

Overdale Community Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Vicki Logan



8th January 2021

Lockdown 3 at Overdale CPS

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are saddened to have closed Overdale school to meet the Government Guidance for Lockdown 3. The following information will explain the school's present position and we will update you on any changes as we receive them through a weekly letter (like this) on Dojo's and through text messages.

Who can come to school?

Children, whose parents are key workers, and those who meet the Vulnerability criteria. Please contact us if you would like clarification on whether your family meet the criteria for keyworker or Vulnerability. We are more than happy to check this for you and to discuss with you how we reach any decision we make.

What is it like in school?

We have four bubbles:

Bubble 1 – Year 5 and Year 6

Bubble 2 - Year 3 and Year 4

Bubble 3 – Year 1 and Year 2

Bubble 4 – Early Years

All bubbles are taught by a teacher from their bubble and supported by a learning support assistant from their bubble. Bubble sizes are between 10 and 15 children and this varies from day to day, according to parents' working patterns.

Breakfast club opens at 7.50am and runs as normal. Children are escorted to their bubbles at 8.45am. School starts at **8.45am**, children leave parents at the school gate and come into school through the school office and staff escort them to their bubbles for immediate handwashing.

Learning follows the home learning plans with breaks being agreed within bubbles. Lunchtime is one sitting, on designated bubble tables, as we only have 50-60 children on site each day.

School closes at **2.55pm** and again children leave through the school office with staff escorting them to the main gate.

Handwashing is frequent throughout the day and children are encouraged to use the space in the bubble to socially distance. Crossing of bubbles is managed with staggered activities and designated areas for such times as lunchtimes, where the hall is very spacious and well ventilated.

Home Learning

We will be starting our remote learning from Monday 11th January. We have provided and delivered home packs for children to be completing until this is up and running, thank you for your patience. We wanted to make sure that our method of teaching children at home closely matches our teaching in school to ensure children can learn at home easily. Teachers will be teaching your children through video links that will be posted on your child's class

Dojo page. Your child will be taught by their class teacher, who will upload a maths, reading, phonics/spelling and writing video that they have recorded. This video will be uploaded to the Dojo Class Story page, alongside some topic ideas for all curriculum areas of learning.

Teachers ask that parents encourage and support their children to listen to their teacher on video and complete the learning activities with support from their teacher at home. The learning will not come with a timetable, as we know that home life does not fit a school timetable. Teachers will upload videos and learning support for families to access as suits their day. If you could take pictures of your child's work and upload them to their portfolio that would be fantastic. Teachers can then see children's learning and support them every step of the way. Parents can message teachers on Class Dojo, speak to them on the phone or email our school office with any questions you may have around your child's learning.

Our learning support assistants and teachers will be monitoring Class Dojo during school hours to see the work that your child has completed for their portfolio and give praise and feedback at every opportunity.

Pupil Premium - Free School Meals provision

Presently, these are being provided by school as 'packed lunches'. Please call the school office to order your packed lunch for the week from the school office. A packed lunch is a sandwich, a piece of fruit, plus one other item, which will be savoury or sweet, e.g. sausage roll or a piece of cake.

Well-being

Class teachers will make phone calls to every child regularly to check on home learning and wellbeing. If you miss this call please call back and the teacher will talk to you then, if they can, and if not, our office staff will let you know when they will be calling. If we can help in any way, please ask us during these calls. We know from the last lockdown that the children valued these calls, and it helps them to know that their school and their teachers are there for them.

Test/Statutory assessments

The Department of Education have informed us that no statutory assessments will take place at the end of the school year 2021. This includes:

Year 6 SATs

Year 2 SATs

Year 1 phonic assessments

EYFS Baseline assessments

As always, teachers will continue to assess attainment and progress for every child and report this to the parents in their end of year reports. We will work hard on the vital transition process our Year 6 children need to ensure a smooth and effective move into secondary education.

We are pleased to receive this announcement, as this will enable the teachers to focus on teaching children as individuals, with different learning needs, rather than teaching to an 'age related' expectation test.

Going Forward

Please support your child with home learning as fits with your family circumstances. Ask us for help if you need it, we are more than happy to support this challenging expectation that has been placed on parents.

Remember we are 'your' school, if we can help in any way, we will, so please stay in touch.

Looking forward to seeing you all healthy and shining when the Lockdown is lifted.

Yours sincerely,

All Staff at Overdale School

