



## **Re-Opening plan for Term 1 2020/21**

30/7/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust you and your family are well. I am pleased to announce our plans for opening the school for this new academic year. The following is an overview to give initial guidelines as to which pupils will be in school at which time. We want as many pupils as possible to attend school whilst adhering to ADEK guidelines. Our central Operational Risk & Safety team have been working with ADEK, health authorities and the team here at the school to establish the very best standards in regards to safety and health controls to help prepare us for re-opening. We are working on ensuring that each aspect of our pupils' day has been planned meticulously and carefully. Our primary objective is the safety of our school community, and also to ensure learning within a classroom setting resumes, whilst also taking into account there will be some time needed for pupils to settle back into a school environment.

Where possible we have grouped children from the same family to attend at the same time.

We have ensured that our re-opening plan adheres to the most recent government guidance for school reopening. These plans are subject to change, and I will, of course, keep you updated if any amendments are made.

### **Foundation Stage 1 and 2**

Due to the very young age of these children, 3-5 years, we feel that it would be best to offer morning OR afternoon sessions daily for these children. There will be an initial period needed for our young ones to get used to routines again and detach from parents and nannies with whom they have spent so much time with recently.

FS1 and FS2 families- you will be notified of your time slot and your gate of entry. *E.g. 7.40am - 10.40am Gate number 1.* Note that only one parent/carer may accompany FS children into school wearing a face mask and social distancing for a 10-minute period.

### **Primary – Years 1-6**

Physical class size means that we will only be able to accommodate 50% of the primary pupils at one time. To give children the maximum contact time we will split the cohorts into a WEEK A and a WEEK B group. Alternating weekly.

Distance learning continues for those at home – introductions, summaries and outlines of lessons will be shared through MS Teams and Seesaw. Those children at home will have much greater

live input than previously as the beginning of each lesson will be broadcast with specific tasks given to home learners. The teachers will also come back to home learners at the end of the lesson. Pupils at home will also be able to ask questions and teachers will also be able to follow up later in the school day during the traditional ECA period. Our commitment and focus will be on those learning at home as much as those in school. Work for those children at home is both set and returned for marking via SeeSaw.

Please note parents will not be authorised to enter the building for pick up or drop off. You will be informed shortly of your start date, Either Week A or Week B, and your child's entry gate.

### **Secondary – Years 7-13**

After studying the timetables and room allocation for September, and utilising larger spaces such as the sports hall and auditorium, we can now fit the secondary school in full time from day one. As they have smaller class sizes especially in Years 10 – 13 – and as they have final exams approaching, the secondary team and I are very pleased to welcome back all secondary students full time from 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

All secondary students will enter through the right-hand side of the main gate and enter the school through the auditorium, where they will be temperature checked before entering into the school.

### **ECAs**

Will not take place in school. We plan to have some PE activities online for weekends and after school. This time will be allocated to support home learners who will be able to re-visit topics that were covered in lessons by booking a time to talk to their teacher.

### **School Fees**

Aldar Academies were very pleased to be able to offer all parents a 20% reduction in Term 3 school fees during the past academic year to assist during a very challenging time for everyone. Furthermore, we also offered the option of monthly payments to spread the cost of school fees. I do hope these actions went some way to assisting you in settling your fees. For those in most need we also established a hardship fund which I am pleased has helped many families in difficult financial situations.

I am delighted to confirm that the option to pay in monthly instalments will continue for the whole of the next academic year, 2020-21. Alternatively, you can still opt to pay the fees in full or through 3 termly instalments.

Option 1: Full payment of the annual school fees

Option 2: Termly payment of school fees as follows

Term 1: 4 months fees

Term 2: 3 months fees

Term 3: 3 months fees

Option 3: 10 monthly instalments

If you wish to settle school fees using Option 3, simply inform the finance team by writing to:

[Finance@alainacademy.sch.ae](mailto:Finance@alainacademy.sch.ae)

For any questions around the reopening for FS or Primary students please contact Mrs. De Bruyn Head of Primary – [FBruyn@alainacademy.sch.ae](mailto:FBruyn@alainacademy.sch.ae)

For any questions for Secondary students please contact Dr Pedley Head of Secondary - [WPedley@alainacademy.sch.ae](mailto:WPedley@alainacademy.sch.ae)

We are excited to welcome our pupils back to Al Ain Academy. As always, we will work within ADEK guidelines. We are also aware that for many pupils this process of coming back to school will feel exciting, but also perhaps overwhelming after this time away. Our team and I are working hard not only to make sure that their welcome back to their school community also gives them the support they will need as they adjust back to school life.

Whilst our school may look a little different, I very much look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school.

Kind Regards,

Chris Nourse  
**Principal – Al Ain Academy**