



Dorchester Primary School

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Headteacher – Mr S. Mills BA (Hons), NPQH
Deputy Head – Mrs N. Van Der Walt BA (Hons), PGCE



Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you've had a wonderful Christmas and new year and that you and your family remain safe and well.

What a start to the new term! Firstly, I apologise for any inconvenience caused by having to change one of our training days to today. You will no doubt have seen in the media that unions that represent teaching and support staff have advised their members to not go in to work as a result of the increasing rate of transmission and the new COVID-19 variant. For those staff who are part of a union, it is their choice as to whether they follow the advice set out. For a small number of our team, they have chosen to follow this guidance as they believe this will allow them to better protect both themselves and their families.

At this time, this does not affect our ability to open the school to all pupils across all year groups. However, should further staff decide to follow the guidance then we may have to consider a partial or full closure as it simply may not be safe with fewer staff.

As a result of the developing situation, there are a number of things we will be implementing, as well as others that we need to remind everybody of:

- **From tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January 2021) it will be a requirement for all parents/carers and visitors to site to wear a face covering when on site (unless exemptions apply). This includes outside areas such as the playground.**
- Only **one** parent/carer should drop off / collect their child – this is to reduce the number of people on site at any one time and reduce contact.
- **ALL** pupils need to line up (socially distanced) at their respective cone on the playground or the MUGA. Staff will be around reminding parents/carers of this. Please do not congregate at any of the doors and please respect the requests of staff.
- When collecting your child, please stand at the respective cone, socially distance yourself and wait for the staff member to dismiss your child. Please do not approach the school doors.
- Once your child has been dropped off / collected, please leave the site straight away.
- If you need to speak to your child's class teacher or a senior member of staff, please telephone the school – face-to-face discussions should be minimised wherever possible.

All of the above measures are to help protect everybody. We became a little complacent at the end of last term and we need to get back to doing the above things so that we are able to keep the school open and keep everybody safe.



We hope that you will abide by the above requests and that we do not need to get to a position where we are asking you not to attend the school site.

If you have not already, please ensure that the school office has the most up-to-date mobile number so that you can receive the messages we send via ParentMail. If you are not receiving these, please contact the school office for support.

We look forward continuing working with you this term.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart Mills".

Stuart Mills
Headteacher