



# OCKLYNGE JUNIOR SCHOOL

Headteacher: Jon Reynard, Deputy Headteacher: Sandra Denton  
Victoria Drive ● Eastbourne ● East Sussex ● BN20 8XN. Telephone: 01323725839  
[www.ocklynge.co.uk](http://www.ocklynge.co.uk)

Dear Parents / Carers,

The safety of our pupils, staff and families is of paramount importance to us.

You are likely already aware from the government's announcement on 30th December that due to the latest new strain of Covid-19, which is much more transmissible, the decision has been made to close some primary schools in the most affected areas. In East Sussex this included Hastings and Rother, but not Eastbourne.



Here at Ocklynge our priority is, and has always been, to keep as many children as possible in school, if it is safe to do so.

In consultation with teaching unions, headteacher unions, other local schools, as well as having considered the latest scientific advice, we regret to inform you that we have made the incredibly difficult decision **that Ocklynge Junior School will only be open on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for the children of key workers and those designated as vulnerable. Our remote learning programme will be implemented for all other children.** We expect that we will remain open in this way, but I will obviously keep you fully updated in light of national developments. There are many other schools locally and nationally that have taken the same decision, that is to close for a short period of time, as this is the safest option for all.

The school will remain open for frontline key worker children and vulnerable children (see below). The risk assessment will be reviewed on a regular basis and we will add supplementary measures to our systems on an ongoing basis.

We are so sorry that this decision has been made with such short notice but I am sure you will understand that there is a local and national rapidly changing picture due to the emergence of this new variant and we must keep our school community safe.

## Children of key workers and those who are vulnerable.

We keep an updated list of children who have key workers as parents. Therefore, these children may attend school at the usual staggered start time and pick up and arrive at school via their usual gates on Monday. If you work from home, you should not need this service. If you think your child is on the key worker list or circumstances have changed and you now believe that they now should be, please register them through the registration form attached and email it back to [info@ocklynge.co.uk](mailto:info@ocklynge.co.uk) and we should be able to accommodate your child to allow you to carry out your vitally important and brave role. In this way we can compare this current list to our existing list from the initial lockdown. Breakfast club and after school club will operate for these children as normal.

If your child has an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), is Looked After (foster care), or they have a Social Worker, school will remain open to them as well. If your child attended school as a vulnerable child in the first national lockdown you can assume that the same conditions apply this time. You can contact school office staff on Monday to clear up any concerns or provide further clarity should you need to.

Any child in school that would normally receive a Free School Meal will continue to receive them. We will provide for FSM children who remain at home and we will be in touch on Monday on how we will action this.

Email: [office@ocklynge.co.uk](mailto:office@ocklynge.co.uk)



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It is expected that all children who remain at home engage in remote learning using the link to both the website and dojo communication with their teacher. Our remote learning offer is extremely strong as we have created opportunities to engage in learning that would have taken place face-to-face at school. If you have difficulty in accessing on line learning, please contact the relevant Head of Year or the school office. This remote learning will start on Tuesday 5th January. We expect all children at home to engage in remote learning and your child's class teacher will contact you if doesn't happen to discuss any barriers that may be preventing it. Please note that if you are a key worker, your child does not have to attend school. Children who attend school will be accessing exactly the same offer that children who are accessing remote learning are receiving - there will be no additional learning taking place in school. Class teachers will sometimes be working from home and sometimes be teaching vulnerable or key workers children in school. They will be providing feedback from 9.00am - 3.00pm every day.

Remember: If your child as a vulnerable child (VC) or as a child of a key worker (KWC) you should complete the attached registration form and email it back to [info@ocklynge.co.uk](mailto:info@ocklynge.co.uk) they should then they arrive on Monday through their normal gate where they will be met by a senior member of staff and a teacher

I will aim to communicate with you at every opportunity so that you are fully informed of continuing developments. These emailed letters will be flagged up and published on our Facebook page and on our twitter feed.

Thank you for your continued support during this challenging time. The safety of our pupils, staff and families is of paramount importance to us. Finally, even in these very challenging times, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy new year!

Yours sincerely

Jon Reynard

Jon Reynard (HT)

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