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# Overton St. Helen's C.E.School

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***'Surrounded by God, we inspire hearts and minds through learning, faith and love'***

25th September, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we move through the term, inevitably we have seen an increase in child absences due to family members or pupils getting tested for CV-19. Indeed, just this week our Reception Class has had to isolate following Mrs Marsland testing positive for the virus. It has become apparent that in order to continue to educate our children during these disruptions, remote education and home learning is vitally important.

I am pleased to inform you that we now have a solid plan in regard to home learning, in the situation where an individual pupil or a whole class needs to stay away from school, having to isolate.

If a situation arises where your child's class may need to close, we will inform you as soon as possible. We have specific protocol and guidance to follow, as we did yesterday, upon news of a confirmed case and we will act upon the advice of the local public health teams. We will not close a class unless necessary and unavoidable.

We have based our plan on three different scenarios:

1. A short absence of two or three days whilst awaiting a test result.
2. An individual child having to isolate as a family member has tested positive for CV-19.
3. A whole class has to isolate due to a confirmed case in school, or a full school closure.

### **A short absence of two or three days whilst awaiting a test result.**

If your child is absent from school for a few days whilst awaiting results of a test for either them or a family member, then we encourage you to follow our 'home learning' ideas. This is basically, keeping your child busy practising times tables, looking at spelling lists, reading their reading books and accessing Mathletics in KS2, Timestable Rockstars or Numbots. You are also welcome to refer back to any ideas still on our website from our period of lockdown last Spring.

### **An individual child having to isolate as a family member has tested positive for CV-19.**

If we have a situation where your child has to stay away from school, isolating for a period of 14 days due to a family member testing positive for CV-19, then we will implement our Remote Education provision. This will consist of three daily lessons (Maths, English and one other- usually topic related) that can be accessed via Google Classroom. If you are struggling to access remote education on line, we will provide paper based activities for the individual child and get these to you. At all times during this, you can keep in contact with the school as your child's teacher will be here and ask us any advice at any time.

### **A whole class has to isolate due to a confirmed case in school, or a whole school closure.**

If we have a situation where the whole class has to isolate following a confirmed case in a pupil or member of staff, we will also implement our Remote Education provision outlined above. Three daily lessons will be provided via Google Classroom and teachers will expect these to be completed. Communication to the teacher will always be available via the class emails. Again, if you do not have easy access to a computer, please do not worry – there will still be work to do. In the event of a full class closure, we will also send home special workbooks we have purchased for this exact scenario (one for Maths and one for English) and advise you of the pages to be completed.

We will expect the children to complete their lessons and the teacher's will be ready to check the work that has been completed upon return to school. If you wish to email photos of completed work via the class emails, the teachers will acknowledge these as quickly as possible. Feedback from lockdown suggested that some children felt they didn't need to complete any home learning. Although we do not want to create any unnecessary pressure or worry, please use us as an excuse to gently 'persuade' your child that they need to continue to work hard if away from school.

Now at this point, you may be worrying thinking you have no idea what Google Classroom is or how to use it. The children are familiar with this in school as we are currently working this into our teaching so that they are confident in using it. Our older children are professionals already! We plan to post a 'parent's user guide' on our website shortly, however simple easy to follow instructions can always be found by simply 'googling' it. We will make sure all our children have a personal log-in for Google Classroom; these will be coming home together with this letter. I advise you keep a record of these somewhere at home.

I appreciate that much of this requires access to a computer. Please communicate any worries in this regard to us so that we can ensure your child can access some form of remote education when the need arises. I would also advise that you keep a stock of paper, pencils and essential stationary handy should you find yourself in the above situations.

On a positive note, we are so impressed at how hard the children are working in school. They have all adapted very quickly to a new way of working in school and it is a pleasure to see them happy learning and enjoying each other's company. Thank you for all you are doing in following our one-way systems, keeping your distance from each other and moving off the premises quickly – I cannot stress how important this is. Please continue to do this so that we can ensure our school remains open for our children.

Many thanks for your ongoing support in these challenging times,

Joanne Easthope