

Orchard Manor School  
John Nash Drive  
Dawlish  
Devon EX7 9SF



22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we get to the end of the most unusual half term that I have ever experienced, I wanted to say a massive thank you for your continued support throughout the past couple of months. I also wanted to update you on our plans for next half term.

### **Our plan to reopen**

We are continuing to listen to government guidance and advice which is informing decisions on what a phased return for pupils will look like. For the first week back after half term (week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020), the provision that we are offering will remain the same, with only a small number of pupils in school. Places in school will continue to be offered to children of key workers and a small number of our most vulnerable pupils. Considering further government guidance and providing that the situation continues to improve, we are planning a phased increase in the number of pupils in school from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The phased increase will be incremental, controlled and measured, informed by risk assessment.

Our planned phased increase will consider the individual risk assessments of each pupil's presentation in school and class groups that we feel will most benefit from being in school. Ensuring that there is adequate, consistent and familiar staffing of groups in place to accommodate the needs of the pupils will also be a consideration.

We intend being guided by the government's request that schools accommodate YR, Y1 initially and pupils in year 6 transitioning to KS3 who will need additional support. We will then look at students who are due to take accreditation next year. If the situation continues to improve through June and July, we will further increase the number of pupils in school, adding groups who are able to safely return to school. Whilst pupil numbers start to increase, we will be reviewing on a daily and weekly basis how effective the measures in place are in keeping pupils and staff safe. The priority remaining the health, safety and welfare of the whole school community.

For our year 11 and Post 16 learners, school ends on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and it is unlikely that they will be returning to school based learning before this date. We will however continue to provide our remote learning offer and stay in regular communication. We will also continue to provide transition support and are planning a leaver's event once government guidance on social distancing allows.

At this stage, our residences remain closed however we are keeping this under review and hope that we will be able to reopen in a phased way before the end of the summer term.

It is our hope that if it safe to do so, that OMS will implement a carefully planned phased return of groups back into school on part time tables of up to two days per week with the intention to transition individuals and groups back into school over the next 6 weeks. From after half term, parents will be contacted individually to be offered an in school place for their child.

The government are strongly encouraging children to attend school if they are offered a place, unless of course they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence such as shielding due to health conditions. However, at this time, attendance to school is not compulsory and parents will not be fined for non-attendance.

The rationale for pupils returning to school are for the following reasons:

- To safely reintegrate learners into the school environment following government health guidelines on 'keeping everyone safe'
- To reintroduce learners to the class/learning environment after remote learning
- To reduce anxiety and rebuild learner confidence that outside the home is a safe environment to be
- To rebuild trusting relationships with other adults and peers
- To ensure that pupils begin to access the full curriculum as appropriate to individual needs: academic; social and emotional learning and life skills.

### **Returning to some sort of 'normality'**

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of June, expectations within school will be returning to some sort of normality. Pupils will be expected to come to school in full school uniform, as they would for a normal day in school. Mobile phones should not be brought into school, and if they are, should be handed in to a member of staff once pupils get off the taxis.

Although we will try as far as possible to keep to a normal school routine for pupils, there will be some notable changes around school to ensure social distancing is possible and pupils and staff are kept as safe as possible. Details of changes around school will be shared with pupils before their return as part of their reintegration. Further details on how we have adapted our provision to keep our community safe, details of our modified curriculum, expectations, behaviour and welfare policy and a revised home school agreement will all be shared with you shortly.

### **Transport**

The local authority are asking parents to provide pupils' transport to and from school wherever this is possible. Therefore, please consider if you would be able to do this if your child is offered a place. Parents will be able to claim mileage for transporting their child to and from school.

If parents are unable to provide transport for their child, county transport will try their best to provide transport for your child.

Transport arrangements will need to be agreed before a place in school is confirmed for your child.

## **Vulnerable pupils**

Parents should follow medical advice if their child is in a vulnerable group category. Pupils may be clinically or extremely vulnerable as per this guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-on-protecting-people-most-likely-to-get-unwell-from-coronavirus-shielding-young-peoples-version>

If someone within a child's household is in a vulnerable group category, the following guidance applies:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

We are looking forward to welcoming back pupils in a phased way next half term, doing so with the health and safety and wellbeing of our whole school community as our primary focus. I hope that you have an enjoyable half term with your families and stay safe.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Rose', written in a cursive style.

Mark Rose  
Executive Principal