

St Buryan Academy Newsletter

Friday June 12th 2020



Key Dates

Monday 15th June -
Welcome back Year 1s

Monday 22nd June -
Welcome back Reception!

Wednesday 22nd July - End
of the school year

Believe, Achieve, Aspire

Buryan Bulletin

As I opened up the newsletter template to write this week's, two things really struck me. The first one being that this is the first proper newsletter since March (although we have been in lots of communication since) and secondly, that on Monday our Year 5 and 6s would have been going on their Isles of Scilly trip! It is such a shame that this year's trip has been cancelled due to obvious events out of everybody's hands, hopefully we can do something to replace this when the time is right in some way shape or form; the same applies for our other residential that were planned this year.

The longer the school 'closure' goes on for the more challenging it will be for children, and perhaps parents, to stay motivated with home learning. We all

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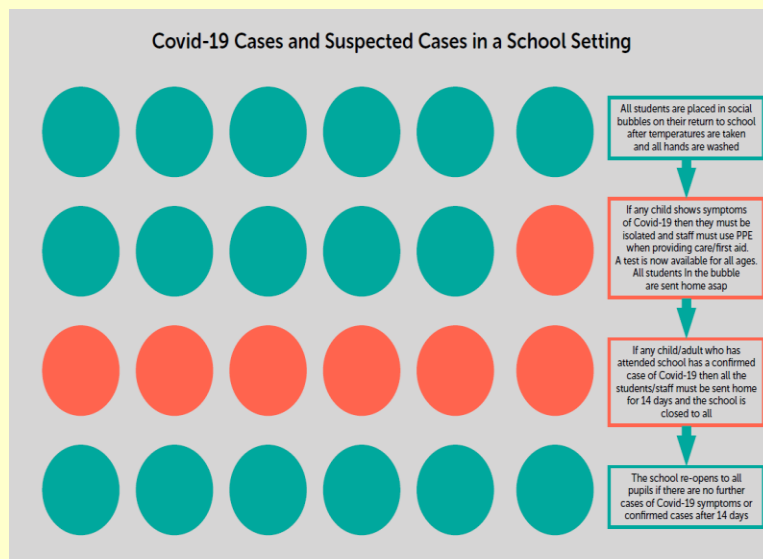
just wanted to thank everyone for their engagement with the home learning. We understand that it isn't always easy but it will help. Whether you access learning through Google Classrooms, through hard copies of work we may supply, through email or any other means, we really appreciate your efforts and it will certainly pay off.

From next week, as we open the school to year 1s, all teachers will be back teaching - even if it isn't with their usual class. We will continue to provide home learning for all year groups but please be mindful that teachers will not be able to respond as often or post the amount of work as they have been doing, this is because they may be doing online work, planning for a class in school, teaching classes in school and possibly doing home-learning themselves with their own children.

This week we welcomed our Year 6s back along with our Key Workers. There are moments in this job where you are engulfed with a sense of pride and happiness - this week has certainly been one of those moments. To have children back in school, to hear them laugh and support each other, to see teachers back in the classroom, children learning and thriving - it has been a really successful week in school and I want to thank the staff and children for their amazing attitudes and positivity.

This week I asked if anyone had any questions, so on the back I have answered some of the questions that have popped up several times. I will look to continue this, so if you have any questions then feel free to email them in!
Stay safe

Mr Josh McDonald



High temperature

New, continuous
cough

Loss of sense of taste
or smell

Please familiarise yourself with the protocol we will follow regarding COVID-19 symptoms in school. We ask that you make us aware of any symptoms developed at home. This is available on our website too.

ASSEMBLY THEME- INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE

From September we will be looking at an inspirational person each month in our assemblies, newsletters, lessons and we will have a display about them. So, we would like to know who you find inspirational and interesting. This could be a historical figure or someone from the present day.

Let us know who it is and why.

