



## ORCHARD HEAD

J, I & N SCHOOL

**Orchard Head J, I & N School**

Orchard Head Lane

Pontefract

West Yorkshire

WF8 2NJ

**T:** 01977 723495

**W:** [orchardhead.patrust.org.uk](http://orchardhead.patrust.org.uk)

**E:** [admin@orchardhead.patrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@orchardhead.patrust.org.uk)

3 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you and your families are all safe and well. The past two weeks have both been unique and I would like to thank you for your unwavering support during this difficult time.

The staff are missing the daily interactions with your children, who make our school such a special place to be. Their safety is of the greatest importance, and despite the difficulties we face, we must remind ourselves that the decision to temporarily close schools is the right one. We must also keep in mind that this will not last forever.

### **Home Learning**

It is totally understandable that parents and carers will feel some anxiety around the completion of work at home. I know that the latest letter from our CEO touched upon this yesterday. Many of you have work commitments and young families to take care of, so please do not worry if everything is not complete. Everyone is doing their very best. It is lovely to see the pupils working from home and enjoying the activities and resources we have sent. Please keep sharing your experiences with us on Twitter and via email, as it is a great way to stay in touch as a community. We have sent plenty of work home and will continue to do so. We understand the importance of providing your children with daily structure and routines, to support them in their absence from school. The work and resources help with this structure and, the work and resources will continue to evolve over time.

### **Easter Holidays**

The first home learning pack provided was developed with approximately 2-3 weeks' worth of work in mind. There is no expectation that pupils continue to work daily over the Easter holidays. We believe that pupils need to be able to relax during the holiday period but, given the current circumstances, we know some families would welcome new resources. We will send some optional, fun and enriching activities which we will share via Teachers 2 Parents. These are not compulsory but might support you over the holidays with different activities to do, as individuals or as families. In addition, you can choose to continue completing the work sent home if it supports your new routines. The web links and home school learning resources we have provided have enough material on them to keep your children engaged and learning indefinitely. Also, many of the resources the school have provided relate to children's wellbeing and happiness; these are just as important during these difficult times. After Easter, we will continue to set home learning for all our pupils. A new learning pack will be made available which we will provide further information on in due course.

### **On Site Provision for Children of Key Workers**

Please note that provision for primary school pupils of key workers will continue during the Easter Holidays, including Good Friday and Easter Monday, at De Lacy Primary School. This provision allows key workers to provide essential frontline services.

### **Feedback on Home Learning**

We recognise that this mode of learning is new for everyone and whilst initial feedback has been highly positive, we are keen to obtain more feedback. We would appreciate it if you could take 5 minutes to fill in the short survey that can be found below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TRH3GYD>

### **Contact Details**

As you know, the main channels of communication with you during this period of school closure have been through email and text, using the details you have already provided. Could I please urge you to provide any updates to mobile phone numbers for yourself and other contacts, along with changes to email addresses? If your child normally receives a free school meal your weekly vouchers will be sent to the mobile phone number, we hold for you. For any changes to contact details, or queries regarding free school meals, please email **admin@orchardhead.patrust.org.uk**.

Finally, please stay safe and look after each other. Please keep in touch through the normal communication channels if you have any concerns or worries. We wish you all the best for the Easter break.

Yours faithfully,



Joe Mitchell  
Head of School