



**The Orchard Primary School**  
*Nurture Learn Grow*

28<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents

I hope you are all keeping well at this unprecedeted time of difficulty.

We continue to remain closed but I wanted to write to you again 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.

You may have heard this week from the Prime Minister, that the lockdown will remain in place until sometime after half-term and schools will not open before 8<sup>th</sup> March. We have been promised that we will be given at least 2 weeks' notice to prepare for a return to face to face education.

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. They can see where children are not participating fully and can see where children are joining in and completing everything or have difficulty with something so please continue to give them the encouragement they need to continue. Our remote learning policy and provision documents can be found on the website. The provision document will help you to understand the range of work the class teachers will set for children in each year group.

Whilst infection rates are slowly falling in some parts of the country, they continue to be high in London and are particularly high in Hounslow. Our rates are now the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in London so 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.

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.

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. 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.

I can only reiterate that this decision to remain closed is not taken lightly I know that it is becoming increasingly difficult for you to manage the challenges of this pandemic but I can only say well done again. You are surviving this pandemic and you are doing a great job. We want all the children to do well and continue with their learning but please do not let the learning put extra pressure on you and your household because you are struggling with work, childcare, children all wanting to use the laptop at the same time etc. We know you are doing your best and we appreciate that your circumstances are all different and can change from one week to the next.

Thank you again for your support and co-operation at this most challenging time and continue to do the fantastic job you are doing for your children and families.

Christine Haslam  
Headteacher