



MANOR PARK CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL & PRE-SCHOOL

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DORCHESTER

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Inspiring all to learn and grow 

8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start by saying a big thank you for your patience and understanding as we have again prepared for another partial closure of schools. As you are aware, we had limited notice but the most upsetting part of this is being unable to say goodbye to the children and prepare them for the remote learning that is now taking place.

As you are aware, the school is providing the remote learning in this lockdown through Google Classroom and Tapestry. We would like to thank all the parents who have signed up to Google Classroom and/or Tapestry, if you are having trouble accessing this please contact school and we will do our very best to help you.

For those of you who have been using our remote learning on these platforms it has been great to be able to engage with the children and their learning.

Over the coming weeks staff will be working hard to offer a range of provision for those children who are working remotely from home. The work will be the same as the work that is being provided in school. There will be a mixture of activities and video recordings that you will be able to access at any time of day as we know many of you will be working from home and may not be able to support your children during typical school hours. In addition, we are going to commence some 'live' learning where your child will be able to engage directly with a teacher from their year group but please don't worry if your child is unable to take part in this - we understand that you may be sharing devices at home or fitting in school work around your own work. That is why we will be providing a range of learning opportunities, so there will always be something that you can access. Our aim is to make online learning as accessible as possible to all children during this lockdown and please remember your best is good enough. As was the case during the last lock down once the day has passed please do not worry about any learning that you haven't got to and start the new day afresh.

The 'live teaching sessions' are being trialed in Key Stage 2 this week and next and we will keep you informed about how this new way of teaching progresses. In time, you will be sent a Google form to read and acknowledge before the sessions commence.

A reminder that on our learning platforms you can post Private Messages. If you want to send your child's teacher a private message that only they can see, please do so. We still want to be informed of any questions or concerns that you may have but please be aware that if you send a private message outside of school hours, staff are not expected to



reply until the following working day. In addition, if they are teaching in school, they will not always be able to view your message until the end of the school day.

We would also very much like to provide books to support the children in their learning journey at home. In this pack there will be a blank exercise book, handwriting book, Maths work book and a RWI book. It had been our intention if we had been required to close the school again that these would have been handed out on the last day but we had no time for this. We would like all children working remotely to have a set of books but as you can imagine we are unable to deliver to over 250 children. Therefore we would like you to collect these books from the front of the school on **TUESDAY 12th JANUARY for Years 1, 3 and 4 and on THURSDAY 14TH JANUARY for Year 2.** In order to manage the number of people on site please can you collect at the allocated time below, however if you are unable to collect the pack then please let us know.

Year Group	DATE	Time
Year 4	Tuesday 12th January	9.15am - 10.15am
Year 3	Tuesday 12th January	10.30am - 11.30am
Year 1	Tuesday 12th January	1.00pm - 2.00pm
Year 2	Thursday 14th January	9.15am - 10.15am

I want to end this letter by stressing that we really do look forward to when we can all be together again whenever that is! That said, we know that we must be patient as safety should always come first.

The Government have asked schools to only be open to Critical/key workers and vulnerable children due to a rise in cases and to protect our NHS. We know that cases in Dorset are rising rapidly and limiting attendance is about supporting the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities. The Government states that **"Parents and carers who are critical workers should keep their children at home if they can."** The national situation has given us a number of obstacles to navigate through and, by working together, I hope we can achieve this whilst prioritising the safety of all involved. Take care of yourselves and your families during these times and do please help us with taking care of our staff and their families by thinking carefully about the decisions you make regarding school places.

Thank you for your continued support and the MANY messages of thanks that have been shared.

Stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Pallister
Headteacher



