



20 July 2020

40 Gwinear Lane  
Gwinear  
Hayle  
TR27 5LA  
01209 831303

Email: [secretary@gwinear.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@gwinear.cornwall.sch.uk)

Dear Parents/Carers

You may have heard that the Government has provisionally planned for all pupils in all year groups to return to school full time from the beginning of the Autumn term. Full details of their plans and advice to schools can be found on the GOV.UK website but we will highlight some of the key points within this letter.

The Governments rationale for children returning to school in September is best summarised by the following paragraphs from the document:

*Returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of school is detrimental for children's cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils can return to school sooner rather than later.*

*The risk to children themselves of becoming severely ill from coronavirus (COVID-19) is very low and there are negative health impacts of being out of school. We know that school is a vital point of contact for public health and safeguarding services that are critical to the wellbeing of children and families.*

*Lower academic achievement also translates into long-term economic costs due to having a less well-qualified workforce. This affects the standard of living that today's pupils will have over the course of their entire life. For many households, school closures have also affected their ability to work. As the economy begins to recover, we need to remove this barrier so parents and carers can return to work.*

*In relation to working in schools, whilst it is not possible to ensure a totally risk-free environment, the Office of National Statistics' analysis on coronavirus (COVID-19) related deaths linked to occupations suggests that staff in educational settings tend not to be at any greater risk from the disease than many other occupations. There is no evidence that children transmit the disease any more than adults.*

Much of the advice to schools on how to minimise Coronavirus risks is advisory and schools are reminded to develop their own risk assessments based upon their own unique circumstances. The following five measures as seen as essential:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable

The school has put into place several practices and resources to ensure that hand and respiratory hygiene is effective, such as regular monitored hand washing, hand wash stations and hand sanitiser throughout the school. School has also worked with our cleaning provider, Churchills, to ensure that cleaning specifically targets key risk areas such as handles and shared resources.

It is the fifth essential measure that is most open to interpretation by schools and most effected by a school's unique characteristics such as the layout of buildings, availability of toilets, etc, etc. In order to try and "reduce contact and maximise distancing ..... wherever possible" we are taking the following measures.

1. As far as possible classes will be kept in "bubbles" that do not have any contact with each other throughout the school day.
2. To this end drop off and pick up times will be staggered as shown in the table below. If you have children in more than one class they can be dropped off at the same time and will be able to go straight to classes as adults will be in all classes from 8.30am

	Drop off Times	Pick up Times
Class 1 – Poldhu	08.50am	3.00pm
Class 2 – Kynance	08.40am	3.10pm
Class 3 – Godrevy	08.40am	3.10pm
Class 4 - Rinsey	08.30am	3.00pm

3. When dropping off please observe social distancing. All children to be dropped off at the gate which will always be manned, from were children will make their own way to their classroom's individual entrance (Class 1 Elliott hut, Class 2 office, Class 3 verandah far left hand door, Class 4 verandah far right hand door). The exception to this will be children in Class 1 for the first couple of weeks if they need parents to accompany them for reassurance – throughout the term Mrs Tate or Mrs Barber will be available to escort children from the gate to the classroom.

When picking up an area of the playground will be marked out for you to assemble, maintain social distance and be away from traffic on the road. Please help us keep this effective by dispersing as quickly as possible.

4. At the time of writing for the first half of term there will be no clubs, including breakfast club because of the problem of mixing populations. We understand that for working families this can be inconvenient and if we feel that it is possible to run clubs we will change this policy as soon as possible. If advice allows and we feel it is safe to do so we may begin some clubs from the third week back and will inform you in the first week.

5. There will be no whole school activities/events such as assembly or collective lunch. Assemblies will continue to take place but will be viewed in classrooms via Seesaw and discussed there.

For the first half term all children will eat lunch in their classrooms. To make this possible free school meals and universal free school meals are still available but will have to be packed lunches which will be prepared in the kitchen and taken to each class. Whilst on the topic of food the KS1 free fruit and veg scheme which has previously run is supposed to be restarting but we are not yet sure when, so please send in an item of tuck for break time.

6. At lunchtimes and break times each class will have a designated area. There will be a rotation system on equipment such as the climbing frame to avoid shared contact with surfaces between populations.
7. Where possible staff will stay with one population/class and all staff will rigorously maintain social distancing during non-contact times in the staffroom. However, there are some roles and responsibilities that mean certain staff members e.g. learning mentor have to work across all classes.
8. It is not necessary for children to wear PPE and staff members will not wear PPE unless engaged in activities where social distancing cannot be maintained e.g. personal care.
9. Uniform will just be the school jumper; other clothes can be own clothes or school uniform but there will be no changing for PE so clothes must be appropriate for exercise and must include footwear that is suitable.
10. Teachers will use the outdoor space they have at their disposal as often as possible as it provides a far safer and often more stimulating environment to learn, with this in mind please ensure clothing is appropriate, including a warm layer and a water proof top.
11. Children will have their own set of key individual resources such as pencils, pens, whiteboards, etc. However, we believe it is impractical for there not to be some shared resources within classes and in these cases cross contamination will be minimised through hand washing before and after using the resources and regular cleaning of them.
12. In the case of library books: children will have timetabled access to the library with hand washing before/after visits, books will come home and when returned to school a quarantine period will be in place before they return to the library shelf.
13. With a class of over 30 children it will be impossible to maintain social distancing all the time. Classroom arrangements will be such that close face to face proximity is unlikely but rest assured we won't be sitting 5yr old children in rows facing the front.
14. Unfortunately, due to current advice in relation to travel the minibus will only be used for those children eligible for travel under the county scheme or due to

particular extenuating circumstances. To begin with we will also follow the current advice and there will be no overnight educational visits and we will limit the non-overnight domestic educational visits until we are sure it is safe to carry them out.

15. To begin with as much as we value parent involvement in the school we will not be holding events such as open afternoons and parent volunteers will not be used until we are sure that it is safe to do so.

All of these measures are based on current advice and if the last 3 months is anything to go by it could change by next week. As always, we want to provide the very best education for your child whilst maintaining their safety and well-being. The last 4 weeks with the rotation system has worked better than we even expected and for many children it has been noticeably beneficial for relieving anxieties. All staff will be extremely mindful of the social and emotional needs of your children come September and we will do our best to ensure that the environment is as safe as possible without being sterile and intimidating. If you have any queries regarding the opening in September please do not hesitate to contact us and we will keep you updated as soon as any further changes are announced. Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr L Gardiner  
Headteacher