



BISHOP CORNISH CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

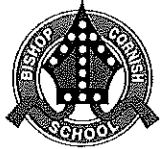
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Thursday 14th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6

Further to my letter of the 12th May I have now had an opportunity to study the guidance offered by the Government on the proposed re-opening of schools on the 1st June, initially for children in reception, year 1 and year 6.

Like you, I am sure, this has raised many questions about how we can follow the guidelines offered for school settings and keep the whole school community; children, their families, staff and their families, safe as the children start a phased return.

For our school this phased re-opening highlights many challenges, the most significant being ensuring social distancing, particularly for our youngest children, who will want to return to school where they can play with their friends and be taught, encouraged and comforted by their teachers. Our Year 6 children will want to return to school to see their friends, and Mr Hill, before they make the transition to secondary school but segregating the children into small groups means this cannot happen in the way we envisaged – this should be a time of excitement and joy and not anxiety. These are all the things I am pondering at the moment.

Our deepest desire is to see the children safe and happy, back in school and we don't want their absence to be for a day longer than necessary but we must ensure that the risks are as low as possible. The staff have been absolutely amazing and continue to be at work, supporting the children of key workers, but want to know we are doing the right thing for all of you and for their own families. I am formulating and reviewing the risk assessments needed on a daily basis and this will be discussed with a core group of governors early next week when we have had more time to reflect and possibly more information. The outcome of those discussions will be shared with parents.

A number of parents have already contacted us and said, in the nicest possible way, that although the school may be open for their child/ren they will chose to keep their child/ren at home. Firstly, can I reassure parents that, should they decide to keep their child/ren at home, they will receive my full support and any absence will be recorded as 'exceptional circumstances' and authorised. We understand that for those of you with children in other year groups, who are not able to return to school, this announcement offers little help.

The purpose of my letter is to gauge how many of you would need to, or be willing to send your child/ren back to school on 1st June. This will help us considerably with our planning. If you can email the school using enquiries@bishop-cornish.cornwall.sch.uk and let us know your thoughts, and any questions, we can include these in our thinking. We won't be able to respond directly to individual questions but rest assured they will all be addressed.

In my 24 years of headship I have never experienced such challenging times and I thank you all for your messages of support for the staff which have arrived in so many different formats – videos, cards, letters, emails, photographs! We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts but we still have some way to go before things will start to feel normal. Until that day comes you remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Every blessing on you and your families

Mrs Sue Green