Parent Bulletin

Nurturing today's young people, inspiring tomorrow's leaders

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!
Watch us on YouTube
FOLLOW US ON twitter

Olive School
Hackney

| Saturday 9th January 2021 | 25 Jumada al-Awwal 1442 AH | www.olivehackney.com | Issue: 118 |

Pupil Engagement

Our top priority during the lockdown period is to ensure that all pupils are safe and continuing their learning. Here is a summary of this week's pupil engagement figures during lockdown:

	All Pupils	All Pupils %
Total Pupils	619	
Fully Engaged	397	64.1%
Partially Engaged	148	23.9%
Not Engaged	75	12.1%

The table below shows the pupil engagement figures from each year group. The best pupil engagement was seen in Years 4, 5 and 6.

	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Fully Engaged	36.7%	65.2%	67.0%	62.2%	77.5%	76.4%	64.3%
Partially Engaged	27.8%	18.0%	23.9%	30.0%	18.0%	19.1%	48.1%
Not Engaged	35.6%	16.9%	10.2%	7.8%	4.5%	4.5%	4.8%

Unfortunately, there are 75 pupils who are not yet engaging with our remote learning. This is of great concern to the school. The parents of these 75 pupils will receive a call on Monday from a member of the senior leadership team and we will help to ensure that all pupils are fully engaged. We wish to ensure that no child is left behind during this national lockdown.

Parent Feedback

Thank you to parents who have all provided excellent feedback via email. It seems that many parents have had different experiences during the past week. Some parents feel that our current provision is just right, whereas others believe we should make some adjustments.

We are keen to capture the feedback of all parents which will help us to improve our support for pupils and their families during this period of national lockdown.

Please click on the following link to complete our parent feedback survey: http://bit.ly/2LgRwWZ

Remote Learning

A full remote learning timetable is in place for all pupils. Our remote learning policy is available on our website. Please click on this link to read the policy: https://bit.ly/3nvUeFd

The STAR Academies policy advises its schools to ensure that pupils are following their usual timetable as much as possible. Some of the parent feedback suggests that they are concerned about the amount of time that their children are spending in front of a screen.

We have limited screen time to 3hrs a day for most pupils which involves LIVE lessons with the class teacher. We are aware that some of the off-screen activities (foundation subjects) set last week have encouraged further screen time, however, we are working with teachers to ensure that off-screen activities really do mean off-screen from next week.

Message from Principal (Mr. Mirza)

Assalamu alaikum (peace be with you)

Thank you to all parents for what has been a very challenging week for most of us.

I am proud of our pupils, parents and staff for shifting our school online for most pupils. I do not underestimate the difficulty of transferring learning online at very short notice and I'm encouraged by the feedback I have received.

You are finding ways of overcoming digital barriers. You are giving one another the support and encouragement to find solutions to problems that we would never have envisaged encountering just a year ago. Masha'Allah and Well done! 😊

We continue to open school every day for 30-40 vulnerable pupils and keyworker parents.

It is important that you reach out to us if you need help. Food vouchers for FSM pupils will be sent out next week (covering two weeks), we are launching our food bank for all Olive parents, we are giving out laptops (on loan) to families who need them, and we can help you in lots of other ways, please do not hesitate to ask. Olive school is a family.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support. May Allah grant us all patience, protection and safety. Ameen.

Communication during lockdown

The best way to communicate with the school during lockdown is email. Please use the class email addresses that we have set up for you *(please see last week's parent bulletin for a full list of class email addresses):* https://bit.ly/3b2T8hC

Please bear in mind that the school office has reduced staff during the national lockdown and so there may be a delay if you call the school office.

For laptop requests please email info@olivehackney.staracademies.org with your child's name class and your contact number, please do not email the teachers or call in to the school office.

For queries regarding pupils online learning, pupils logins for Microsoft Teams, and technical issues please email the class email only.

Please do not expect an immediate response. It is important that we are all patient during this national lockdown.

Free School Meals

All pupils who are eligible for free school meals (not universal free school meals) will be supported with food vouchers throughout the lockdown (£15 per FSM child per week).

