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Principal: Mrs L Watkins BEd (Hons)

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26th August 2025

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you are well and that you and your child have had an enjoyable summer break. Thank you again for the immense support you have shown the academy since the events of last term. We remain enormously grateful to you all, and our wider school community.

Return to school – Wednesday 3rd September

I am pleased to inform you that, following a huge amount of hard work and careful planning, we will be opening the academy for the start of term as planned on Wednesday 3rd September.

We are hugely appreciative of our academy's site team, and our Trust's estates team, who have worked tirelessly over the holidays to support the recovery efforts. As a result, we are very much looking forward to welcoming all children, including in the early years, back to school in what will continue to be a safe, welcoming and inspiring learning environment.

The school day, and all operations, will be continuing as normal. The classrooms for Year 3 have been temporarily moved downstairs, and the spaces prepared and ready to welcome the children. All other year groups will be in their original classrooms as planned.

Arrangements for children's arrival and collection to and from school remain unchanged, and the information regarding arrival at the start of the new term sent previously still applies. This will be reshared with you separately to this letter, so you have a reminder of the full information ahead of next week.

We are very pleased to also be able to continue to offer our Breakfast Club and After School Club provision, from Wednesday 3rd September. The clubs will be taking place in the Key Stage 1 Hall for the time being. Arrival to the Breakfast Club will be as usual, and collection from the After School Cub will be from the door at the side of the hall.

A section of the school requiring more extensive repair and refurbishment will be securely sealed off, with work continuing as needed over the coming months. However, we will be seeking to minimise disruption as much as possible and will of course keep you updated as progress is made.

Pastoral support

As shared in my last correspondence in July, we are very aware of the impact of the incident on the children. Despite it being managed to the best of our ability, with our staff doing an excellent job of getting pupils safely and calmly out of the building, we know it was a very worrying event for everyone involved.



We of course shared some wellbeing resources with you previously, but as mentioned, enhanced pastoral support will also be available for children and staff on their return to school, to help ensure that everyone feels safe, supported and ready to re-engage with school life, with a positive year ahead.

We will be taking great care in supporting and speaking with the children in their classes as needed, including answering any questions they may have in a reassuring, sensitive and age-appropriate way, and making sure they know to ask for help if they need it. Whilst being sensitive to this, our plan is to operate exactly as we would have had the fire not taken place, so we can focus on instilling a sense of normality, routine and familiarity for children, which we know will be comforting to many.

If you do have particular concerns about how your child will find returning to school, and if they or you require additional support, please do contact the academy office in the first instance and we will do everything we can to help ease and support this process.

Next steps

We will continue to communicate openly, transparently and proactively on any further developments regarding the incident, the recovery efforts, and future plans to ensure pupils continue to know how to follow our robust safeguarding protocols. However, we hope that for now this is a positive and reassuring update, and we are really looking forward to welcoming your child back to school next week.

Thank you once again for all your support, understanding and co-operation. It has meant a great deal to know you are on this journey with us.

Yours faithfully,

Louise Watkins

Principal

Ormiston Cliff Park Primary Academy