



Dorchester Learning Centre  
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Website: [www.dlconline.co.uk](http://www.dlconline.co.uk)

Headteacher: Phil Midworth

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing during an extremely difficult time for everyone. I thought I would start my letter by again emphasising the support that DLC can offer:-

- We are lucky enough to be supported by a local church and have funding to provide food parcels for families in need.
- Dedicated family support workers who have links with external agencies such as CAMHS and Family Partnership Zone.
- [help@dlc.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:help@dlc.dorset.sch.uk) support email for all students.
- Weekly wellbeing calls with a member of staff to discuss any concerns.
- Opportunities for remote learners to access ELSA and Thrive.
- Laptops and routers for online learning.

Please do contact Jayne Lewis at [j.lewis@dlc.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:j.lewis@dlc.dorset.sch.uk) or David Dinsmore at [d.dinsmore@dlc.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:d.dinsmore@dlc.dorset.sch.uk) and we will endeavour to try our best to help.

### Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for free school meals you will have received vouchers for the remainder of this half term. Any concerns regarding free school meals please contact Debbie Guyler at [d.guyler@dlc.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:d.guyler@dlc.dorset.sch.uk).

### Lateral Flow Tests

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis we have always acted in accordance with the government guidance. The government today stated that:

*Both NHS Test and Trace and PHE have now reviewed that advice, and concluded that, in light of the higher prevalence and rates of transmission of the new variant, further evaluation work is required to understand the impact of daily contact testing, instead of self-isolation for those who have been in contact with a case, to make sure it is achieving its aim of breaking chains of transmission and reducing cases of the virus in the community.*

*In light of that assessment, we are pausing daily contact testing in all but a small number of secondary schools and colleges, where it will continue with detailed evaluation to inform any future resumption and to make sure nobody in the remaining settings is put at any risk.*

**Therefore, if a student or staff member is a close contact of someone with COVID-19, we will be asking them to self-isolate for the recommended time period and not complete lateral flow testing.**



Furthermore, staff will be tested twice weekly and students will be tested on their return to school following Christmas (the majority of students have now been tested). Students will not be tested weekly again following government guidance.

### **Remote Learning**

You will be aware that there is a full program of remote learning and there is an expectation that students who continue to work from home, are engaged in this. The blended approach of online learning and work packs has been personalised especially for those with EHCP's. Staff are currently developing methods to ensure that feedback is provided. Please also see the attachment with this letter about useful Reading At Home links.

If your child is struggling to engage with remote learning and you feel that they should return to school please do discuss this in your weekly wellbeing calls.

Please do get in touch if there are any concerns and thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Phil Midworth  
Headteacher