



OIA news

Issue 11
26.02.2021

RETURN TO SCHOOL MONDAY 8TH MARCH

Dear Families,

Boris Johnson's announcement on Monday was music to our ears. We are well-prepared and from the 8th March, we are delighted to be opening our doors to all. All children will return to their normal classes much to the relief and excitement of the staff here at OIA. We have missed the children so much. Everything you need to know is in the FAQs at the end of today's OIA news.

Our school day

We will be reintroducing staggered starts and ends to the day in order to minimise numbers entering school at peak times. Our one-way systems will remain in place, and all adults are expected to wear face masks when on site (unless they are exempt). Dolphin and Panda parents and carers are able to exit back through the main gates, but all other year groups must exit through the back gate onto Johnson's Field.

Drop off and collection times have changed slightly and are now based around houses. There can be some flexibility for those needing to drop and collect siblings from the middle school.

House	School drop-off window	School collection window
Hopkins-Smith	8.40 -8.50	2.50 – 3.00
Newton	8.40 -8.50	2.50 – 3.00
Cowper	8.45 – 8.55	2.55 – 3.05
Mann	8.45 – 8.55	2.55 – 3.05

From Monday 8 March, attendance at school is statutory, and all children will be expected to attend. Our Attendance Policy will resume. Our bubbles will remain the same as before, with children remaining in a year group bubble.

We will continue to keep spaces well-ventilated, so we would encourage the children to wear sweatshirts/cardigans while the weather is still a little chilly. Extra layers underneath might be needed too.

Microsoft Teams will continue to be used to support any children at home who are self-isolating, but this will be through activities set by the teacher, rather than access to live lessons. If we have to close a bubble, live lessons will be put in place for the isolating children via Teams.

Breakfast Club, Kidz Club and after-school activities

Kidz Club and breakfast club will be fully open again from Monday 8 March, and bookings can be made via Parent Mail. We are in the process of reviewing our other after school club activities and will share details of these with you at a later stage.

Next Week

Lessons will continue to take place next week, via Microsoft Teams, as normal, with the exception of Wednesday 4th March, when there will only be 2 live lessons in the morning. In the afternoon, the class teachers will set some small group check ins to give the children a chance to hear from their teacher about what to expect on the 8th. The aim here is to reassure the children and to let them know how excited we are to have them back. This session will also give you the opportunity to ask any questions. The middle school are speaking to children on an individual basis, but we feel for the age of our children, a little group chat will suit them better. Please if you have any worries or would like to talk to your class teacher or a member of the school team, please do call us.

All lessons next week, as they currently do, will have follow on learning activities. However, any feedback for these activities will be completed when the children return. Teacher's marking time will be spent preparing for the wider opening.

Finally...

During this lockdown period, we have been constantly overwhelmed by how brilliantly everyone has adapted to remote learning – children, parents and staff alike! The children in school have also been superstars, having taken everything in their stride with smiles all round. It truly has been a collective effort, for which we thank each and every one of you!

We simply cannot wait to welcome you all back into school on Monday 8 March, where we belong, and we are sure that you are feeling ready for your children to return after these long weeks at home! Please be assured that our teaching team will do everything in their power to support the children as they settle back in, will provide them with a sense of normality, and will ensure that they continue to progress in their learning.

Thank you again for the role you have played in helping your children through this challenging period – you have all been amazing and we have been blown away by your constant support.

With my heartfelt thanks,



Sarah Armitage

Returning to School March 2021
Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

