



Olney Middle School

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a *CARING* school

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely week we had last week! It has been an absolute pleasure for my team to meet all our new intake, through visiting the schools and for the pupils coming here. I really hope all the pupils enjoyed last week as much as we did. We cannot wait to welcome all pupils in September!

Please find below some information that will support the pupils joining in September.

Marvellous Me



Here at OMS we use a communication app called MarvellousMe. MarvellousMe is a light-touch app that our teachers will use to share wonderful news with you about your child's/children's learning and skills development and will be our tool for sharing our homework learning conversations, newsletters and all notifications. As the company suggests;

"The MarvellousMe Parent app is free, fun and simple to use. It will help you to:

Have a meaningful conversation with your child about their school day.

Continue your child's learning and practise topics that they've done in class.

Celebrate and reinforce their successes and positive behaviours.

You will be able to enjoy MarvellousMe on your smartphone, tablet or online, and can easily share it with partners, carers and family members. "

We will send you a letter containing all the details of how you can sign up to MarvellousMe, and your special join code. This will be in the first week back - all letters in the first week will be paper copies, whilst we get everyone signed up. You can find out more at www.marvellousme.com. We are really excited about the possibilities and use of the app and we hope you will love it!

ParentPay and School Lunches

Last week, during their transition morning, all pupils got the chance to go and see the kitchen and meet our wonderful kitchen team. It's fair to say all loved the flapjacks (including the staff!). **To further support, and give all pupils a flavour of school lunches here at OMS, and the opportunity to experience hot lunches, we would like to offer ALL year 2 pupils a free hot lunch on Friday 3rd September** - pizza will be on the menu for the day (including a vegetarian pizza), or jacket potatoes with fillings. Pupils can select on the day what they would like, to avoid any worries about pre ordering.

Pupils are welcome to have packed lunch instead should they wish, and we will take note in the morning of the 3rd September.



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Next year, we will continue to use ParentPay for our lunches and trips etc. Hopefully, last week you received a letter with a code to register. Should you require any support, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

This allows new starters to pre-order OMS school lunches by enabling parents to set up an account using their chosen email address, whether or not your child qualifies for Free School meals. For reasons of privacy and security these letters can't be sent by email without your prior consent. All new FSM applications will be received by the school electronically – if you need to apply please use this link - <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

Frequently Asked Questions

In order to fully support, I have attached at the bottom of this letter a FAQ for all year groups, offering as much information as I can to support, however should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Finally,

As mentioned earlier, it was lovely to see everyone last week, and start to get to know all our new intake. I am sure the last few days of their current school will be one of emotion and pride - as a parent I know how it feels! We cannot wait to have the pupils in our school, and see how they flourish and grow throughout the years.

I hope you have a lovely summer break, and we look forward to seeing you all on Friday 3rd September.

My very best wishes,

Glenn Young





Olney Middle School September 2021 Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Pupils

(Latest version 15th July 2021)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your support this term and we already can't wait to see everyone in September. Schools as I have said many times, are designed for children, and we are so excited to see them all.

Over the past few weeks we have had lots of guidance with regards to September and what things will look like following the move to Stage 4 of reopening. Below is conditional of the current arrangements - we do as a school have to have a 'plan' for outbreak management, and if needed we will of course communicate this plan and a short term return to bubbles etc.

Please find below, the latest version of the FAQs regarding how we are organising the school in September. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I look forward to seeing you very soon,

My very best wishes,

Glenn Young

At OMS, we have been working hard to commence our analysis and planning of how we can:

- fulfil the expectations required of us
- ensure that the safety of everyone is paramount in all our decisions and actions
- continue to provide a high quality, well balanced curriculum to best support our pupils in their education.

We wanted to provide an FAQ for all to try and answer as many of your questions as possible. It is up to date and accurate as of July 15th but is subject to change should the advice we receive from the government changes. We will keep you updated should that become the case and continue to provide details via Marvellous Me.

Please be assured that the safety and wellbeing of children and staff and their families is our absolute priority at all times.

