

## **Benson Bulletin 11.9.202**

Once again, we would like to say how wonderful it has been to welcome you all, pupils & parents/carers alike, back to ABB. We cannot tell you how lovely it is to see all your faces after such a long period of separation. While our return-to-school arrangement may have taken a couple of days to adjust to in week 1 while we get used to them, overall the transition back has worked very well and we now have 410 pupils back. We have also welcomed 11 new families to ABB, which is an added blessing as we always love to welcome new people into our school family.

We want to thank you sincerely for your cooperation and patience with our new arrangements & systems. We do appreciate that they are involving families having to make changes to their own arrangements before & after school, as is the case across the country and for our staff too, and we are very grateful for this.

Having had time to observe the new drop-off & collection arrangements in action and reflect on initial parental feedback, we would like to share the following update with you. We do apologise that it is a little lengthy but I am sure you can understand that there is a lot to cover when you are opening up a school again after a 6-month closure.

### **Drop-off arrangements**

- We are proactively encouraging parents to embrace our Drop & Go system for our Junior pupils (which has increased greatly over the last few days – thank you) & perhaps for our Y2 pupils where parents feel that they are happy & confident to do so. Please be assured that there are staff on duty around the school to make sure that children get to their classrooms.
- Only 1 adult per family needs to come onto the school grounds to drop off or collect a child/ren. Understandably this week we saw some families bringing parents, grandparents & older siblings too on to the site. We appreciate that families may have been familiarising themselves with the before & after school arrangements so that everyone knows where and when to pick-up/drop-off, but now that everyone has had a chance to do this, we do need to reduce the numbers back down to 1 per family from next week.
- Now that everybody has had time to familiarise themselves with the times, gates, one-way systems etc. we will, from Monday, be monitoring the entry times of groups coming in at their agreed times and following up with families where we need to. The staggered starts & ends of the day are one of the key protective measures recommended to schools by the DfE. Please can we remind you to stick to the time slot allocated to your child's class to minimise congestion and the potential for transmission between bubbles. This is also a concern for us for families using the Moresk Road as there is a risk of a pool of unsupervised children gathering outside the back gate too early and being at risk in a busy traffic area. Similarly, we have concern families using

the Bodmin Road entrance, as again there is a limited space there and we want to avoid people gathering when we have cars coming onto the school site at that time.

- If your child has no siblings with an earlier drop off time, they should not arrive more than a maximum of a couple of minutes before hand. Where you have siblings with different times, of course, we don't expect you to leave the site and then return. Please choose the most convenient of the two drop off times, drop your children at the appropriate Y2/3/4 or Y1/5/6 wooden gates and leave. If that means one is a few minutes late for their class, please don't worry, we understand that is part of the Covid arrangements. If it means one is a little earlier, they will be able to remain with the member of staff on duty at the gate until it is time for them to go in. They will not be able to go in earlier as teachers will not necessarily be in their classrooms at 8.30 to supervise them as previously having had to change their working patterns at both ends of the day due to Covid arrangements. At the moment, the children have been stars whilst waiting and chatted nicely with their friends. This may seem ok at the moment as the weather is dry and mild but this could become very uncomfortable for them as the weather changes. Again, we are not trying to be difficult with this arrangement but are trying to apply the DfE and Public Health preventative measures in a manner that causes as little disruption as possible for parents. Don't forget, we do have Benson Buddies wrap around, which can be booked both before and after school should that be easier for you (we can email you a leaflet). If you are facing issues with collection and/or drop off, please don't suffer in silence, just drop your teachers a dojo and they will do their best to work with each other to arrange a smooth handover of all siblings at the same time each day.
- We are also willing, as we have done this week, to make adjustments to our arrangements for families where there is a recognised special need. This is often in relation to children who have been diagnosed with a physical disability or a SEMH need (social, emotional & mental health). We have created a list of these families, which has been shared with teachers & staff on duty. We will always consider requests from families to be added to this list but it will involve discussion with the school and until such an arrangement is agreed, families must continue with the outlined arrangements for their child. If you think this might be relevant to you, please dojo your class teacher in the first instance.
- We have had requests from parents asking if they can come through the gate nearest their home rather than needing to walk to a different one. Please believe us when we say that we would love to be able to say yes to you all, and hopefully we may be able to in the future, but if we were to agree to the dozens of requests that we have had, then we would quickly lose control of the system and our protective measures would become worthless. We really do appreciate the support you have given us with this as we really do have no desire to put unnecessary pressures on parents. We do understand that it is not easy for pedestrians at the top of the Moresk Road. We want to do all that we can to help. If you have concerns, please do put them in writing as we

