



Headteacher: Mr J. Rielly

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5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Firstly, I hope that you and your family are well and staying positive during these challenging times. I promised I would write to you at the earliest opportunity to set out more detail for home learning and the application process for our Post Closure Provision (PCP) from Wednesday 6th January.

### **Post Closure Provision (PCP)**

The seriousness and tone of the Prime Minister's address was quite clear, revisiting the 'Stay at home. Save lives. Protect the NHS' message. Further guidance issued has stated that people should only leave their homes to work if it is unreasonable that they could work from home. They have also issued a list of critical key worker categories to be found [here](#). Downlands school will endeavor to accommodate all children who need PCP because parents are identified as critical key workers and their children cannot be safely supervised at home. Therefore, we are respectfully asking parents seeking PCP to once again **complete the application form** attached with this email and to return the school by Wednesday 1200hrs, so we can plan staffing accordingly. We will continue to accept children arriving tomorrow, but make judgements about long term sustainability once applications have been received.

Here are some other points about PCP:

- Parents will need to continue to use existing drop off and pick up routines;
- Children will learn within their phases (FS1, FS2, KS1, LKS2, UKS2) as separate packs;
- PE kit will need to be worn on some days and class teachers will advise of this via Seesaw;
- Hot school meals will be provided for universal offer, free school meals and for those wishing to pay. Please add details about your children;
- Milk and fruit/vegetables deliveries have unfortunately been cancelled so please provide a snack if you wish for your child to have one mid-morning;;
- Before- and after-school provision will be available if applied for using the PCP application form;



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- After this first round of applications, the next available starting point for our PCP will be w/b 18/1/21. Parents seeking to send the children to school at this later start date, or in any following week, will have to apply by noon on the preceding Thursday.

### **Pre-school (FS1)**

Dandelions continues to be open as part of our Post Closure Provision, but parents must apply in accordance with the advice presented above and using the separate application form. Please give as much detail as possible about the hours and days required.

### **Home learning**

Please see the separate information document attached to the email with details of our home learning offer (reminder - all children whether at home or attending PCP will be following this). Teachers will also add additional, more immediate information for pupils, using learning platforms.

We have tried and tested virtual platforms (Seesaw) and online learning tools which we are continuing to use. Further to the home learning offered last year, teachers will be adding video files three times a week to give advice about forthcoming learning, reflect on progress midway through the week and summarise progress at the end of the week. UKS2 children will also use Google Classrooms and experience live episodes using Google Hangouts.

My colleagues have been busy today preparing emergency paper based learning packs for FS2 to Y6 pupils - please message your class teacher via seesaw if you do not have immediate access to digital devices and so need paper based resources to get started. They have also set aside any exercise books, textbooks or reading books that will assist with home learning. These will be laid out in the hall for parents to collect during the following opportunities:

- FS2 - Wednesday 0850 – 0930hrs
- Y1/2 - Wednesday 0935 – 1015hrs
- LKS2 - Wednesday 1020 – 1100hrs
- UKS2 - Wednesday 1330 – 1415hrs



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All adults should report to the main reception (queueing outside if necessary), wearing a mask at all times and using hand sanitizer made available.

Beyond this initial supply of resources, a temporary 'library' of the levelled reading scheme books will be provided in the main reception area - please follow the signage regarding safe practice:

- KS1 - Tuesdays between 0900 and 1000hrs;
- Any other children using reading scheme - Wednesdays between 0900 and 1000hrs.

### **Loaning digital equipment**

KS2 children who cannot access online learning with personal equipment at home can lend the school iPad which they use. Please apply [here](#) to loan a KS2 iPad. We will endeavor to make these available for the collection opportunities detailed above, otherwise, we will contact you to arrange another time.

Parents of children in KS1 or FS2 who do not have access to digital devices at home may also apply [here](#) to loan an iPad. Nevertheless, supplies are limited and we will prioritise based on need.

### **Free school meals for home learners**

We will endeavour to send out vouchers to those families eligible for free school meals, but choosing not to send their children to PCP. We will contact you directly in due course.

### **Support for emotional literacy and mental health of pupils**

Our ELSA, Mrs Waters, will be in school during this closure period. Whilst she will be working with the children attending PCP, she will also be available for bespoke support for children finding things difficult, but not attending PCP. Please get in touch with the school office if this help is needed.

### **Virtual Assemblies**

There will be virtual assemblies once a week, via Zoom and more details will be shared shortly. Mr Rielly will also be restarting his daily thought for the day via Seesaw and using his twitter feed [@DownlandsHead](https://twitter.com/DownlandsHead) to publicise these themes also.



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### **Children with additional needs**

Mrs Goodall (SENCo) will be in touch in due course with those parents of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This will be to provide support and guidance for those choosing to learn at home or to advise regarding accessing our PCP.

### **SATs tests for Y6**

In accordance with the Prime Minister's announcement, Y6 SATs have been cancelled. Therefore, the relevant planned virtual parents' information event for tonight is now cancelled also. Will advise parents of what is being put in place for these statutory assessments as soon as we are informed.

### **Staying in touch**

Finally, I will endeavour to write to all parents at least once a week to provide update information. The strength of our school lies in the whole community so it will be really important to maintain these links during these challenging circumstances.

In the meantime, thanks for your continued patience and support.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Rielly