



Dear parents and carers

3 September 2021

I hope you have all had a fantastic summer break and that you have been able to have some quality time with your family.

The start of term will be quickly upon us and I just wanted to take the opportunity to communicate our arrangements for the start of term and the days that follow. The latest government guidance is shown below and this is the starting point for the decisions we have made for the start of term. We will of course continue to assess our plans as guidance is shared with us and in relation to local and national covid figures.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance>

What is staying the same?

COVID related:

- If your child or anyone in your house develops Covid symptoms they must get a PCR test and not attend school whilst they wait for the result. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should [arrange to have a PCR test](#).
- Nobody should come onsite if they have any symptoms of Covid. These symptoms are:
 - a new continuous cough
 - a high temperature
 - a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)
- If someone tests positive for Covid 19, they must still isolate for at least 10 days. If your child has to isolate as they have tested positive, online learning will be provided.
- If your child develops symptoms, you will be contacted and expected to collect your child as soon as possible.
- Extra hand washing and sanitising will be in place throughout the day as before.
- Additional cleaning of resources, toilets, corridors and the classrooms will take place x 2 daily.
- Rooms will be well ventilated as windows and internal doors will be open.
- We will continue to follow all guidelines the government produces which includes having a clear, robust risk assessment and contingency plan in place in preparation for possible further outbreaks that may occur.
- Should a Covid outbreak occur or direction from the government or BCP indicates academy closure, we will return to Google Classroom as a means to virtually educate your child. Please make sure your child knows their login details. Paper copies of learning will also be available as before should you prefer this method of delivery.
- We will continue to ask parents to wait outside the school rather than coming in unless you have an appointment. If you need to speak to the office staff, please be mindful to give people space to speak freely and safely.
- We are actively encouraging social distancing between adults where possible onsite and therefore ask that parents/carers do not stand too near classroom doors to protect staff or too close to each other.
- We will not insist adults wear a mask whilst outside on the school site, but do ask you to be mindful of those around you. Adults can continue to wear masks if they choose to.
- Assemblies will remain virtual for the first half term and then we hope to start face to face assemblies, year group assemblies to parents, shows etc again soon.
- The Drop Off Zone for use in the morning will be limited for space due to the building works going on at Ocean, please do not park in the car park unless you have permission to do so. Please speak to school staff if you feel you have a legitimate need to park (eg. disability parking badge).

Academy related:



- Doors will open at 8.30am each morning. All children should come through the Constitution Hill Road door as there is a significant amount of building work happening at Ocean and we need to make the entrance into the academy as safe as possible.
- **PLEASE do not drop your child off at school before 8.30am** as there will be no staff monitoring the outdoors before then and the site is full of building works, machinery etc.
- At the end of the day, your child can be collected from their usual place (each year group from their own door or space on the playground).
- After school clubs will run as normal and academy staff will monitor your child from 3.20-3.30pm so that the change of finish time does not result in you being charged additionally for after school care.
- All pupils are required to attend school daily unless they test positive for Covid or are ill.
- Full school uniform should be worn and academy appropriate footwear. No trainers, boots, heeled shoes or open toe shoes. Hairstyles should be one, natural colour and should not have any patterns cut into the style. Hairstyles should be discreet. Hairbands should be small and of a neutral colour such as blue or black.
- PE kit should be worn on PE days - please ensure your child wears the correct PE kit. Black shorts, Year 3 and 4 should wear the house colour t-shirt with Ocean logo and year 5 and 6 can choose to wear this t-shirt or a plain white t-shirt. Trainers should be worn and long hair tied back. No jewelry should be worn at school. A plain black or navy tracksuit can be worn (no logos or patterns). **YEAR 3 WOULD NORMALLY HAVE PE ON A MONDAY, BUT PLEASE COME TO SCHOOL IN UNIFORM ON THE FIRST DAY. OTHER YEAR GROUPS WILL BE IN PE KIT IN THE FIRST WEEK.**

AUTUMN PE	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	Year 6
	Monday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday

We kindly ask that you do not wait around on site after dropping off or collecting your children and that you do not allow your child to play on the playground equipment.

- Bikes and scooters can be brought to school and left in the bike/scooter racks.
- All pupils will be provided with a pencil case and stationery and so you will not need to provide this.

What is different to last year?

Covid related:

- If someone tests positive for Covid, pupils (and adults who are fully vaccinated) who are close contacts will **not** need to isolate unless they develop symptoms themselves but they will be advised to take a PCR test regardless. They do not need to isolate whilst waiting on the PCR test (as long as they are symptom free).
- Test and trace have now taken over the role of identifying and contacting close contacts however we will of course support this if asked to. This rule may be adapted, alongside reintroducing bubbles etc. if there are a number of cases in the school within a short period of time. In these instances, we will seek advice from PHE and follow their recommendations. Our contingency and outbreak management plan will support this.
- After school events and CPTA events will be able to resume this year. **Please contact us if you can help out in any way. It will be a huge task to get these events up and running again.**
- Educational day trips and residentials will be planned over the year and are expected to go ahead.
- Pupils can share resources, use the climbing frames and sit in groups rather than on tables facing forwards to support collaboration and discussions.

Academy related:

- Every child will finish school at 3.20pm. Teachers are aware that you may have a sibling to collect from another door, so please do not worry.



Ocean Academy Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Self-worth | Engagement | Purpose

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Support contacts:

If you feel you need support as a result of Covid, a tough summer or for whatever reason, please see the following support options available to you:

[Every Mind Matters website](#) for advice and practical steps that you can take to support your wellbeing and manage your mental health.

If you are feeling lonely, the [Let's Talk Loneliness website](#) also has a variety of tips, advice and further resources that you may find helpful.

The [NHS Volunteer Responders programme](#) also offers telephone support through Check in and Chat Volunteers.

[Hub of Hope](#) to find local sources of mental health support and services, both from the NHS and from other organisations close to you.

Call a [local NHS mental health helpline](#) for 24-hour advice and support.

Dorset Mind <https://dorsetmind.uk>

Contact the Samaritans on 116 123 or through emailing jo@samaritans.org

You may also find useful information at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-childrensafe/coronavirus-advice-support-children-families-parents/>

As I shared with you last term, I will be taking up my new role as Executive Principal for Ocean Academy and Jewell Academy from the start of September. I will continue to be the designated Principal here at Ocean and this role will continue to be of the utmost importance to me. Mr Tharme will take on the role as Associate Principal (Head of School) and Mrs Richardson will continue in the role of Assistant Principal and SENCO and we will continue to work together to ensure our children thrive. If you need to contact me, please do so through the school office. A member of the senior leadership team will be available on the school door every day should you have any queries or questions.

You will also have noticed the building works going on around the whole building and it was hoped that this would have been completed before the start of term. We have now been informed that the works will possibly continue until the beginning of November due to a shortage in the rockpanel materials that will be used to replace the current render. We will aim to ensure this causes as little disruption to the children and staff as possible. The Drop Off Zone should still be in operation, but please drive carefully as there will be limited space. Parking will also be limited, please do not park in the disabled bays unless you have a badge.

We look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday 6th September for another exciting year!

Kindest regards

Mrs J Quarrie

**Executive Principal
Ocean Academy Poole
Jewell Academy Bournemouth**