routinely work with the Council, the Highways Department and our local councillor, Bert Biscoe, on pedestrian & traffic issues on both Bodmin & Moresk Road.

- We do understand that families just want to be able to drop their children all at one time from 8.35 and using the gate nearest their home as they have done previously, and we hope to be able to return to that in the future but we just cannot accommodate that at the moment. There is also the possibility that arrangements may well have to become more rigorous in time if infections keep rising and if the DfE issues new guidance. However, if we make our arrangements work, then there is every chance that we will remain COVID-free and be able to remain open to all.

PLEASE do not be offended if a member of staff needs to speak to you about any of these points. We do appreciate that we will potentially have frustrated some parents with these arrangements but we are having to manage an almost impossible task. Like you, all of us in school are having to do a little more each day and adapt our working practices. We ask for your support with these arrangements as with 300 families and 70 members of staff to protect, we have very little flexibility.

### **Collection arrangements**

- Our end of day arrangements seem to have run fairly smoothly this week and we thank you for your support and patience as we have implemented them for the first time. We do know that there have been a couple of individual glitches to sort out, especially where older siblings are being collected at the same time as younger siblings. We are getting there and we would remind parents to continue to message their child's class teacher if there are any remaining issues to be sorted out for you.
- We ask the parent or carer who is coming to collect their child/ren to observe social distance in the playground. We politely ask that you do not use the time while you are waiting to socialise closely with fellow parents. The latest government guidance on no gatherings of more than 6 people means that we all have to be vigilant in not opening up to the potential risk from infection from other families, even if they are our friends.
- Please pick up your child/ren promptly and speedily and then evacuate the playground as staff have to ensure that it is vacant for the next set of parents arriving.
- Please do leave via the one-way system rather than going back the way you came as some parents have reported being distressed at the risk of transmission from meeting others face-on on narrow pathways.
- In the KS1 playground, please ensure that your children are closely supervised and are not wandering off and potentially coming into contact with other children outside their class/year group bubble and other families. Children are not allowed to use the KS1 big play equipment after school as we are not able to provide a Covid-safe cleaning regime for such use.

## **Arrangements for reduced adult traffic in the school site**

As set out above, we are implementing some key protective measures in order to reduce the risk of infection from children and adults on the school site. Another key measure is to reduce the number of adults on the school site during the school day. In the past, we have been used to parents dropping into the school at various times with queries or requests. Unfortunately, this cannot continue this year. However, we have been busy working out how we can continue to engage with each other. Below is our Communications Overview, where we have outlined how parents can engage with the school on a range of day to day matters. If we have overlooked anything, please let us know and we will address that in the next newsletter. We would suggest that you stick this on your fridge as a quick reference sheet for the future. As & when we adapt it, we will issue the updated version to parents.

We are in the very fortunate position that we have already established a lot of online systems for communication and payments, so hopefully it won't feel particularly different for most parents & carers. We will be able to help anyone with queries or concerns. You can call the office or email [secretary@archbishop-benson.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@archbishop-benson.cornwall.sch.uk)

**Protective measures for reducing adult traffic on school site Updated 8.9.20**

**At the current time we regret that parents & carers will not be allowed inside the school building except for statutory and/or critical pre-arranged meetings or to pick up their child if the school contacts them to let them know that they are poorly or have sustained an injury that might require parental or medical attention.**

**The grid below outlines how parents & carers can carry out tasks which they might previously have done at the school office or by speaking to staff before or after school. We hope you find it helpful.**

