



Oakdene Primary School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

You'll be aware that the Prime Minister announced that all schools are now closed and that for most children, education will be continued remotely. From Tuesday 5th January Oakdene Primary School will be closed to most pupils to further limit the spread of COVID-19 and help to keep our community safe. This means that wherever possible, pupils should remain at home. It is essential that we minimise contact over the coming weeks to give the country a better chance of controlling the virus. Schools across the country are under huge pressure as staff fall ill or need to self-isolate. This means that we will need to keep our operation under review, and it is possible that the school will need to close if we do not have enough staff to keep pupils safe. We will keep you updated in relation to this.

Due to the late announcement, many schools have not opened to any pupils today to allow teachers to plan. We are extremely proud that our school reopened for children who are considered to be vulnerable and also for children of critical workers on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

We recognise that some of your roles will be crucial in enabling the country to continue to function safely and effectively. If you haven't done so already and you are a critical worker and would like your child to attend school, please contact school to request a place. We would ask that you provide proof of employment (and shift pattern where appropriate) in advance. Please be aware that we may need to check the provenance of this information.

A list of those occupations considered to be critical can be found here (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>).

A child is recognised as vulnerable if they have a social worker or have an education, health and care plan (EHCP). We will expect vulnerable pupils to attend school as normal.

Government guidance for schools was issued extremely late last night and the leadership team have been unpicking the guidance this morning. Our home learning strategy was extremely successful during the previous lockdown and we can see the positive impact this has had on the majority of children who engaged in home learning.

The government has issued different expectations to the previous lockdown:

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When teaching pupils remotely, we expect schools to:

- set assignments so that pupils have meaningful and ambitious work each day in a number of different subjects
- set work that is of equivalent length to the core teaching pupils would receive in school, and as a minimum:
- **primary: 3 hours a day**, on average, across the school cohort
- provide frequent, clear explanations of new content, delivered by a teacher or through high-quality curriculum resources or videos
- **have systems for checking, at least weekly, whether pupils are engaging with their work**, and inform parents immediately where engagement is a concern
- gauge how well pupils are progressing through the curriculum using questions and other suitable tasks, and provide feedback, at least weekly, using digitally facilitated or whole-class feedback where appropriate
- enable teachers to adjust the pace or difficulty of what is being taught in response to questions or assessments, including, where necessary, revising material or simplifying explanations to ensure pupils' understanding

As a result we will adapt our approach to home learning in some year groups. In addition, we have more children taking up places than during the previous lockdown. All teachers will be onsite and teaching children who are considered to be vulnerable and also for children of critical workers face to face each day.

Teachers **will not** be able to respond to any of your emails today as they are busy teaching and preparing resources. **For now, please access the Oak Academy resources using this link <https://www.thenational.academy>** and access those wonderful resources such as Times Table Rockstars, MyON etc – **please keep reading!**

This provides a high quality range of online resources available to you. You will be able to access a wide range of subjects and lessons. Each lesson is an hour long. They are delivered by a teacher, with a pre-recorded video as well as quizzes, worksheets and creative activities. It's all easy to use, there's no login or password required, you can access the lessons on any device, and pupils only need materials they can find at home. This is a national resource produced by the DfE.

By Friday 8th January 2021, staff will deliver handy home packs for all children in early Years and KS1 being home schooled. For KS1 this will include text books e.g. Maths Abacus books and work books. Please look after these books and ensure that they are completed and returned to school when we hope to welcome everybody back after February half term.

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Each Monday (starting from Monday 11th January), you will be provided with an overview of tasks and resources to access over the week. Each Friday you will be invited to share your child's achievements over the week and rewards will be provided for children for completing their home school learning. **More information will follow.**

Last night you received a message about Microsoft TEAMS. In light of the new guidance work will be loaded onto TEAMS for KS2 only from tomorrow.

We will maintain regular contact with you to keep you updated of any further information. This will include details around school meals, safeguarding arrangements and the curriculum we will provide for those pupils who will be attending school. **To make this happen, we urgently need your email addresses.** Please email these as a matter of urgency to your child's current class teacher. If we do not hear from you we will need to make a phone call.

If you have a child in KS1 or KS2 who does not have a device at home please can you let us know as soon as possible by emailing your child's class teacher. We have a limited amount of devices from the Department for Education which we can allocate and then will apply for more if required.

Finally, many thanks for your patience in these uncertain and challenging times. I would like to thank you all personally for your overwhelmingly positive and supportive comments over the past two days. It really means so much.

Take care and stay safe

Yours sincerely

Executive Head Teacher
Mrs E. Bramley

