

Deal Parochial Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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05.01.21

Dear Families

I am writing this as our second welcome back to term 3 newsletter, under very different circumstances.

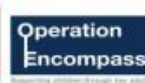
The announcement given last night from the government was partially expected but never-the-less a shock for us all. I know that it affects us and our families in so many different ways because we all have different circumstances.

It is becoming clear to us that there are some subtle differences to the previous school closure arrangements back in March 2020. As of yet, there has been no official guidance released from the Government. With this in mind, I think that we can offer teaching and learning to each year group instead of mixed Key Worker bubbles. We just need to minimise all risk. We expect new Guidance imminently and will ensure that we follow it and keep you all regularly updated.

The new criteria states that pupils who are vulnerable, such as those unable to access home learning online can come to school. I welcome this adaptation and hope that as things settle, more families will begin to gain confidence and return to school. The government defines vulnerable children as in the following quote:

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- *are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child*
- *have an education, health and care (EHC) plan*
- *have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:*
 - *children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services*
 - *adopted children or children on a special guardianship order*
 - *those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')*
 - *those living in temporary accommodation*
 - *those who are young carers*
 - *those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)*
 - *care leavers*



- *others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health*

Mrs Bridgeland has prepared a reading support package, in addition to what each class teacher provides, as a boost and guide for parents. She can be contacted for any advice; her e mail address is:

bridgelanda@deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk

Mrs Cotterill is available to help families who require pastoral/nurture and emotional support. She is a friendly ear and can direct you to additional, external agency information as well as make links within school. cotterille@deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk

Mrs Hogben and I will support families with any safeguarding concerns, and of course we link up with Mrs Cotterill, as well as all staff in this role. We are also working together to support pupils with additional and special educational needs and disabilities as the SENCO.

hogbenm@deal-parochial.kent.sch.uk

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Each class teacher in KS2 will use Microsoft TEAMS as our main remote learning platform. Purple Mash continues to be used in KS1. Pupils will be able to submit work online through TEAMS, or through Purple Mash and teachers will be able to review it and give feedback.

Pupils can contact their teacher and pupils through these online tools. Please remind your children that any comments they write can be read by their teacher and classmates. Online safety and conduct is of paramount importance. Please try to check regularly that your child is safe and responsible when working online.

Teachers are organising home school learning resources that will include our maths White Rose workbook as well as a Home Learning Exercise book.

The packs will be ready for collection tomorrow – Wednesday, 6th . Please collect from the EAC between 10 – 12am and 1 – 3pm.

So, the long and short of this is that:-

- If you are required to go into work as a key worker, you can send your children into school.
- If you think your child is not thriving, due to home learning, contact us to discuss how we can help.
- If your child has additional needs, then you can send your child in to school. This includes any pupils who are or have been in care, has a social worker, is adopted or has special educational needs.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do get in contact with us and we will do what we can to help and support you and your family.

If you are a keyworker, please note that you can send your child into school full time. We recognise that part time attendance can be disruptive to their learning, and is not in their best interest.

If your child is attending school, please remember if they are at all unwell, please do not send them into school until you are certain that it is not COVID. The symptoms seem to vary greatly from a runny nose to



feeling sick, tiredness and even a rash in younger children. It only takes 24-48 hours to get a test result back so if in doubt remain off school and get a test.

Thank you for your continued support. We are working this out together as it unfolds. I am sure there may be a few more changes for us to navigate but we can do this!

Kind regards

Justine Brown

Head teacher.