<p><b>Picking up items e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- uniform orders</li> <li>- replacement ties</li> <li>- water bottles</li> </ul>	<p>Uniform, including replacement ties, can be ordered online as before and the items will be sent home via your child/ren. Children can bring their own water bottles from home.</p>
<p><b>Dropping off items e.g</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- leave of absence request form</li> <li>- trip consent form</li> <li>- medication &amp; medication administration form</li> <li>- forgotten items – PE kit, club kit, music instrument</li> </ul>	<p>A copy of the school’s Leave of Absence request form and the Administration of Medicine form are available on the school website in the Download/Documents &amp; Forms section. These forms can be completed electronically &amp; then emailed to <a href="mailto:secretary@archbishop-benson.cornwall.sch.uk">secretary@archbishop-benson.cornwall.sch.uk</a></p> <p>Where a parent needs to administer medication to their child, they will be allowed on site to do so in reception lobby or the canopy area outside the entrance door depending on which is the safest location.</p> <p>When a school trip is being planned, teachers will send out a form to be completed either by hand &amp; sent into class or completed electronically &amp; then returned via Class Dojo</p> <p>Where either a parent or child has forgotten to bring something to school, (e.g. music instrument, packed lunch), we regret that parents or carers will not be able to drop the item off at the school office during the school day. Where a child did forget their packed lunch, the school would provide a school meal and notify the parents.</p>
<p><b>Tracking down lost uniform</b></p>	<p>Parents will not be able to come on site to check for lost property. We appreciate that this may be frustrating for you. You can dojo class teachers about lost items and they will do their best to assist in finding lost items but the additional demands on teachers at the moment means that they cannot guarantee that they can re-locate an item the next day. This is especially true in YR where many child can misplace items in a single day. To support you and our teachers, we will set up a weekly lost property table in the old staff carpark (by Y6 classes) every Friday after school (weather permitting) so that parents can look through any lost property found in that week in a socially distanced way.</p> <p>If you feel that your child might be prone to losing their school jumper, it might be a good idea have a spare jumper ready. With the current COVID restrictions, we cannot ensure that lost items will be easily found or speedily returned, although we will do our best.</p>
<p><b>Making an appointment with a member of staff</b></p>	<p>To arrange a phone appointment with a class teacher, please message them on Class Dojo. In exceptional circumstances, there may be a need to arrange a face-to-face meeting with parents in a safe socially-distanced manner.</p> <p>To arrange a meeting with one of the SENCOs, the phase leaders, Mr Galler (Assistant Headteacher), Mrs Power (Deputy Headteacher) or Mrs Giblett (Headteacher), then please email <a href="mailto:secretary@archbishop-benson.cornwall.sch.uk">secretary@archbishop-benson.cornwall.sch.uk</a>.</p> <p>Where a meeting may involve more than one member of staff, then we will arrange with parents for the meeting to take place on speaker phone.</p>

	<p>Certain meetings (e.g. Annual SEN Reviews, Child Welfare meetings) may need to happen in school or using Microsoft Team or a combination of both. The school will ensure that these meetings are compliant with government guidance on social distancing.</p> <p>Face-to face parental consultations in school will not take place this Autumn term. We are in the process of deciding on the best alternative arrangements and will inform parents shortly.</p> <p><b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> Staff will be socially distanced from parents both before and after school and conversations (beyond short exchanges) will not be encouraged at those times to ensure a quick-flowing, one-way system of parents collecting and leaving swiftly to avoid people congregating on-site.</p>
<p><b>Making cash purchases e.g. milkshakes, trips, school ties, water bottles</b></p>	<p>The school will not be handing cash payments at the moment.</p> <p><b>Purchases for school meals, uniform, trips, can all be paid for via Parent Pay.</b></p> <p>Parents can always ring or email the office (<a href="mailto:secretary@archbishop-benson.cornwall.sch.uk">secretary@archbishop-benson.cornwall.sch.uk</a>) with any payment queries.</p>
<p><b>Managing pupils who arrive late to school</b></p>	<p>Where a child arrives late to school, we ask that they line up under the canopy outside the main entrance door to the school. A member of the office staff will help each child, one at a time, to log into our Inventory system. We ask parents &amp; carers to socially distance appropriately if there is more than one child/family waiting in the canopy area.</p> <p>We do ask for parental patience as it may take more time than usual to register each child as a result of social distancing measures.</p>
<p><b>Booking up clubs</b></p>	<p>At the moment we are not in a position to be able to run clubs safely without affecting the safety the year group bubbles. We will keep this under review and communicate with you again.</p>

