

Orchard Manor School
John Nash Drive
Dawlish
Devon EX7 9SF



20th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Monday 23rd March 2020, the school will be closed to all pupils for one day.

We have decided that it is necessary to close the school on Monday 23rd March 2020 to all pupils so that we can prepare our ongoing school provision. It is of paramount importance that we have time to assess our capacity to safely provide a limited provision moving forward. This will include preparing access to online learning opportunities for the majority of pupils who will no longer be attending school and to organise what help we can provide for the small number of pupils who will continue to access school.

The overarching message from Government and Local Authority is that children are safest at home. This is the best way to limit the spread of the virus. In our school community, we have both pupils and staff who are vulnerable to this virus and we have a duty of care to protect all.

We are no longer able to keep the school open fully due to critically low staffing levels except for a small number of children whose families most need our support. As of Tuesday 24th March 2020, the school will partially open for only a small group of pupils.

It is expected that the vast majority of pupils will not be attending school, however we will be offering a limited provision to pupils whose parents are key workers. I have attached the list of key workers as published by the government this morning.

If you feel that you fall within the key worker groups, we ask that you contact the school to advise us of these details. Please email anorris@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk by Monday 23rd March 2020 at 10:00am so that we can respond to discuss with individuals how we are able to support. No pupil should return to school on Tuesday 24th March 2020 until they have prior agreement with leaders.

Note: It is important for us to advise that we will only be able to accommodate pupils in school whilst we are able to maintain safe staffing levels. If at any time in the future, under risk assessment, the school is deemed not safe to open, we will close completely for all pupils.

There are some learning resources on our website which will be further developed and added to on Monday 23rd March 2020. Further details relating to this will be provided early next week.

We will also be sharing information with families in receipt of free school meals about how we can support in providing meals for pupils. These parents will be contacted directly.

The decision to close the school on Monday has not been taken lightly and I apologise for the inconvenience caused. This is not a decision that has been taken lightly but I am confident that you will appreciate the extraordinary circumstances which we face. I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of the school and wish you all the best during this challenging time.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Rose
Executive Principal