When is school reopening?	In line with government guidance we will be open for all pupils from Monday 8 th March 2021.		
What will happen in the run up to school opening (week beginning 1 st March)	Lessons will continue to take place next week, via Microsoft Teams, as normal, with the exception of Wednesday 4 th March, when there will be just 2 live lessons in the morning. In the afternoon the class teachers will set some small group check ins to give the children a chance to hear from their teacher what to expect on the 8 th and to be reassured. Parents can also ask any questions at this point. All lessons next week will have follow on learning activities, however, any feedback for these activities will be completed when the children return.		
Will the children be in bubbles?	The children will be in the same group bubbles as they were before Christmas.		
Will there be whole school assemblies?	No, until further notice we will not have whole in-person Celebration Assembly will return online and class assemblies will replace whole school ones		
How will the classes be organised?	In line with government guidance, full classes will be returning. We will endeavour to minimise furniture in rooms and to have tables organised in such a way as to ensure as much social distancing as possible (year 2 only). FS and Year 1 will have reduced contact and set places on the carpet and additional cleaning will be in place of shared resources. Where at all possible, all activities will be kept in classrooms and we will limit the number of adults actively working in each year group. In addition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will be requested to avoid close face to face contact and minimise time spent within one metre of anyone • Staff will be undergoing lateral flow tests twice weekly as advised by the DFE. 		
What should children bring to school?	Children can bring their bags to school but should limit what is in there to what they absolutely need for example a lunchbox, water bottle, reading book and diary.		
What should children wear?	Children should wear normal school uniform other than on the days when they come 'PE Ready' when they will wear their school PE kits. These 'PE Ready' days will be the same days as the Autumn term.		
What time will school start and finish and where will they need to go?	House	School drop-off window	School collection window
	Hopkins-Smith	8.40 -8.50	2.50 – 3.00
	Newton	8.40 -8.50	2.50 – 3.00
	Cowper	8.45 – 8.55	2.55 – 3.05
	Mann	8.45 – 8.55	2.55 – 3.05
Are parents allowed on site?	One adult can come onto the school site for drop off and collection. As before, we ask that ALL parents (unless for a medical reason) wear facemasks when coming on to the school site.		
How will playtimes and lunchtimes be managed?	Year groups will have their own designated playground spaces Year 2 will be eating in their classrooms and Foundation and Year 1 in the hall		
Will wrap around care be offered?	Wrap around care will be provided. Book as usual via parentmail		

What will the children be learning about in school?	The priority in the first few days will give all the opportunity to get the pupils back in to the school experience. We expect to run a full curriculum with all subjects delivered whilst remaining Covid secure, so lessons such as PE (when appropriate) will be altered to ensure safety. We will also do everything we can to ensure we cover any gaps we have identified as soon as possible but in a carefully planned and engaging way to ensure that the children feel that their learning is purposeful but achievable for all.
Are there any special rules for handling resources?	Yes. Classroom based resources, such as books, will be used and shared within the bubble and cleaned regularly. Resources that are shared between classes or bubbles, will be cleaned frequently and meticulously and always between bubbles, or rotated to allow them to be unused for the recommended time frame. Prior to and after using any specialist equipment pupils and staff will be required to sanitise their hands. Teachers can still provide feedback through exercise books. This is no more a risk than touching items in the supermarket. It is up to colleagues if they wish to wear gloves but normal hand and face hygiene must be followed. Colleagues may wish to quarantine the books for a period before taking them home and if this is desired then it should be built into normal feedback routines. This is not compulsory.
Do I have to send my child to school?	The government expectation is that all children will be required to attend school - it is a legal requirement. As a school we are doing everything we can to make the school safe and secure so that we can follow government guidance whilst also keeping all our children and staff as safe as possible which is always our priority. Please talk to us if you have any questions or concerns and we will work with you to reach a solution which enables your child to be in school if at all possible. Our usual attendance policy (on our website) now applies
What homework will the children get?	Homework will now be set via Microsoft teams There is an expectation that children read every day. We are aware children are unable to change their reading books as often as we would like due to the need to quarantine them, so we urge you to use Oxford Owl for free access to suitable reading books in addition until our usual free book swapping can resume
What will happen if we have to close a bubble?	
If your child displays symptoms during the school day	The child and any siblings will need to be collected to go home immediately. We will be in touch with the parents/carers of that child to explain exactly what you should do, how to inform us of test results and what the next steps will be.
If your child has a positive test result,	The child will need to isolate for 10 days and the rest of the family for the required amount of time under current national guidance
If not your child but someone in your child's group bubble tests positive,	We will immediately put additional steps in place to further seal that bubble and inform all parents/carers with children in that bubble immediately via parent mail - we will endeavour to follow these up with a phone call to ensure all the get the message as soon as possible. All children in that bubble will need to be collected straight away and quarantine at home for 10 days (any other member of your family does not have to quarantine unless they are displaying symptoms). If we have to close a bubble, live lessons will be put in place for the isolating children via Teams.