### Staff wearing face coverings in school

As a school, we keep ourselves abreast of government & union guidance in relation to the safety of pupils & staff during the COVID pandemic.

The guidance to schools regarding staff use of face coverings in schools has changed a little in the last week. It is still advised that for ease of communication & interaction with pupils, staff do not need to wear face coverings within their year group bubble classrooms and work spaces. But in corridors & communal spaces, where it can be harder to ensure full social distancing, staff will be wearing face visors. There may be occasions when staff may need to wear a mask but this will be the exception in general.

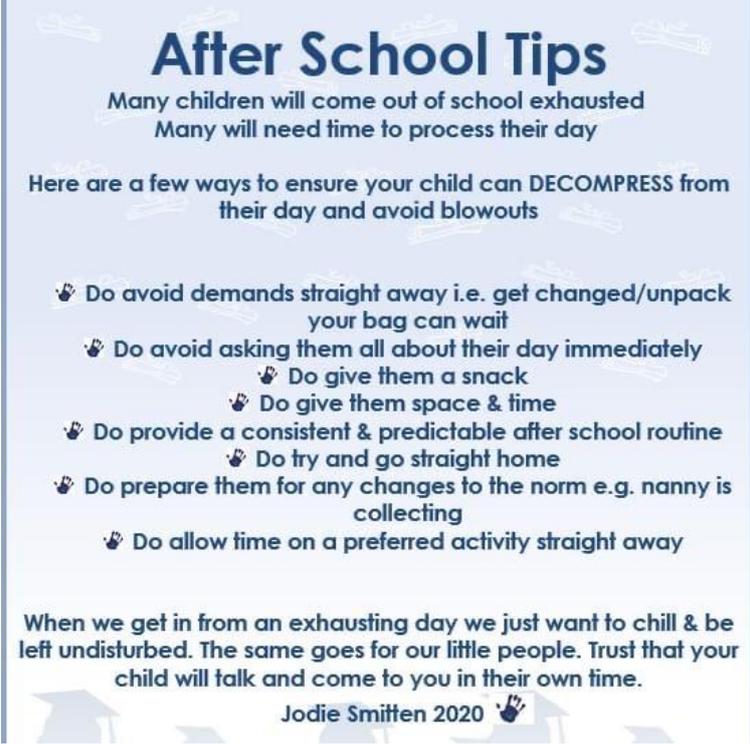
We just wanted to make you aware of this change in our arrangements lest your child mention it to you next week as it is a change to our previous arrangements.

Visitors coming into the school building, including parents, will also be asked to wear their mask or visor.

There is no advice at present that parents should wear face coverings when coming onto the school site but of course parents may do so if they wish. We will update parents if there is a need to change this arrangement.

We do hope that your children have had a good first week back in school. While we know that everything has not gone 100% smoothly, we are appreciating your feedback as it is allowing us to focus in getting it right. Many thanks to parents who sent in messages of thanks & appreciation this week. They mean a lot to us as it has been a long & tiring (but enjoyable).. week for staff. I am sure that your children, and possibly you, are feeling tired with the effort of getting into the new routine.

If you find that your child is feeling particularly tired or teary at the end of the day, then perhaps one of the ideas below might make things a little easier for you as a family.

