

St Levan Primary School
where all children SHINE...for life

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Tuesday 26th May 2020

Dear parents and carers

I think we are only too aware at this difficult time what a special place St Levan is, and that we are all missing it very much. It is with this in mind that the Governing Body want to be sure that the return to school will be when we feel confident that we are able to provide all children with the balance between following the clear guidance, but also maintaining the nurturing, family friendly environment as before.

Thank you- Sharon Brolly CoG.

Your children's reports will arrive at home by the end of this week, posted on Tuesday. If you do not receive yours please let us know. Reports will also be emailed out later, after the paper copies are posted. If you feel you need to discuss your child's report with their class teacher please email secretary@st-levan.cornwall.sch.uk and this will be forwarded to the teachers, who will phone you when they are able to. Staff felt it was a real pleasure writing them and we very much hope you are all able to celebrate the overwhelming successes with your children. Thank you.

Whilst we are very aware people are divided on whether a return to school is safe at this time for children, staff and parents; 81% of the survey responses 25/31 stated very clearly that parents did not feel it was safe currently. A big Thank you to all who took part. It is always our ambition at St Levan School to continue to support all children and families whatever the circumstances.

The governors have taken into account the meticulously detailed statutory risk assessment which looks at the current physical constraints of the school - the small school building in particular to socially distance and maintain a safe learning environment for all - together with all staff circumstances regarding any pre-existing conditions /shielding vulnerable others etc. The evidence shows that at this time it is not safe for Reception or Year 1 pupils and staff to resume school - and apart from year 6 as detailed following- school will work towards a safe re-opening from September for all pupils. Common sense, Independent Sage Committee advice in addition to the extensive government guidelines for being Covid 19 safe have all played a part in this decision.

Below, we are sharing St Levan School's current plans for a safe return to school for September for all children. These plans may be amended as the Independent Sage Science Committee have stated that if the majority of schools do not reopen until September the need to socially distance may no longer be needed.

The September return to school will probably need to be sensibly staggered in phases starting with the oldest children and will be subject to the most up to date safety guidance as now. This will enable us to ensure the many strict requirements can be put into place as far as humanly possible.

We hope to have our six year 6 pupils in school for several weeks in July - for mornings from Monday 6th to Friday 17th 9am to 12.30pm – (subject to any changes re safety guidance at that time) - so that they can enjoy the end of their primary time at St Levan. Pupils will have fun and work towards a final celebration hopefully for parents in the playground, where social distancing will be possible, on Thursday 16th at 1130hrs.

Y6 Individual families are in the best place to decide what to do. Factors you must consider include: underlying health issues of your child or family members in the household; whether the structure of the school sessions will meet your aims and expectations for what is beneficial to your child; your own interpretation of the current risk to your child/family being in contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school.

Whilst we can put into place specific control measures and follow the latest government advice, we cannot guarantee anyone's safety from coming into contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school at this time.

Y6 Children will be encouraged to bring their own tuck and drink if the weeks can go ahead as planned.

Keeping Children and Staff Safe

We will follow the Government advice by implementing measures, applicable to our school's context to reduce the risk to children and staff to the best of our ability. Measures will include the following and more or possibly less may be needed for September...

- Children will be split into small groups of no more than 6.
- Desks will be arranged 2m apart – (we have yet to determine how we will be able to do this/what is actually possible... in the small school house with Choughs class and what will be new reception from September).
- Movement around the school will be limited to specific locations for each group
- Entry and Exit to the school will be staggered from September at either end of the school day so groups and adults do not mix – only 1 parent/family member to accompany your child when dropping off or collecting.
- Break and Lunchtimes will be staggered, with each group assigned an outdoor space to avoid mixing of groups
- Washing of hands on entry to and exit from school; hand sanitizer available in every group setting.
- Children will not share materials such as pencils, books ICT equipment.
- Everything will be cleaned thoroughly every day with a particular focus on toilets being cleaned after every use-if at all possible- to reduce possible cross contamination.
- Parents will be asked to socially distance outside the school gates and to remain 2m apart if queuing to enter.
- It is good practice for children to wear a different change of clothing each day to minimise risk of spreading infection.

A note on social distancing – Social distancing will be encouraged for all particularly KS2 pupils, however we will not be able to guarantee that social distancing will take place between all children at St Levan School from September, regardless of year group. Please consider this when deciding on whether to send your child or not to school for September. *(As stated this rule may possibly have changed by then).*

In the event of a child/adult showing symptoms of Covid-19:

Latest Government advice to schools states:

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to get tested in this scenario. *(As yet we have no details of how this will happen).*

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

As part of our Risk Assessment for St Levan School, Governors have agreed that if a child/member of staff is suspected of having COVID-19, ALL families will be informed that day (without disclosing the information of who the person/child is) so families can decide if they wish to take precautionary measures themselves. If a child/adult tests positive for COVID-19, families will be notified, the school will close for a deep clean and all members of staff/children who were in attendance at school will be encouraged to self-isolate as per the government advice above. St Levan School will only re-open when it is clear that staff have tested 'negative' and there is enough staff to safely reopen the school.

Drop off and Pick Up:

We will stagger the drop off and collection time to avoid contact between each group. Families will need to stick to this time schedule in order to be compliant with our risk assessments.

There will be a clearly marked route to follow on the playground-maintaining social distancing.

Lunch and breaktime:

Children will eat their lunch in each group's individually assigned classroom or outside space- weather dependent. Children will not have the opportunity to mix with other groups during this time. Children are encouraged to bring their own packed lunch and drink. Children are able to order school lunches, but these will be in the form of packed lunches, not hot school meals at this current time but this may change by September.

Curriculum

When the children first return to school, we will be teaching reading, writing, maths and the wider curriculum, but initially, our focus will be entirely on emotional health and wellbeing. Our priority will be to make the children feel safe and secure once back at school. We will no doubt have to teach the children new rules, routines and expectations in line with the changes we have made to the school day and physical environment.

When we feel the time is right, we will resume a curriculum as normal as possible, prioritising the re-capping of prior learning which has taken place prior to school closure. It is our intention for school learning and the continued home learning to be as similar as possible, whether children are continuing to learn at home or at school.

Unfortunately, there will be challenges in offering a well-rounded curriculum – for example children will be unable to work in close groups or partnerships and the variety of materials and resources we can use will be limited, following government advice, in order to prevent the possible risk of germs. It remains, however, our ultimate ambition to ensure returning to school is fun for children and our desire to keep nurturing their love of learning.

Many thanks as always and STAY SAFE- all at St Levan School...

**regular bulletins will continue so please do send in any images for inclusion. Thankyou.*