

20 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF OASIS ACADEMY SILVERTOWN AND NEXT STEPS FOR PARENTS

As you will be aware, the Government recently announced that all schools in England will close temporarily for the vast majority of children from the end of the day on Friday 20 March 2020.

The decision has been taken on the advice of medical and scientific experts in order to manage the spread of COVID -19 and relieve pressure on the health system.

Advice for parents

The government has produced new guidance for parents and carers during the closure of schools, you can read it in full by accessing gov.uk and searching 'Closure of educational settings.' The guidance is clear:

1. If it is at all possible for your child to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, some childcare provision will be available to them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon vulnerable groups – the elderly or those with underlying medical conditions.
4. Children and adults should follow social distancing.

We have contacted all our parents via text message this morning with an online form to complete so we can establish which key workers will require us to care for their children in the academy from Monday 23 March 2020.

I am a key worker who cannot care for my child at home and I will be sending them to the academy to be cared for from Monday 23 March 2020. What are my next steps?

You should notify us via the online form sent to you via text message today, and send your child into the academy on Monday for 9:00am in their uniform, with their schoolbag, pack of work and equipment. The day will run until 3:00pm when they will be dismissed from the student gate.

I have been notified my child is eligible for care at the academy from Monday 23 March 2020 for a different reason and I intend to send them in. What are my next steps?

You will have notified a member of our leadership team in your telephone conversation with them today, and send your child into the academy on Monday for 9:00am in their uniform, with their schoolbag, pack of work and equipment. The day will run until 3:00pm when they will be dismissed from the student gate.



My child will be completing their education at home from Monday 23 March 2020. How will this work?

We have planned thoroughly for our teachers to provide education for our students remotely. I would like to reassure you all that much care has been taken over this, and our staff have been well trained in how to deliver education of a high quality for your child at home. We have contacted all our parents by telephone to explain how this will work.

All parents whose children are absent from the academy today will receive a large envelope in the post at the beginning of next week with full printed instructions of how their child should work at home, as well as any booklets and materials they need to access the work. *If your child is attending the academy today, this will be sent home with them.*

We are sending these instructions and packs to all children, even if you intend for them to be cared for at school from Monday 23 March 2020. We are doing this because we want to ensure that your child is always able to complete their school work even if your family are self-isolating and they cannot attend for any reason.

What support is available for me whilst my child is being educated at home?

Whilst the academy will be closed, teachers are available to support your child with their work remotely via the ShowMyHomework online tool. If we have any concerns about how your child is completing work, we will contact you by telephone.

Whilst the academy is closed, you can access important information about how to support your child to learn at home on our website, by following this link:

<https://www.oasisacademysilvertown.org/curriculum/home-learning-covid-19>

I am concerned about my family or child's welfare whilst the academy is temporarily closed. What should I do?

Please consult our website sections on safeguarding for how to contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

For other safeguarding COVID-19 support during the temporary closure, please click on this link:

<https://www.oasisacademysilvertown.org/academy-life/safeguarding/covid-19-safeguarding-support>

To help our families during this difficult time, we have signposted support available to the community, and to Newham residents. You can access this by clicking on this link:

<https://www.oasisacademysilvertown.org/community/covid-19-community-support>

My child receives Free School Meals. How can I ensure they receive their entitlement?

The government is arranging a voucher system for all children entitled to Free School Meals. **Until this is finalised, your child's meal can be collected in a "grab bag" from the academy gate daily from Monday 23 March 2020 between 11:30 and 12:15pm.** We will communicate with you again when the voucher system is up and running.

The logo for Oasis Academy Silvertown features the word "Oasis" in a white, sans-serif font inside a purple circle, set against a purple rectangular background. Below this, the words "Academy" and "Silvertown" are written in white, sans-serif font on a dark blue, downward-pointing arrow shape. A thin black line extends from the top right of the logo across the top of the page.

Oasis

Academy
Silvertown

Updates and queries

We recognise that these are hard times, but we all have a responsibility to reduce our contact with others. We have seen some lessons from Italy where children and parents have continued to socialise and gather and this has had a significant impact on the spread of the virus. We encourage you to take this guidance very seriously.

Finally, I want to assure you of how deeply committed we are to all our students in our Oasis Silvertown family. Your child's education, progress and wellbeing are our priority and we will communicate with parents as regularly as possible via letter, text and our website during the closure period. We can be contacted at office@oasissilvertown.org

I thank you sincerely for your continued and on-going support for our academy community at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johanna Thompson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Johanna Thompson
Principal