Email your inspirational person to us at

head@stburyanacademy.org

School Dinner Menu

w/c:15/06/20

Monday – Shepherd’s Pie with seasonal veg
Banana cake & custard

Tuesday - Jacket potatoes with a variety of fillings, cherry tomatoes, cucumber sticks and sliced peppers
Chocolate chip brownie

Wednesday - Homemade meatballs in a rich tomato sauce with pasta, homemade garlic bread
Apple crumble and custard

Thursday - Homemade chicken nuggets with homemade potato wedges, baked beans and sweetcorn
Strawberry cheesecake

Friday - Fish fingers, chips, spaghetti hoops & garden peas
Ice cream

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**Can teachers do live ‘Zoom’ lessons?**

Although I understand some schools have offered them, we will not be offering live video lessons for several reasons. The first one being that the classroom experience cannot be recreated through live video lessons. Teaching methods today aren’t effective over live lessons, they rely on interaction and collaboration - something that is very difficult to achieve over video. Unions have also stated that they are not desirable for primary children as the teacher-pupil interaction is not easily replicated. I also feel that it would put unnecessary pressure on parents as you are trying to juggle multiple jobs at the moment and you must find a way to facilitate your own commitments with that of home learning, providing live lessons may not meet the routines you have established and we would not want a feeling of guilt or pressure if you were unable to join a live lesson. There are also several safeguarding concerns, and as our DSO I made the decision that providing live lessons was not a necessary action at the moment. There would also be difficulty with access and arrangement - not all families have access to the internet (which is why we are providing a range of learning). We pride ourselves on all children accessing their learning - whether it be in the classroom or with present arrangements. I also have to consider teachers’ role and the vital part they have played. They have created home learning packs, online lessons and resources and been there to answer any questions you may have, they have still had to teach in school and they may have had to carried out home learning for their own children! They have also helped me plan in accordance with the Government guidelines - they have been working non-stop and I have to be mindful of their well-being and I felt that the added pressure of creating live lessons at this moment in time. That being said, if your child is struggling with a mathematical concept for example, please let your child’s teacher know as they may find the best solution is to provide a pre-recorded video that breaks the steps down. We are also carrying out Zoom meeting with children and parents, beginning with those year groups returning, which have gone very well so far.

Can teachers provide more feedback to completed work?

As a whole, the ‘marking’ of work in school is very different to what it used to be. We fully appreciate that large amounts of feedback would be helpful; however, as I stated above, I have to be mindful of everyone’s workload at this time. Union guidance states that: “teachers should not be expected to carry out routine marking or grading at this time.” Teachers have been responding to emails on a daily basis and will continue to do so as much as time allows as we welcome back more children.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will home learning work still be provided as the school opens to more children?

In short, yes. There may be slightly less work provided than before as teachers are teaching and planning more in school, however we aim to provide the depth of work we catered to before. It is essential that all children have access to their learning at this time, whether at home or at school.

Will the school be opening for Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 and if so, can my child come to see and walk around the school before we decide on whether they will attend or not?

Currently we are waiting on further guidance on this, although we have already explored how we may be able to facilitate some sort of wider opening. We will be in touch soon to see how much interest there is from parents and children in the above year groups returning.

As for coming to look at the school beforehand, as much as this sounds a good idea and I fully understand how this could reassure families; this is simply not allowed at the moment due to Government Guidance and our own risk assessment for re-opening. I do hope that the pictures I sent out in the week helped and next week I plan to do a video tour of the school. We have also found that the Zoom meetings we have had have been really helpful for parents and children and have given families the confidence to send their children back.

Personally, I simply would not have opened the school to Key Workers, Y6, Y1 and Reception children if I did not feel that we could all follow guidance, if I didn't feel the school was safe and if I didn't feel that we could provide a happy environment for everybody.

Will staff or children have to wear masks or any other form of PPE?

As per the guidance we have sent home, we are on-top of handwashing in school, each class has anti-bacterial gel that may be used with adult supervision and we have all the other advised guidance in place. Current advice is that neither children nor staff have to wear masks other than when a staff member administers first aid. However, if a member of staff or a child feels more confident and comfortable with wearing a mask then they are very welcome to do so.

What uniform must be worn?

Children may wear suitable clothing for learning, being outdoors, art lessons and the weather. They will have PE lessons but will not need to bring their PE kits - they should bring as little as possible to school.

Further information about uniform is on letters previously sent out.

I hope you have found these questions and answers helpful, if you have any that you'd like answered then send them to head@stburynacademy.org and if I am not able to answer them immediately I will include them next week.

