



# 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 Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you today with details of how we will be proceeding with our school's partial opening.



As you are aware, schools have been facing significant challenges since the emergence of the Coronavirus. As a school, we have actioned a wide range of measures to reduce the risk to our pupils. The Prime minister last evening described schools as 'vectors' for infection in the context of the new strain of virus. As such, the safest place for your child is at home.



We are working within new guidance to provide for a limited number of children in school each day. I would remind you all that the safest place for your child is at home. Having said that, there are some critical key worker places available and some for our vulnerable cohort. If you are able to keep your child safely at home we would urge you to do so. We have limited staff capacity and will be running a

comprehensive online learning package that will mirror any provision in school.

The key worker roles are shown below (Appendix), as are the vulnerable child categories. Even if you qualify for these, we would advise that you keep your child at home if you can. With the rates of infection as they are currently, home is the safest place!

The new guidance also allows for child care support bubbles to continue which is an additional concession from the first lockdown. So if you are able to access these then please do.

We would also like all parents to ensure that they make contact with their child's class teacher at least every week. This is a safeguarding procedure.

On a practical level, from tomorrow we would like children attending to arrive and leave through 1 of 2 gates as shown below:

Children Green, Purple and Red bubbles (years 3 and 4) through the year 3 gate.

Children orange, blue and Yellow bubbles (years 5 and 6) through the year 5 gate.

From tomorrow morning the year 4 and Muga gates will be closed.

We appreciate that this decision and these arrangements will have a significant effect on our school and you and your family. We do understand how difficult this situation is for you all but the safety of your children is our top priority as it is yours therefore our remote learning is designed to support you much more comprehensively than in the first lockdown. If you have any difficulties in accessing the remote learning online we will be providing paper packs of work on request. Please contact your child's head of Year if you need a paper pack.



We will ensure regular communications are maintained in all the usual ways: website, email, Facebook, and Twitter.

Thank you for your continuing support and understanding in these unprecedented times.

Yours sincerely,

*Jon Reynard* Jon Reynard (HT)

E:\Downloads\letter to parents on closure 5th Jan (1).docx

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South Downs Learning Trust is an exempt charity and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with Company Number 8130302 and has a registered address at Park Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 2XR





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## **Appendix.**

### **Vulnerable children 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 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
  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - 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

### **Key worker Categories:**

#### Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

#### Education and childcare

This includes: childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

#### Key public services

This includes: those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

#### Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of: the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arms length bodies

#### Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food: production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

#### Public safety and national security

This includes: police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition), fire and rescue service employees (including support

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staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

## Transport and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

## Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes: staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure); the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage); information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response; key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services); postal services and delivery; payments providers; waste disposal sectors.

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