



## Dorchester Primary School

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



Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Apologies for inundating you with information but I want to keep you as up-to-date as possible.

After the announcement last night, the message is to stay at home wherever possible. This is the same for our children and therefore, where possible, children should remain at home. If you are critical worker and have no other childcare options available, then you are able to request a place at school for your child(ren). If you are a part-time worker, then your child(ren) should remain at home with you on the days that you do not work. Where children do come to school, they must do full days in order to get the most from their learning. This time, we will not be offering parents/carers the option of dropping off / collecting children at times other than the start and end of the day. Remember – the whole point of lockdown is to reduce contact and so our priority is to only have children in school where absolutely necessary. The indication from the Prime Minister is that schools will remain closed until February half term at the earliest.

Provision for our critical worker and vulnerable children will begin tomorrow and if you have not already, you can request a place by following the link below and completing the questionnaire (if you are struggling to do this, please contact the school office as soon as possible):

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=L1Q-3RfN3EeDCoganXWC89t0DZcrC65MomW5ZBfjrLBURUJSWFdRVk5RMDhSOVREWVg4MEYyQzYxTy4u>

Those children who are classed as ‘vulnerable’ will be contacted by our well-being team to discuss provision for them. We will send out a text message / make contact with those requesting places to confirm that one has been allocated.

Remote-learning packs will be sent out today/tomorrow, covering the rest of this week for those children remaining at home. From next week, the majority of our learning will be sent electronically and/or uploaded to the school website. Like before, children can access learning resources in the following ways:

Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 – **Purple Mash**  
Year 5 and Year 6 – **Microsoft Teams**

If you have forgotten or mis-placed your child’s logon details for these platforms, please get in touch with the school office.

From next week, home learning will be accompanied by some instructional videos/audio to support children in accessing their work. Some of this will be direct from their teachers and others will be links to



other resources. You should be able to access these links through any electronic device. Where paper packs are required, these will be available for collection from the office on Monday for next week, then on a Friday for the following weeks (so that you have the work in preparation for the following week). We will only deliver packs where families are isolating – we simply do not have the staff to deliver to all and this would take them away from their jobs of teaching the children. It is **your responsibility** to collect a remote learning pack and ensure that your child(ren) is/are engaging with the learning. Remote learning will follow the same sequence as the learning in school therefore, to prevent children from falling behind, they need to complete the tasks and keep up with the work sent home.

If you are having any difficulty with remote learning, please make contact with the class teacher, who should be able to help.

We are still waiting for information from the DfE regarding free school meals for those eligible and remaining at home. For the remainder of this week, whilst this gets sorted, we will be offering ‘grab bags’ as we did in the first lock down. Please let the school office know before 10:10am if you require a grab bag for your child and these can be **collected** from school between 11:30-12:30. For those children in school, a cooked meal will be provided as normal.

For this week, we will still close after lunch on Friday. From next week, will be open all day, every day as normal.

My staff are continuing to work incredibly hard to provide an effective education for our children under such challenging circumstances. Much of what we have to put in place is set out by the Government so if you do have any concerns, please address them to school and not on social media.

Thanks for your continued understanding and support, and I hope you and your family remain healthy.

Take care,



Stuart Mills  
Headteacher