



BISHOP CORNISH CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lynher Drive Saltash Cornwall PL12 4PA

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Wednesday 20th May

Dear Parents, carers and children

Partial opening for Year R, Year 1 and Year 6

Preparations are now underway in school to welcome those children who should be returning on the 1st June. There is much speculation in the press about this but as a school we have now made all preparations as best we can based on the government's guidance, the number of children whose parents have indicated that they will send their children back and the nature of our building and the size of the classrooms. My apologies for such a long letter but it is important that we let you know how school will be operating in the future weeks and months.

For those children who are staying at home we will continue to provide home learning packs but these will be uploaded on a Monday morning for the whole week and will be based on exactly the same learning activities the children in school are undertaking. The staff will not be able to maintain the same level of communication as they will be in class teaching but we hope to be able to explore different ways of sending messages to those classmates working from home.

For those children who will be returning things will feel a little different and look a little different. By the end of this week, the staff will have uploaded short videos so they can see what their classrooms look like now and have a chance to think about some of the things that they will need to do differently. The videos will be available this Friday on the school website under the Information tab, Returning to school.

Thank you to those parents who sent in questions about what would happen upon a partial reopening, we have considered all your questions and addressed them in our risk assessments. We have followed the guidance from the government and tried to ensure we have looked at all possible eventualities.

There are some important things that we are asking of parents as we move forward together and welcome some children back to school. The first important thing is if your child is unwell in any way please do not send them to school. You may like to take their temperature each morning as we do not have the facilities or time to check every child on arrival and we are not required by the government to do this – but this is something parents could do? If a child becomes unwell in school they will be isolated from the rest of their group until a parent arrives to collect them. Children and staff displaying symptoms of COVID19 will be able to be tested but we cannot ask for children to be tested before they are sent to school.

We will be staggering the start and finish times for the children. We ask that only one adult accompanies your child into the carpark where they will be greeted by a member of staff and escorted to their assigned entrance.

Start times are as follows:

Year 6 – arrival at 8.40am

Key worker children (Years 2, 3, 4 and 5) – arrival at 8.45am

Year 1 – arrival at 8.50am

Reception – arrival at 9.00am

Children who are attending Breakfast Club will be escorted over to school by staff.

At the end of the day the children will be brought out to the carpark or play area by staff at the following times to be collected by one adult:

Reception – depart at 3.00pm

Year 1 – depart at 3.10pm

Key worker children (Years 2, 3, 4 and 5) – depart at 3.20pm

Year 6 – depart at 3.30pm

Children who are attending afterschool club will be escorted into the Education Centre through the school at 3.30pm.

Whilst in the carpark at the start and the end of the day we ask parents to observe social distancing and use the space accordingly.

Once in school the children will be taught in small groups, in separate classrooms, where they are able to socially distance and, because the classes are being split in two, they will be taught by another teacher for some of the time. Mr Hill will work with Mrs Williams, Mrs Oakes will work with Mrs Clelland and Miss Edlin with Mrs Berry. The children will be split into groups with the teachers alternating each week so the children are able to work with their own teacher. We know how important this is to them. Once in that group the children will not be able to mix with other children. We know this will be hard but it is vital at this current time. Mrs Jones, Mrs Nile and Mrs Edwards will be working in their classrooms with the children of key workers.

Other support staff will not be in the room but will assist by supervision at playtime and lunchtime and helping clean the rooms when the children are at break. Playtimes and lunchtimes will be staggered with some children in the hall and others in their classroom. We will use the outdoor learning environment as much as possible!

Throughout the day the children will be required to wash their hands using soap and water as hand sanitiser is not recommended for children in the government guidance. Desks etc will be regularly disinfected and the children will not be able to share equipment unless it has been cleaned first. This is particularly important for the younger children. There will be limits to the number of children who can be in the toilets at any one time and we will adopt a one-way system through the school as much as possible so that children are not passing in corridors. We will need to try out all of these measures over the first few days and may need to adapt things based on how the children, staff and wider school community adapt to these new routines.

The children will need to wear their school uniform on return (Yr 6 may need to return in winter uniform, we don't expect parents to purchase new summer uniform) and bring their PE kit so we can get them outside to exercise. They will also be able to book a school meal (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6).



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For the children in Reception and Year 1 they will be able to have a Universal Free School Meal. Please can all children bring in a named water bottle.

As part of our supervision we will be constantly reminding children to socially distance but for many children, particularly the youngest, this will be hard. However, please be assured that, if your child is upset or hurt in any way, they will receive all the care and attention you would expect from us.

For the Year 6 children we know there are many highlights of the final term in primary school; the Leavers' Service, the BBQ, the Business Project to name but a few. Whilst some of these may not be possible we hope that, in the future, we will be able to reunite the children, the class of 2020, so they can reminisce and celebrate their achievements. They are a very special class.

We are sure that the excitement of being back in school and a move to some sort of normality will help the children but we will also be very mindful of any anxieties that they may have and be there to talk to them and support them.

Thank you so much for all your support over the last 8 weeks – we know that many of you have faced incredible challenges and we have held you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Every blessing

Sue Green