The government has not yet confirmed when the Edenred system will be up and running, however STAR academies will next week be providing vouchers using the Huggg system. We wish to ensure that no child goes hungry.

We have a dedicated email address for any parents who have queries about free school meals and the food vouchers: fsm@olivehackney.staracademies.org

Food Bank for Olive Parents

We are aware that many Olive school parents are struggling to feed themselves and their children during these challenging times. As always, Olive school is here to help and we will be launching our Food Bank from **Monday 11th January 2021**. Please can we request that parents donate generously by dropping off non-perishable food items and/or cosmetics to our new building in a plastic bag, Monday – Friday (9am – 3pm). From Thursday 14th January, we will allow parents to visit our Food Bank (9am – 3pm) to collect any food or cosmetic items that they require. Many thanks in advance for your generosity. The address for the Food Bank is: ***Olive School, 2 Lower Clapton Road, Hackney, London E5 0PA.***

Laptops

We understand that a number of families do not have any or enough laptops to ensure that every child in their family takes part in LIVE lessons. Last week, we provided many laptops (on loan) to parents. We will continue to provide many more laptops (on loan) to parents from Monday to ensure all pupils are engaged in the online LIVE lessons.

For laptop requests please email info@olivehackney.staracademies.org with your child's name class and your contact number, please do not email the class email accounts or call in to the school office for laptops (email only).

At this stage we can only provide one laptop per family. We ask that you do not request a laptop if you do not need it as this will deny other families who are in genuine need.

Daily Assemblies

It is very important that all pupils watch the assemblies every day. Assemblies are pre-recorded by a different member of SLT each day and a link is posted to each class TEAM. These assemblies help pupils to develop their faith (deen) and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) awareness alongside their academic learning.

Welfare Calls

Members of SLT will continue to make regular calls to our vulnerable pupils (2-3 times a week, some daily). All SEND pupils will receive a weekly call from Ms. Fadairo. Every pupil will receive a weekly call from their class Learning Coach. If you have not received a welfare call as yet then please let us know (via email).

Video/Pictures for Twitter

As you will know, Olive school has a very active Twitter account where we share the wonderful things that take place at Olive school each day. We are calling on parents to share short videos or pictures of their children whilst they are learning at home. Any video recording should be no longer than 10 seconds and all videos/pictures should be emailed to the class email account. We will post the best videos and pictures on our Twitter account every day so that everyone can see the wonderful learning that is taking place at Olive school during the national lockdown.

LIVE Sessions for Reception Pupils

From next week, there will be daily LIVE sessions for all Reception pupils, 11:40am-12:00pm. The sessions will be led by each Reception class teacher. This will enable all Reception pupils to see and talk to their class teacher for a short time every day. This session will take place via TEAMs.

New Reception Class Admissions Deadline

The deadline for on time applications is **15 January 2021.** Any applications received after this date will not be processed until 16th April onwards.

- Further details regarding the process and commonly asked questions can be found here: primary guide
- Parents can view a recording of a parent briefing, explaining the process, here: parent briefing
- Parents must apply online here: eAdmissions application form

Covid Tests

If your child is currently attending school and develops Covid symptoms or takes a Covid test, they must self-isolate for 10 days or until they have received a negative test result. Sending pupils to school when they have Covid symptoms or are awaiting the results of a Covid test puts other pupils and staff at considerable risk.

Internet Access

BT working in partnership with DfE have launched a scheme that temporarily increases data allowances for mobile phone users on certain networks. This is so that children and young people can access remote education if their face-to-face education is disrupted.

Schools, trusts and local authorities can request mobile data increases for children and young people who:

- Do not have fixed broadband at home
- Cannot afford additional data for their devices
- Are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

Please contact the school if you would like us to help you apply for this.

STARLight Magazine

Please click on the link below to read the latest STARlight magazine:
https://issuu.com/staracademies/docs/star_light_issue_05_mediumres

10 TOP TIPS
REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.

2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.

3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.

4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teacher's will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.

5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.

6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.

7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.

8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.

9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.

10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.