

Orchard Manor School
John Nash Drive
Dawlish
Devon EX7 9SF



11th April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family all safe and well.

Since our newsletter at the end of the spring term Coronavirus has increasingly impacted across the country and affected everyone's daily lives. It seems likely that we are near the height of the pandemic and need to continue our efforts to minimise the spread of the virus.

The message from the Government continues to be very clear:

Stay at home

- ***Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)***
- ***If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times***
- ***Wash your hands as soon as you get home***
- ***Do not meet others, even friends or family. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.***

Government Guidance

The overarching message is that the safest place to be is at home.

To support with the management of the Coronavirus outbreak and to maintain the health safety and wellbeing of our whole school community, our school buildings remain closed to all but;

- children of essential key workers who absolutely cannot make other childcare arrangements and
- a very small number of our most vulnerable young people (families of these pupils will be contacted individually)

The only young people who will be allowed into school are those where individual arrangements have been agreed by myself.

Although our school buildings are shut to the vast majority of our young people we continue to provide education to all our pupils. We are currently having to work differently but our dedicated

staff team are working incredibly hard to provide educational opportunities remotely and keep in contact with you.

Online learning resources are being updated regularly and staff will be in contact with you at least weekly. At this time it is vital that we have the best contact number for you please update us with any changes. If you don't have a printer at home, or are struggling to access the online learning resources, let us know and we will post or deliver some physical resources to you. If you are in receipt of Direct Payments it may be possible for you to buy equipment/technology to support your child's "education, entertainment and wellbeing", by using Short Breaks allocation that you may otherwise be unable to use. This could mean being able to purchase IT equipment to help with Home Learning.

For pupils accessing the school site

We will be taking all possible steps to minimise the number of people in our school to maximise our ability to apply social distancing guidance and reduce contact between individuals. It is however important to state that any child coming into school will be increasing the amount of contact they have with others including; taxi drivers, escorts, peers and school staff.

Please also be aware that although we will be making every effort to manage disruption within school, we cannot guarantee that pupils will be supported by their usual class staff, or that staff members supporting them will remain consistent. We know that some of our young people will find this an additional challenge.

This unprecedented situation has and will continue to challenge us all, but if we stick at it, stay at home and stay safe, we will be able to get back to normal sooner than if we take risks now. Just because our school buildings are mainly shut, and we are having to work differently, we are still very much here for you. We appreciate your on-going patience and understanding, we are hopeful that we will be welcoming our children and young people back into school in the not too distant future.

Please stay safe.

Best wishes,

Mark Rose, Executive Principal

NHS
Stay at home to stop coronavirus spreading

GUIDANCE

Everyone must stay at home to help stop the spread of coronavirus.

You should only leave your home for very limited purposes:

- *shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which must be as infrequent as possible*
- *one form of exercise a day, for example a run, walk, or cycle – alone or with members of your household*
- *any medical need, including to donate blood, avoid or escape risk of injury or harm, or to provide care or to help a vulnerable person*
- *travelling for work purposes, but only where you cannot work from home*

Important

These reasons are exceptions – even when doing these activities, you should be minimising time spent outside of the home and ensuring you are 2 metres apart from anyone outside of your household.