

Welcome to 2021-22



OAKFIELD ACADEMY

BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE

3rd September 2021

Dear Parent,

I hope you've all had a lovely Summer break and are looking forward to the start of a new academic year. In July, I promised I would write again before the start of term in September with reminders and any updates that might be needed so I hope this letter is useful! You will be aware that there have been significant changes in the way that schools are required to manage and respond to positive cases which I will try to summarise below. Please be assured that we have revisited our Risk Assessments; developed an Outbreak Management Plan and worked alongside local Public Health teams to try to ensure a welcoming and positive experience for pupils and staff whilst maintaining an informed, pragmatic and reasonably cautious approach. We continue to adopt strong hygiene and cleaning procedures and use of ventilation.

First Days

On Wednesday 8th September, all pupils return to school. The gates open at 8:25am so please don't send them earlier. Gates close at 8:40am when all pupils should be in their registration rooms. For those first 3 days, Year 5 will use the red gates, Years 6, 7 and 8 the silver gate. From Monday 13th September we will all be using the red gates. School finishes at 3pm for all pupils, leaving via their entrance gate. Pupils that return home on school transport will go to the Hall to be registered until their bus departs.

Breakfast Club

If you have registered your child for a place at Breakfast Club it will begin at 8am on Wednesday 8th September.

After School Clubs

Further information will be sent regarding the start dates and timings for our After School Clubs and how to register your child for a place.

Mobile Phones/Smart watches

We do not recommend that valuable items are brought to the academy. If pupils need to bring a mobile (or smart device) with them ... KS2 pupils (Years 5 & 6) MUST hand them as soon as they arrive by going to the Hall... KS3 pupils MAY hand them in for safe keeping, alternatively they must be switched off and kept in their bags and should not be used during the school day.

Uniform

Ordered uniform can be collected from reception on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th between 10am and 2pm. Pupils should arrive in correct academy uniform from Wednesday. Pupils will not be expected to have PE kit on Wednesday as they won't know their timetables! However, they should bring their school bag with pencil case and equipment please.

Break/Lunch

Each key stage has a separate break time. If pupils would like to purchase a snack, they should go to the Hall to eat. Each year group has a separate lunch sitting and all pupils eat in the Hall whether purchasing or having packed lunch. Year 5 pupils will need to have their biometric fingerprint taken on Wednesday as we are a cashless school. Paying for food happens through the ParentPay system.

Asymptomatic Screening Tests

We will be required to run 'on site' assisted screening tests again for pupils in Year 7 and Year 8. Pupils will be supervised through the process by trained academy staff. Test results are logged by us using the details you provide on the consent form and the result will be sent directly to you from the NHS. We hope to complete screening tests on Wednesday 8th and Monday 13th September as part of the pupils' school day.



Oakfield Academy
Frome

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@OakfieldAcorns

- **Year 7:** Consent can be given on Parentpay. Please log in and go to '**Pay for other items**' then select the '**Consent form for asymptomatic testing**' payment item and click on **view**. In the 'Additional information' you will need to ensure that you tick the box next to 'I understand that the information below will be shared with any parent/carer linked to (your child's name) Parentpay account'. You will then need to complete the '**Emergency contact details**' and '**other details**' sections. Please tick the button to consent and click on 'confirm attendance'. Please ensure you answer all of the questions.
- **Year 8:** We will assume continued consent as given previously in Year 7 so please email us if you would like to be added or removed from the consent list.

Home Testing (LFD Tests):

This programme continues for Year 7 and 8 pupils and staff. Pupils will be provided home test kits with clear instructions for use and how to report the results. All staff at the Academy have also been provided with home test kits to allow them to test twice a week at home. Testing is voluntary but we would encourage as many people as possible to take part to help reduce the prevalence of the virus. Kits will be distributed from Monday 13th September.

- **When:** These tests are for the pupils ONLY and should be taken twice a week, 3 to 5 days apart. Staff have been using Mondays and Thursdays as a 'rough' guide to remind them when to do them, but you can of course plan times that work best for your family.
- **Reporting ALL Results:** When home testing it is your responsibility to report every result whether it is positive, negative or void to the NHS Test and Trace. Register the result with the NHS here: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Symptomatic or Positive LFT

If a pupil becomes symptomatic OR tests positive on a LFD test, they should isolate immediately and book a PCR test. The guidance concerning close contacts has changed:

- Children up to the age of 18 years and 6 months do not have to self-isolate if they are in contact with someone who has a positive case. Instead, they can attend school as normal but must take a PCR test. If the PCR test is positive then the child will be required to isolate.
- Adults who are double vaccinated also do not have to isolate if they are in close contact of a positive case and should book a PCR test.
- Schools no longer have any responsibility for contact track and trace, but we will monitor any potential 'outbreaks' and respond appropriately.

Face Coverings

Staff and pupils continue to be supported if they wish to wear face coverings, however, there is no requirement to do so. Social distancing is also no longer required, but we will attempt to respect each others space where reasonable to do so.

Vaccinations for 12 – 15 Year olds

I believe that we will hear further regarding the JCVI position by Monday and we will keep you informed as to what this programme will look like for our Oakfield community. Please be assured that schools are only able to follow the instructions of the immunisations team at Somerset. We will support the practical process for all those who wish to take part. Further information and details regarding consent will be provided by the NHS team.

I am so looking forward to starting the new year and getting pupils back to their normal learning environments and opportunities. With your support, I am confident that we will meet and overcome any challenges that arise.

Yours sincerely,



Miss Emma Wilkes
Head Teacher