



Oakhurst Community First & Nursery
School
*'From Little Acorns Mighty Oaks
Grow'*

23/3/2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move towards a different way of working over the coming weeks and our school gates remain closed, there are a few messages that I want to clarify.

School closure

Firstly, all schools are closed. Our school is closed, so that you stay at home and stay safe, in order to help with the protection of the NHS and slow the spread of COVID-19. We have moved, very swiftly, to provide skeleton childcare provision for those key workers who have no one else to care for their children. It is not the usual school and the over-riding message is children should remain at home.

All teaching and learning now takes place through the class pages of our website. The children who attend the childcare provision will be completing the online learning while at the provision, the same as the children who are staying at home. Children and staff members, who are on site, will be practising social distancing in line with the recent guidance for everyone to follow. You can find the guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Therefore, there will be no individual reading and one to one learning. All learning will be online learning. Children attending can wear their choice of clothing. They are not expected to wear school uniform while the school is closed. We suggest comfortable clothes so we can make use of the safer outdoor environment.

Please remember, any child who displays a new cough and/or temperature must not come to the on site provision. They too, must then stay at home and follow the guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

So we can ensure a safe on site service, only children on the daily register will be allowed on to the school site, so please do not come unless you have received a confirmation email from the office. Our gates will remain closed.

Communication

Secondly, we want to reassure you that we are still here for you. However, this is a different way of working together. Please make all contact via email, do not telephone the school. The phone will not be answered and the message will direct you to contact us via email. Please keep an eye on our website and emails. You will then know when anything new is posted.

Free School Meals

Also, we would like as many parents who are eligible for a Pupil Premium free school meal to come and safely collect one from the school. If you are unsure if you are eligible please email office@oakhurstfirst.com and we will get back to you as soon as we can. I would urge you to take advantage of this offer. Please let us know if you would like one and we will order it for safe collection from a table outside of school. However, all meals must be ordered in advance as they will be brought to the school site for collection from 12 noon each day, We will send a daily Parentmail to those who are eligible for a Pupil Premium free school meal to let you know when the meals are ready to be collected. Please ensure you follow the social distancing guidance while collecting your child's meal should there be another person here collecting a meal at the same time. If your family is self-isolating and you are unable to collect your child's meal and have no-one who can collect it on your behalf please let us know. If you are struggling to provide food as result of the school closure, please let us know and we will try to help.

Stay home, stay safe

Lastly, we would strongly urge you to follow the social distancing guidance, stay home and stay at a distance from others. Do not arrange gatherings of a few children/friends. This is irresponsible and dangerous for you and our children. Do not go to places where there may be crowds, even small crowds. Remain at a safe distance, (at least two metres) and of course continue to wash your hands thoroughly and regularly.

The projected numbers of virus cases is alarming if these unprecedented measures work, and catastrophic if they don't. You are not invincible, and our NHS needs your help. This is a time for huge sacrifice, where we all must demonstrate the ultimate responsibility for our children, others and ourselves.

We remain, as always, pleased and proud to serve our community.

Stay safe,

Ann Clark

Headteacher