



## Dorchester Primary School

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



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

During the current lockdown period, I will be writing to you every Friday to keep you all up-to-date with what the school is doing to provide both in-school and remote learning.

I hope your families are all continuing to stay safe and healthy and that you are taking the necessary precautions to help stop the spread of this virus.

As we come to the end of the third week of this current lockdown, we are still learning and adapting our processes so that they can work everybody. Thank you so much to the families who are supporting their children with remote learning, either with the hard copies or those logging on digitally. We have seen many successes so far and it is so important that your children continue to engage with their learning so that they do not fall behind.

We have listened to the feedback you have provided, especially in relation to the difficulties some of you have faced with Purple Mash as a learning platform. Our team have been looking at alternatives and will be launching a new platform shortly. Having already trialled this in some classes, we are confident that this is a more effective platform to use on all devices. Further information will be sent out shortly.

We will no longer be sending out a booking for you to request places for your children at school. If you require a place for your child and meet one of the criteria below, then please contact the school:

- You are a critical worker (either in the fight against COVID-19 or our exit from the EU)
- Your child meets the ‘vulnerable’ criteria e.g. has an EHCP.
- Your child is unable to access work from home and are not engaging in the work that has been sent out.

This week, we had a visit from the CEO and Head of School Improvement from our Trust to look at our remote learning offer and how we are catering for children in school. They visit all schools within the Trust and the feedback they gave us was extremely positive. They asked that we pass our thanks on to you for the support you are giving the school so **THANK YOU!**

We are still asking that if your child, or anybody in your household tests positive for COVID-19, that you let the school know. This can be done by ringing the school office, emailing [Enquiries.dorchester@hcat.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries.dorchester@hcat.org.uk) or (for out of hours only), texting 07761330670 with the following information:

- Child’s name and class
- The date they developed symptoms
- The date they had a positive result



Our team will continue to make contact with you in a regular basis – this is to check in on you and not ‘check up’ on you. Please engage with them as we can provide any support you need for your child. Where we are unable to make contact, we will follow our usual procedures and carry out a home visit / refer to other agencies where appropriate.

Another THANK YOU for those that are following our request to wear face coverings on school site. This is a non-negotiable so please continue to support us. For those that forget face coverings, there will be senior leaders out before and after school with spare masks.

For those families whose children are eligible for free school meals and are not in school, you should have received an email with your electronic voucher. This email does not come from the school – it will either come from Wonde or Edenred. If you were expecting one and haven’t received it, please contact the school office.

As always, if you need any support, please contact the school.

Yours Sincerely,

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

Stuart Mills  
Headteacher