A graphic titled "After School Tips" with a light blue background and a dark blue border. The title is in a large, bold, dark blue font. Below the title, there are two lines of text in a smaller, dark blue font. The main body of the graphic contains a list of tips, each preceded by a small hand icon. The tips are: "Do avoid demands straight away i.e. get changed/unpack your bag can wait", "Do avoid asking them all about their day immediately", "Do give them a snack", "Do give them space & time", "Do provide a consistent & predictable after school routine", "Do try and go straight home", "Do prepare them for any changes to the norm e.g. nanny is collecting", and "Do allow time on a preferred activity straight away". At the bottom of the graphic, there is a paragraph of text and a signature: "When we get in from an exhausting day we just want to chill & be left undisturbed. The same goes for our little people. Trust that your child will talk and come to you in their own time." followed by "Jodie Smitten 2020" and a hand icon. There are faint school-related icons like a graduation cap and a pencil in the background.

**After School Tips**  
Many children will come out of school exhausted  
Many will need time to process their day

Here are a few ways to ensure your child can DECOMPRESS from their day and avoid blowouts

- ✎ Do avoid demands straight away i.e. get changed/unpack your bag can wait
- ✎ Do avoid asking them all about their day immediately
  - ✎ Do give them a snack
  - ✎ Do give them space & time
- ✎ Do provide a consistent & predictable after school routine
  - ✎ Do try and go straight home
- ✎ Do prepare them for any changes to the norm e.g. nanny is collecting
  - ✎ Do allow time on a preferred activity straight away

When we get in from an exhausting day we just want to chill & be left undisturbed. The same goes for our little people. Trust that your child will talk and come to you in their own time.

Jodie Smitten 2020 ✎



Many of you may recognise the word “Gorsedh Kernow” but not fully understand what it means or represents. Gorsedh Kernow means “the bardic assembly of Cornwall” and it was established with the aim of celebrating and promoting Cornwall’s distinctive Celtic culture. Every year there is a Bardic Ceremony where new bards are announced. This year there was a much reduced and virtual ceremony last Saturday where 22 new & worthy bards were announced..... including our very own Mr Kitto!

Bards are individuals who are being recognised for championing both traditional and modern aspects of our Cornish culture. Anyone who knows Mr Kitto knows that he feels passionately about Cornwall and is our school champion in integrating the Curriculum Kernewek (Cornish) into our own school curriculum. He was honoured for promoting Cornwall through photography.

It was a very special day for Mr Kitto and he felt extremely honoured as there are only 500 Bards of Gorsedh Kernow across the world.

We count ourselves very lucky to now have an official Bard as part of our staff team. Keslowena (Congratulations), Mr Kitto.



## Comments from our ABB pupils on their first week back:

*"I was so excited about coming back to school" (Jude 4EF)*

*"I love the teachers in my class" (Eddie 4EF)*

*"I am glad to be back with all my friends" (Evie 4EF)*

*'I feel really happy to be back at school and it's great to be able to play with my friends at last!' (Ethan 3K)*

*"I am having the best week ever and having a wonderful time with my new teacher, playing with my friends and learning in school. I missed school!" (Ella 1G)*

*"I like being back because I can play with my friends and learn new things"*

*(Henry 3R)*

*"I have had a good week in year 4 because I love forest school. I also like literacy we have been writing a poem about flanimals. I liked seeing all my friends" (Max 4EF)*

*"I love school, studying is my favourite. I like making new friends!" (Summer 4M)*

## **FABB NEWS**

Welcome back everyone, we hope that you had a good summer.

We have decided to continue with FABB meetings online for the time being as we feel this is the most appropriate way forward and demonstrates good governance of the charity.

Our first meeting of the year will be the AGM. At this meeting we will look back over the last academic year and review the accounts for that year. We will also be re-electing our committee for the new academic year. All of the current post-holders are happy to continue but the roles are open to anyone so if you are interested in any of the roles, please email us at [pta.fabb@gmail.com](mailto:pta.fabb@gmail.com).

The AGM will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 23 September at 7pm.

If you would like to join this meeting please email us at [pta.fabb@gmail.com](mailto:pta.fabb@gmail.com) and we can send you the zoom link