children and their parents. There will be a focus on supporting children to reconnect socially, build positive relationships and engage enthusiastically with learning as they return to the school environment. In particular, for our youngest children, teachers know the importance of providing opportunities to be actively involved in practical, challenging play-based learning in a stimulating environment. The vision is for a balanced day where children are able to play and feel ready to learn and re-connect.

Whilst it is important to fully embrace the task that faces us in terms of ascertaining where the children are with their learning, evidence indicates that missed knowledge content in itself is not likely to be a long-term problem for pupils, as long as they are given supportive tools to facilitate learning. **Language is important and frequent references to “missed work” or “lost time” or “catch up” will potentially increase pupil anxiety.** The aim is to support pupils to be motivated to learn through a curriculum that gives equal emphasis to knowledge, understanding and skills rather than catching up missed knowledge content.

When the children return to Academy Primary and Nursery School they will not be immediately greeted with tests, but with love and compassion!

Restart Survey

As we emerge from a second period of lockdown, we thought we would survey parents to ascertain how your child has coped both academically and emotionally over the last 3 months. The survey will be forwarded to you over the next few days. Your responses will be treated confidentially and the only people who will read them are myself and your child's teacher/s. We ask you fill in a separate survey for each of your children. If you would like to address anything particularly sensitive, feel free to request a phone call instead of writing it on the survey. Your responses will help us plan appropriately for your child returning to full time face-to-face teaching. The survey will remain open until Friday 26th March at 1200.

Easter Holidays

On Friday 26th March school closes after lunchtime for the Easter Holidays. School will recommence on Monday 12th April. Staggered dismissal times for **Friday 26th March** are as follows:

Dismissal times:

P1CM –1245	P6K - 1315
P1LM - 1315	P7E -1245
P2DE –1245	P7D – 1300
P2MJ - 1300	P6M - 1245
P3C - 1315	P5RM -1315
P3RB - 1300	P4L - 1300
P4M -1245	P5KR – 1300

Please note that Nursery will be closed on 26th March. The last day of Nursery will be 25th March.

Many thanks for your continued patience, encouragement and support,

R. W. Fegan
Principal