



The Orchards Primary Academy
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Dear Children,

I am writing this letter so that it can reassure you and make you feel better about any worries that you may have. Most of you will be able to read this letter for yourself, but for some of our younger children, I am hoping that a grown up or older brother or sister may read it to you.

My goodness we have missed you all so much! It feels like forever since we were altogether in school and things were 'normal'. We have had the pleasure of seeing a very small group of children in school each day for the last few months, so that their parents could continue on with their very important jobs, but most of you have remained at home.

The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has asked all schools to start opening to more children. He has said that to begin with, this will be children who are in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

These classes will start to come back on Tuesday 2nd June and your Parents and Carers have already had a letter about this.

School is going to look quite different for a little while. We will have some new rules and routines; all of these are very important so that we can keep you all as safe as possible.

The first difference that you notice will be that your Parents and Carers will not be able to bring you in to school on to the playground, as they would usually do. Teachers will collect you from the gates at the time you have been asked to arrive. This will be very different for you, for your Parents and for us Teachers too. But it is important to remember, every change we have made is to keep you safe.

When you get in to the classrooms, you will notice that they look a bit different. We will be having a small number of children in each group; up to 10 of your friends in your 'bubble group'. The classrooms have been set up a bit differently, giving you lots more space between you and your friends.

Your Teachers will be asking you to stay in your seat as much as possible and not to move around the classroom. We have been working very hard to make sure that instead of having a pot of pencils that you share between the whole table; you will each have your own. These pencils, crayons, rubbers, paintbrushes, whiteboard pens and boards will be kept on your own table, in your





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own tray. You will not be sharing these with anyone else. It is important to keep them for just you to use.

Lunchtime in particular, will look a little different too. Everyone will eat in their classrooms and will have a packed lunch from the kitchen. No one will be able to bring their own packed lunches in. This is to try really hard to protect you from any possible germs that could be brought in to school on the lunchboxes. For some of you, this will be a little worrying as you may have favourite foods that you enjoy. I am working very closely with the kitchen staff to make the packed lunches exciting. When you are back, you can tell me some of the foods that you enjoy and we will see if we can get them put in to the packed lunches for you!

You will then go out to play outside, one group at a time. We have been thinking about lots of games that we can play which do not require lots of equipment. Maybe you could think of some over the weekend and share them with us next week?

Your Teachers will be reminding you very often, to **WASH YOUR HANDS** with soap and hot water! We know that this is the very best way to kill this horrible virus and stop it from spreading. This is going to be really important.

We will also be talking to you about 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It'. This is about using a tissue or your elbow to catch a cough or sneeze, and then throwing the tissue away in the bin.

There will be a cleaning station in every classroom. This will include hand sanitiser, gloves, tissues, and special cleaning wipes. You will notice our cleaning team around school much more often, keeping everywhere lovely and clean.

You will all have heard the term 'social distancing' as we all have to do it when we go to the shops or out for a walk. This means that we have to keep at least 2m away from each other at all times. Again, your Teachers will be reminding you about this throughout the day. We realise however, that this is a very difficult thing for you to do, particularly our very little children. This is why we will be reminding you throughout the day. We just need to try really hard.

Finally, at the end of the day, your Parents and Carers will come to collect you from the gate where you came in. Your Teachers will take you to them.





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Do not worry about anything at all! We will talk to you about all these new things and it will all soon become very normal. We also have the small group of children who have been in school during lockdown, to act as role models for you. They will be playing a really important role.

There are posters all around school to remind you of all these things too, just in case you forget.

We are looking forward to seeing you so much, it hasn't been the same without you.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy this beautiful sunshine!

Mrs Carrier

