



The Orchard Primary School
Nurture Learn Grow

11th January 2021

Dear Parents

We continue to remain closed but I wanted to write to you to say a huge thank you and well done for all you are doing for your children at home. I know it is not easy to manage home learning but it is good to see that so many children are accessing their lessons online and completing the tasks set by their teachers. As you may be aware, the closure will continue until at least the middle of February so it is important for the children to continue with the learning which the teachers have planned. The teachers monitor what the children are doing on DB Primary and can give feedback to help, support and encourage the children in future tasks.

If you have collected learning packs for your child, please try to take a photograph of completed work and send it to the class teacher via email. If you own an iPhone you can use the Notes App as a scanner. Open a new note, Press the camera button, the option to scan document will pop up. Once the document is scanned you can email it easier than a photo. If you have an android phone it will also work if you have note pad or memo pad.

Whilst infection rates are high and continue to rise, it is important that everyone is disciplined and follows 'Hands, Face, Space' vigilantly so that we can both reduce the risk to everyone in our school and local community. Please click on the link below to hear from our Director of Public Health, Kelly O'Neill about how important it is to follow the current lockdown rules.

<https://fb.watch/2V9mFEwP3H/>

We are asking you to stay at home and keep your children at home, unless we have asked you to come in, to keep everyone safe and to protect the NHS. If we have lots of children coming into school, there is a greater risk of staff or children becoming ill and we would have to close. If staff become ill this can also have an impact on online learning and the preparation of learning packs.

The message to stay at home has been very clearly given by our Secretary of State for Health, Matt Hancock and I hope you will follow this request.

Although you are all at home, please continue to inform us if your child or someone in your household has symptoms and a positive covid-19 test.

As with the previous lockdown, if your child is eligible for Free School Meals and is not attending school, you will receive a shopping voucher to support with providing a healthy meal each day. We now use Wonde to provide these vouchers as Sodexo no longer provide this service. You should have received instructions via School Ping telling you how to redeem your first voucher and what to do if you have difficulty with this.

I can only reiterate that this decision to remain closed is not taken lightly and is part of local and national efforts to slow the rate of Covid-19 infection and support the NHS demand for medical care and hospital beds. Please remember that if you are coming onto the school site for any reason you must wear a mask and adhere to social distancing expectations

Thank you again for your support and co-operation at this most challenging time

Christine Haslam
Headteacher