



HIGHER OPENSHAW COMMUNITY SCHOOL
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7th January 2021

Current School Provision

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you are aware, schools have been asked to switch to home learning for all pupils, except those that meet the criteria of being vulnerable, have an EHCP or whose parents are classed as being critical to the Covid-19 effort. This situation is to continue until the half term holiday in February (15th Feb). The situation is being reviewed by the government during the half term holiday. I will of course keep you up to date with any information we receive as to when all children will be allowed back in school.

We have now allocated all of our places in school. Any further requests for places will have to be put on a waiting list. We have also now loaned out all of the mobile devices that we have to help with home learning. We are trying to source more devices and will let you know if we do manage to obtain some more from the DfE / Local Authority.

All of our teachers are busy uploading videos and worksheets onto Google Classroom. You should now have the email address of your child's teacher if you need to ask questions. We had more than 400 pieces of work submitted on Day one of remote learning, which was fantastic. Please be patient if you do not get an immediate response to your questions – some teachers had over 150 questions to respond to yesterday as well as preparing and marking work. This is the first time that we have had to work in such a way as well as parents and pupils, hopefully we will all learn together. We do have some paper based work packs in school for anyone who requires them.

It is very important that your child engages with their learning at home and accesses Google Classroom to complete and submit their work, just as they would if they were in school. A good idea is to set up a routine for them with a structured timetable so they get used to working this way. We have to report to the Local Authority (Manchester City Council) on how many pupils are accessing home learning. This will take the place of registers over the period of this lockdown. If we have concerns over your child's amount of access or work that they are submitting then we will be contacting you to see what support can be offered. This is the same as if your child wasn't turning up for school. If you are struggling, please do not get stressed about the situation. Your child's class teacher will provide whatever help they can.

Teachers are available during normal school hours 9.00am – 3.30pm. You will be contacted by your child's teacher at least once a week to check in with your child to help support their learning. Please be mindful that teachers may be calling from their own phone, so have been asked to block their personal number from view. If you receive a call that states 'number blocked' it may be a member of staff from school calling.

If you regularly work with our SEN or Family support teams then you will also receive a call from them at some point in the week to check on your welfare.

One final point, you may have also heard yesterday's announcement that all KS1 and KS2 SATs have now been cancelled. Once we have been given a clear idea from the DfE as to how your child will be assessed (if they are in Y2 or Y6) we will let you know.

Thank you for your support over these difficult and challenging times.

Yours sincerely,

John Dent

Headteacher

