

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Remote Learning

As you know, sadly Orchard and Shepherdswell are closed to most pupils tomorrow, along now with all other schools across the country. The Prime Minister has just announced that this is will be at least until February half term.

If your child is not one of the sixty-six pupils still attending school, I appreciate that you may feel anxious and stressed about the prospect of having to try to teach your children again from home. I know many of you may still be working, and this makes things even more difficult for you.

We are currently in a much better position to support than we were in the first lockdown. We had prepared home learning plans which match to our school curriculum for the whole term already and you can find these on our school website by [clicking here](#). Your children can use these from tomorrow morning.

However, we want to offer more. We had not been warned or alerted about the possibility of school closures before last Wednesday, so we have been working hard since then to develop better ways to support you and your children at home. Outside of our training sessions, teachers have today been busy producing a new format for presenting daily work, with a task page for each year group. These pages will feature interactive quizzes (which will give us feedback on how your child is doing), videos made by our staff, audio clips explaining tasks to children, pictures, and links to appropriate external websites too. We will be publishing these tomorrow as soon as they are finished, and I will let you know by email when they are online.

Following the success of our recent online Family Consultation Evenings using Microsoft Teams, we will also be offering a service thorough which you can book a ten-minute online video appointment with a teacher from your child's year group if you want to ask for help or support with any of your child's learning at home. Again, I will be writing to you in the coming days about this service and how to book a slot.

Headteacher: Mr C. Brown. Assistant Headteachers: Mr L. Bartishel and Mr J. Wilson.  
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Orchard and Shepherdswell  
Academy  
Together we will achieve.



As I wrote to those of you who had children at Orchard back in March, we appreciate that nearly all of you are not teachers. Do not expect your children to be working for six hours a day like we would do at school. You will be dealing with lots of other demands and priorities, so please do not put yourselves under undue pressure, as this will negatively impact on everyone's mood in the house. This said, it is vitally important we work together to ensure your child does not fall behind at school. Please try to make sure they access our remote learning page daily as we will be monitoring your child's engagement and contacting you if we are concerned your child is not taking part.

If you have any issues being able to access the internet, you do not have enough devices at home or any other issues with being able to allow your child to learn, please contact the school as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have already done so – we are already working on solutions for you.

I hope you and your families stay well – I will be in contact again with further details on remote learning and free school meals as soon as I can.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. C. Brown  
Headteacher  
Orchard Academy

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