25th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am very aware that the last few days  have been rather different, and I would like to say a heartfelt thank you for your understanding as we navigate this new way of working and operating our school. Indeed the Prime Minister's announcement to tighten restrictions demonstrates the speed at which events are unfolding in these unprecedented times.

Despite the firm instruction that we must all stay at home except for very limited purposes, schools will continue to provide the essential care for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children as before. We must continue to ensure that all parents who are able to keep their children safely at home do so in order to reduce the numbers of children in schools as we all do our part to fight the spread of the virus.

I know these are very challenging times and whilst our children are learning in different locations, rest assured we are still one school community, committed to the care and education of every child at Ormiston Rivers Academy.

In some households, everything may have run smoothly, whilst in others I know there will have been challenges. Some of our children will have found the days strange, whereas others will have thoroughly enjoyed a whole new experience and way of learning. For those who came into school, it will have been unusual to have been there without their friends and classmates.

Many of you will also have been juggling your work with supporting your children. I know that this won’t have been easy. We are all finding our feet and it will take time to adjust to this way of working for the time being.

In the meantime, you may find the following helpful:

We have tried incredibly hard to ensure that every student has access to work. As I am sure you can imagine, this has been a huge task. We now have a skeleton staff on site so we are unable to continually produce work packs and get them out to children. We do have work packs at reception, however please only come and collect this if you have no other option as per Government guidelines.

A new section of our website has been set up to provide extra revision and study support whilst you are at home. This is in addition to the work that teachers will be setting you using Google classrooms.

[**https://www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk/home-study-and-revision**](https://www.ormistonriversacademy.co.uk/home-study-and-revision)

Thank you for your patience with regards to Free School Meals. We have been  issuing vouchers for families and communication regarding this would have been sent to you directly.

Please do keep following the DfE and NHS guidance to stay as safe and healthy as possible.

Finally, thank you for your patience and support; we are committed to supporting you and you can reach us with any questions on my email [ebaker@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk](mailto:ebaker@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk)

Please stay safe.

Yours faithfully,



Emma Baker

Principal