

Orchard Manor School
John Nash Drive
Dawlish
Devon EX7 9SF



18th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have really enjoyed having all pupils back to school full time this week. It is a sense of relief to resume some sort of normality and support our pupils back into a full school week. We have been really impressed with how our pupils have responded to the changes around the school and have embraced being back on the school site. We are looking forward to a successful autumn term whilst working together to keep the whole school community as safe as possible.

Covid-19 Related Pupil Absence

Please find enclosed with this letter a quick guide for parents for Covid-19 related pupil absence. This does not replace any government guidance and is intended as a quick reference document of current requirements. We ask that parents refer to this document and government guidance if their child becomes ill or if anyone else in your household becomes ill. The document clearly summarises what you must do in different circumstances.

The most important point to emphasise is that your child should not come to school if they, or anyone in their household has Covid-19 symptoms.

If you have any questions about this, please contact the school for clarification.

Parent View Questionnaire

Thank you to those of you who completed the parent view questionnaire before the summer holidays. Your feedback is valued and appreciated. As promised, one parent who completed the questionnaire has been selected at random to receive a hamper. Congratulations to Mrs Salter – we hope you enjoy your hamper!

We have collated your responses and are sharing them with you along with this letter. Overall, the feedback from parents is extremely positive – thank you!

Staff have worked extremely hard to maintain contact with both pupils and parents throughout the summer term. We are pleased that 98% of parents agreed/strongly agreed that the school has maintained weekly contact with their child. Additionally, 86% of parents agreed/strongly agreed that good remote learning materials and support were provided whilst pupils were unable to attend school. Due to the need to be more

reliant on technology, we have been proactively promoting online safety and providing information to help to keep your child safe online. This is reflected by 89% of parents agreeing/strongly agreeing that this was the case.

We fully understand for some pupils, returning to school after such a long period was going to be difficult, however 84% of parents felt that their child was looking forward to returning to school. The first couple of weeks at school have been hugely positive and it has been wonderful to see every pupil back in school.

From your feedback, we have identified some areas for improvement. We will continue to proactively maintain pupils' mental health and wellbeing and continue to find more opportunities for us to be able to do this. We will also ensure that we continue to promote positive behaviour and ensure merits and rewards are in place for when pupils display such positive behaviours. During the summer term, we kept you updated with a weekly letter to ensure that you were kept up to date. As we start the autumn term, we will continue to provide regular updates when important information needs to be shared with parents.

The feedback from residential parents was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% of parents strongly agreeing with all but one statement. We have really enjoyed welcoming back our residential pupils to the houses this week!

Finally, I would like to thank the 92% of parents for saying that they would recommend Orchard Manor School to another parent!

Home School Agreement

Thank you to those of you who have returned the home school agreement. The purpose of this document is to keep the whole school community safe and we appreciate your support in helping us to achieve this important priority.

A parent has brought to our attention that the agreement states that parents must sign the home school agreement or their child is not permitted to attend school. This statement was not intended to suggest that a pupil would be excluded if the agreement was not signed. This would not be the case. The statement was intended to convey the importance of all parents completing the home school agreement to help us ensure that we all work together to maintain the health and safety the whole school community during the ongoing pandemic. I apologise for the wording used.

The home school agreement is one of many ways that we are working to keep the school a safe place for pupils and staff but remains an important part of our Covid safe response. If any parents have not yet signed the Home School Agreement, please do so and return it to your class teacher.

If you have any concerns about the home school agreement, please contact the school as we will be happy to discuss this with you.

Barnardo's 'See, Hear, Respond' Service

See, Hear, Respond is a service provided across England by Barnardo's and other national and local community-based organisations in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

See, Hear, Respond, provides support to children, young people and their families who aren't currently seeing a social worker or other agency, and who are struggling to cope with the emotional impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19). See, Hear, Respond will support from pre-birth up to 18 years of age and those with special educational needs under the age of 25.

See, Hear, Respond will contact every referral made, so no child is missed. Help is available in one or more of four ways:

- an online hub of support and information
- online counselling and therapy
- face-to-face support for those most affected and at risk of some of today's most pertinent issues, such as criminal exploitation, and
- helping children and young people reintegrate back into school

You can access via the 'See, Hear, Respond' service [self-referral webpage](#) or Freephone 0800 151 7015.

Best wishes,

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

Mark Rose
Executive Principal