When does the school return after the summer break?	We return from the summer break for all pupils on Friday 3 rd September.
What control measures have the DFE asked us to put in place?	We have been advised to ensure: 1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone. 2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes. 3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated. 4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.
Will the children be in bubbles?	No, the children will be reverting to being in their current classes, with activities released from this restriction. The most essential part will be the need for ventilation in the classrooms.



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Will there be whole school assemblies?	Yes, we will return to an important part of school life, and the hall will be well ventilated for all such events.			
How will the classes be organised?	In line with government guidance, full classes will be returning. We will endeavour to keep a minimal amount of furniture in rooms and continue to have tables organised in such a way as to ensure as much social distancing as possible. All areas will continue to be well ventilated.			
What should children bring to school?	Children can bring their bags to school but ideally still limit what is in there to what they absolutely need, for example, a lunchbox, water bottle, pencil case (pencil case should ideally have pencil, pen, colouring pencils, ruler and glue stick. They will have access to a peg to store it on. They should not bring their phone to school as we are unable to store them securely and in line with national guidance such as GDPR without the risk of cross-contamination.			
What should children wear?	<p>Children should wear normal school uniform other than on the days when they come 'PE Ready' when they will wear their school PE kits. For the first day (3rd September) all pupils are to wear school uniform.</p> <p>We will be reminding pupils of the importance of following the uniform policy strictly (we were understanding last term due to the lockdown and school closure and uniform being outgrown but will now reinforce the policy), and we request that all uniform is labelled. Please ensure appropriate footwear is worn.</p> <p>The link to our two uniform suppliers; https://www.maisies-superstore.co.uk/ https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/olneymiddle</p>			
What day will PE lessons be?	3AB Mon Fri	4LG Tue Fri	5SF Mon Fri	6JH Mon Wed
	3SC Tue Thurs	4RH Wed Fri	5NK Mon Fri	6ES Tue Thurs
	3GD Tue Thurs	4KM Tue Thurs	5SB Mon Wed	6KT Mon Wed
		4JD Wed Fri		6TOR Tue Thurs
What time will school start and finish and where will they need to go?	<p>School will start at 8:30am with the doors opening and will close at 8.40am. School will end at 3:10pm.</p> <p>At the end of the day, all pupils will finish at 3.10pm. Entrances and Exits will be Year 3 will enter through their classroom doors (they will be well signposted on the first day) Year 4 will use the door they used last year. Year 5 will enter through door 2 Year 6 will enter through the Year 6 door.</p> <p>STAFF WILL BE OUTSIDE ON THE FIRST FEW DAYS TO GUIDE PUPILS TO THE CORRECT ENTRANCES.</p>			
Are parents allowed on site?	We are proud of being an open, welcoming school but will continue to ask that to minimise people on site, we ask pupils to come onto the school site alone where at all possible. We appreciate that this will not be possible for all children, especially at the lower key stage, and we ask parents to be mindful of social distancing when coming on site.			



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	<p>If you need to speak to a member of staff, we ask that you phone the school office or email the class teacher rather than visit in person in the first instance.</p> <p>The use of facemasks will (in line with guidance) no longer be advised for staff and visitors, and parents are asked to use their own discretion.</p>
How will playtimes and lunchtimes be managed?	Playtimes and lunchtimes will return to the normal timings, i.e. the whole school outside for break, and lunch staggered from 12-1 for year 3 and 4 and 12.30-1.30 for year 5 and 6.
Will wrap around care be offered?	Wrap around care will continue to be provided. Please contact ABS to book
What will the children be learning about in school?	We will be running a full curriculum. Teachers will be busy working on closing any gaps, and ensuring that pupils settle in well after the summer break.
What homework will the children get? What will happen if we have to self-isolate?	This September, we will continue asking pupils to complete their daily tasks such as reading, spelling shed and TT Rockstars. We will also continue to be sharing 'learning conversations' for pupils to have with parents which will be through our communication app 'Marvellous Me' with the further addition of any supplementary resources shared through Google Classroom. Should pupils want more independent learning from home, there will be the opportunity to become a 'master' of a subject. The continued use of Google Classroom, will allow us to quickly resume learning for ALL pupils in the event of school closures similar to how it has been over the past few months - this has to be planned for in line with DFE guidance.
Do I need a Parent Pay and Marvellous Me log in?	In their first week, all correspondence will be through letter sent home via paper copy and Marvellous Me, with links also on the school web site, and Facebook. In September, any new parents, including Year 2 parents will receive a letter with the unique code to log in and set up a Marvellous Me account. For Parent Pay if you do not have an account, you will be sent a letter in the first few days showing you how to register.
What will the school do if there is a suspected case of COVID-19?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one must come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or have tested positive in the last 10 days • When in school, anyone developing COVID-19 symptoms (including symptoms such as continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell) will be sent home and advised to follow the current national stay at home guidance and book a test. • If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, in a room with ventilation and with appropriate adult supervision if required. The adult will maintain a 2 metre distance, where possible, and wear appropriate PPE. • Everyone must wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with soap and running water or use hand sanitiser after any contact with someone who is unwell. • Parents and staff must inform us immediately of any COVID-19 test results. • In line with Step 4 guidance for schools, we will have an outbreak management plan that covers the possibility of bubbles should this be advised by the DFE. • For more information please read the information below from the DfE



Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Changes to contact tracing in education and childcare settings

As you know, the Prime Minister announced on 12 July that Step 4 of the roadmap would go ahead on 19 July.

One of the key changes that will take place from 19 July is that education and childcare settings will no longer be asked to conduct routine contact tracing. As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with either the positive case – or in the case of children – the parents, carers or guardian of the positive case to identify close contacts.

NHS Test and Trace already manages the contact tracing process for the rest of society – including children who have recorded a positive PCR test – and has expertise in supporting people to identify close contacts.

This letter sets out in more detail below how that process will work and what you need to do if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

Self-isolating and taking a test

If your child has symptoms, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a PCR test for them. If the PCR result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the PCR result is positive, they, other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

If your child has a positive result from a lateral flow device (LFD) test, they and other members of the household should self-isolate – and you should inform their education or childcare setting. You should immediately order a confirmatory PCR test. If the confirmatory test is taken within two days and the result is negative, they and other members of their household can stop self-isolating (unless instructed to self-isolate for other reasons). If the confirmatory PCR test is positive (or is taken more than two days after the LFD), other members of their household and any close contacts identified by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the LFD test.

PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website or by calling 119.

PCR test results will be recorded with NHS Test and Trace automatically, but you should also communicate the result to the education or childcare setting during term time or summer provision.

Contact tracing

If your child gets a positive PCR test result, NHS Test and Trace will contact you, using the details you registered when ordering the PCR test. You and/or your child will be asked a series of specific questions designed to identify who your child has been in close contact with. Being in an education or childcare setting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 will not necessarily mean a person is identified as a close contact.

You will be asked to provide the contact details, if you know them, of any of the individuals – or their parents or guardians – who have been identified as close contacts. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch with these close contacts and provide appropriate instructions or advice (see below).

Self-isolation and/or testing of close contacts



At present, anyone identified as a close contact is legally required to self-isolate and must not attend their education or childcare setting (the only exception is if they are participating in a daily contact testing trial). Anyone identified as a non-household close contact by NHS Track and Trace must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of their most recent contact with that person. If they live in the same household, they must self-isolate until 10 days after the date of that person developing symptoms (see point 1 above) or, if that person was asymptomatic, the date of their test (see point 2 above). NHS Test and Trace will notify you of the day on which the self-isolation period ends.

Close contacts are also advised to take a PCR test. If the test result is negative, they must still complete the full self-isolation period, as the test will not detect all positive cases. If the result is positive, they will need to self-isolate for a further 10 days – and NHS Test and Trace will contact them to identify any close contacts.

From 16 August, if the close contact is under 18, they will not have to self-isolate (in line with the policy for fully vaccinated adults) but will be asked to take an PCR test immediately, other than for very young children identified as non-household contacts, and they will not need to self-isolate while awaiting the results of the test. If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. NHS Test and Trace will then get in touch to identify close contacts (see points 5 and 6 above). Further guidance on these changes to self-isolation will be provided shortly.

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been and the sacrifices that all families, education and childcare settings have had to make. This has been an enormously challenging time for everyone and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for everything you have done.

