



# George Dixon Primary School

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Keeping in Touch Letter 1

8.1.2021

Dear Families,

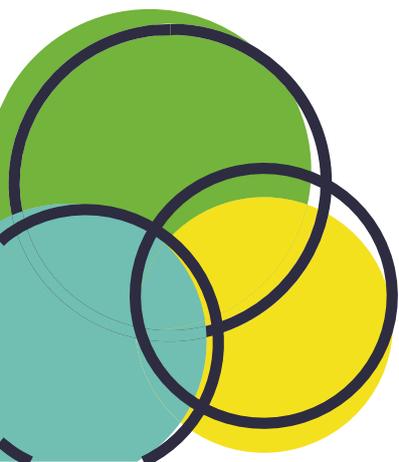
While it was with great sadness that I closed the school on Monday, I did not anticipate that we would be facing such an extended closure as part of a national lockdown. It is widely reported that schools will not open until after February Half Term at the earliest. I want to thank you for how quickly you have had to rearrange your lives to accommodate school being closed. One key difference with this lockdown is that all learning is now remote. During the last 'unprecedented' lockdown, the curriculum was suspended. Now, children must keep up with their learning through Google Classroom.

I'm incredibly proud of everything the school has done, with such little notice, to ensure the children have access to online learning. To help support this there are a few things that I would like to ask of you. One is to remind your children that there is still 'school' during this lockdown. The weekdays are still school days. You do a brilliant job to get them to school on time when it is in the school building, and you need to get them onto their remote learning in the same way. I also ask that you remind your children of our school values, the 7C's, at this time. The way that we speak to each other in school should be reflected in our online communications. Courage, commitment, consideration, courtesy, care, cooperation and communication are needed now more than ever!

New learning is posted on Google Classroom at 9am, and the DfE expects that children will spend between 3 and 4 hours completing school work. Because we know that families are often sharing a laptop or computer, the work on Google Classroom is flexible and can be done in a way that best suits your individual family set up. The important thing is that as much of it is completed as is possible. Teachers are working hard to provide feedback to your children and help them with their next steps throughout the school day. Staff will be phoning families daily until children are regularly engaging in their remote learning and then this will reduce to a weekly check in with parents to see how they are and if we can help in any way.

The one thing that isn't flexible is our Google Meets. Each class will have different timings for this, but it is incredibly important that children join in, using a device with a camera where possible. This will help maintain positive relationships with the school and classmates as well

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as give children the chance to ask any questions about their school work. If you, as parents, have any questions or concerns about the schoolwork, please use the emails at the end of this letter.

We have been inundated with requests for places for Key Worker children and already have three times more children in school than during the first lockdown. We are currently full and cannot accommodate any more children safely. Although we will review this in the coming weeks, if it is possible, please make suitable arrangements to keep your children at home in order to help reduce numbers of children and staff in school.

If you do not have a computer for your child to use at home, we have a very limited number of devices we can loan to you. You must be able to repay the cost of the device if it is lost, stolen or damaged (they are roughly £200); ensure they are used appropriately (no YouTube, games or social media!); and agree to return them when school reopens. We also have additional Wi-Fi sim cards that we can give you if this is a barrier to children accessing their learning. Many broadband companies are also upping their data allowances, so do check with them as well. If all else fails, you can request a paper pack by emailing the class teacher and collect it from the school office.

Currently, families who have access to free school meals are having to collect food packages from school; however, I am hopeful that the voucher system will shortly be up and running. This is not within our control and we are waiting on further information from the DfE. If your circumstances have changed and you think your child should now get Free School Meals, or if your child gets a Universal Infant School Meal and you think they should get Free School Meals, you can check in 2 minutes at [www.link2ict.org/fsm](http://www.link2ict.org/fsm).

Although our lives have been, once again, turned upside down by this lockdown, please know that we are here for you as much as we can be. If you need anything at all, please phone or email us and we will try our best to help.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Good  
Head teacher

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