



# ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY

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8th January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

You have already received quite a few communications from us over the past few days so I would like to start by saying this is just a general update to end the week.

Since last summer, we have learnt a lot and have been working incredibly hard behind the scenes on our remote learning and I would sincerely hope that you have experienced the various improvements we have made. We are determined to provide high quality education for every student with live lessons led by the teacher being the norm and with students following their usual timetable.

In addition, all parents of children not in school will receive a weekly phone call – depending on the circumstances this may be more often - to check on how things are with your child and how they are coping during lockdown. These will continue right through to their return to school. We do not underestimate the impact that lockdown will be having on children and families, so please remember that we are here to support you in any way we can.

Once again I'm afraid we are waiting for clarification from the Government in respect of free school meals. In the absence of any further guidance being provided regarding a national scheme, the academy will be issuing vouchers via Wonde in two week blocks and these will be issued during the week commencing the 11th January 2021. We will keep you updated once further guidance has been received.

One of the challenges in this digital age, especially during lockdown, is managing communications, both sending out and receiving them. We will endeavour to only contact your child via the live lessons and Google Classroom. From next week, we will be turning off the automatic notifications sent by Google Classroom to your child's school email account (which is sent when a teacher sets work on Google Classroom your child will be notified).

Your child can also turn off the notifications via their mobile phones and we recommend they do this too. Whilst, it is important that your child continues to engage fully in their lessons online and complete work, it is equally important for the school day to come to an end and for them to have some down time.

If you need IT support at all during this lockdown, please take a look at our [website](#) for guidance. From early next week, there will be a new remote learning tab which will make access to all our remote learning information much more straightforward - including guides for what you can expect from remote learning at the academy, how to log into Google Classroom and live lessons and further support for increasing data allowance. Alternatively, please email your child's head of year or [info@ormistonden.co.uk](mailto:info@ormistonden.co.uk)

We appreciate the positive feedback we have received recently and ask if you would take the time to share your positive experience as part of the Parent View Survey. You can access the survey via this link <http://bit.ly/ParentViewSurvey>

As before, you will receive a weekly email from me as Principal which will include everything you need to know, along with some general information about how things are going at school. With the Year system quickly and firmly established, you can also contact your child's head of year or, if need be, the head of key stage who is a member of



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SLT. We do not know how long this is going to go on for so please don't feel alone; we are all in this together as a member of one large community.

Despite everything that is going on, or indeed because of everything that is going on, have a fantastic weekend. My scone making continues and I have offered a challenge to my family to come up with another skill I should learn this time around. I suspect it will be to do with food and I will keep you updated. Please take care and whilst I continually emphasise the importance of education, the personal health of ourselves and our loved ones is far more precious especially during these perilous times.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Nixon".

Jim Nixon  
Principal