



# DEVORAN NEWS

## Message from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers

We continue to be amazed by the children who are showing such great resilience in coming to school and we have been really fortunate with the weather to make the most of our wonderful grounds; the children have been really enjoyed being outside in different areas at breaktimes and lunchtimes and it has been really lovely to see lots of learning also taking place outside in all year groups.

Thank you for your continued support with the staggered drop off and egress; it is really helping us to keep you safe.

The teachers are preparing the 'Meet the Teacher' PowerPoints and you will receive links to these next week. We are all very aware that the hardest part of our return has been the lack of contact between yourselves and your child's class teacher; we hope that the information in the meet the teacher resource will at least be a start to building up this relationship between parents and teaching staff.

This week we have also finalised our contingency plan; shortly you will receive information about how the learning will continue at home should your child become ill / your household needs to self-isolate etc.

I appreciate that there has been a lot of information that we have sent out to you recently and I would like to thank you all for your positive feedback and continued support.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Miss Lock

### Covid-19

We are aware that recently there have been some problems with accessing COVID-19 tests. This is not an issue unique to Cornwall and is a result of national laboratory capacity being stretched and having to prioritise analysing tests from areas with a higher prevalence of COVID-19 cases.

In light of this, we have been working to secure temporary access to urgent testing when attempts via 119 and online remain unsuccessful.

It is important now more than ever that **only individuals who have at least one of the 3 main symptoms of COVID-19 that should undergo testing**. These are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You can find out more here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>.

It is not necessary or of benefit for household members and identified contacts to undergo testing if they do not have symptoms, unless they are specifically asked to do so by a public health or healthcare professional.

Parents/carers of children, older students, and staff members should continue to try and access testing via the normal channels, which are either dialling 119 or by booking online at [www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test](http://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test).

If parents/carers remain unable to book a test, please contact Miss Lock; on Friday afternoon, schools were given access to an 'urgent testing' email that we can share with you if the above channels have not resulted in a test being sought.

Parents should be reminded not to contact their GP if their child has symptoms of COVID-19, and to follow the national testing and isolation guidance. Parents should however seek advice from their GP or from 111 if they are concerned about their child's health.

### Nasal Flu Vaccination

A reminder that the school nurse is coming into Devoran School to administer the nasal flu vaccination on Thursday 17 September. You will need to complete the online consent form by Tuesday 15 September. You can find all the information about how to complete this in the letter that is attached to the newsletter email.

### Staff news

We have some bitter-sweet news to share with you all: We are excited (and sad) to announce that Miss Slattery is starting a university course in a few weeks time. Sadly, this does mean that she will be leaving the Devoran team. Miss Slattery will be reducing her days in Year One to three days a week up until the half term to help smooth the transition with her replacement (we are currently recruiting for this position). Miss Slattery has been a great member of the team and she will be sorely missed; we wish her all the luck with her new adventure.



### Nut and seed free school

Please ensure that your child's snack and packed lunch do not contain any products that contain nuts or seeds. This includes pine nuts (please check pesto and hummus).



We have children with serious allergies and we will take products away and replace with an alternative if products containing nuts and seeds are found.

### Music lessons

Music lessons will start from Monday 21 September. We are currently offering peripatetic tuition in the following: guitar, violin and woodwind. If your child is interested in taking up an instrument, please contact the Cornwall Music Service Trust.

<https://www.cornwallmusicservicetrust.org/>

Rocksteady will also commence on Monday 21 September. If you have a child in Year One - Year Six who would like to be in a band, please register your interest here:

<https://booking.rocksteadymusicschool.com/>

### Medical information

Please remember to bring in your child's inhaler and any other medicines your child needs. You will need to complete a medicine form if your child requires any antibiotics / medicines to be administered during the day.



Healthy  
Schools

## Healthy School – snack time!



To enable the school to retain its Healthy School's Status, and also to establish the school as a 'Sugar Smart' school, last year we implemented a Whole School Food Policy based upon the principles of healthy eating. This policy was written in line with the Cornwall Council Policy for Healthy Schools and was produced after consultation with key stakeholders – including parents and children and takes into consideration severe food allergies children have within the school. The policy can be found here: <http://www.devoran.cornwall.sch.uk/web/policies/301607>

We would be extremely grateful if you could help your child bring appropriate snacks and lunches into school each day which follow the guidelines set out in the policy. In addition to this, we also kindly ask you to **not celebrate birthdays with sweets and cakes** brought into school, but instead, if your child wishes to purchase or share something with the class, perhaps a small book for the class library would be perfect as this could be enjoyed by everyone. We will still celebrate birthdays with the children as we understand how important each milestone is, just without the cake in school!

If you have any questions about the Whole School Food Policy, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

## Transition information 2021

### September 2021 – Transition to Reception and Year 7

Whilst it feels somewhat odd talking about children moving on when you have only just arrived back, the online application system is now open and detailed information about the admissions process is available online at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) or on request from the School Admissions Team. More information can also be found on the next few pages.

### Year Six information – Redruth School

The transition section of the Redruth School website has gone live with a full explanation of how they will support transition this year. In line with current restrictions, they have replaced much of the in-school experiences with virtual activities. Parents will need to sign up for their child to take part.

You will find all the information on the transition 2020-2021 tab on the front page of our website. <https://www.redruth.cornwall.sch.uk/1178/virtual-transition-2020-2021>



Together   
for Families

## Do you have a child born **between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017?**

If so, you will need to apply for a place in a reception class in September 2021 for that child by the deadline of **15 January 2021**.

**Please note:** you will need to apply even if your child attends a school's nursery or pre-school class. If a school is oversubscribed the fact that a child attends a school's nursery or pre-school, or a local nursery or pre-school, does not automatically guarantee a place at that school. The school's oversubscription criteria will be used to allocate places. Visit our website or contact us for more information.

Visit [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions) for more information and to access the online application system

### **Need help with your application?**

Contact the Family Information Service on **0800 587 8191**

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)

The  
deadline for  
applications is  
**15 January  
2021**





Together   
for Families

The  
deadline for  
applications is  
**31 October**  
2020

# Transfer to secondary school

## September 2021

Applying for a place in year seven at a secondary school

### Information and guidance

Website and application form: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions)

Email: [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)

Post: **School Admissions Team, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY**

Telephone: **0300 1234 101**

### Need help with your application?

Contact the Family Information Service on **0800 587 8191**

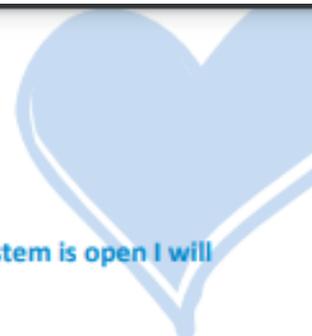


[www.cornwall.gov.uk](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk)



# School Admissions

## Mythbuster



**Myth: If I get my application in as soon as I can after the application system is open I will have more chance of getting a place.**

**Incorrect:**

- All applications received by the deadline will be considered equally in the allocation process, so there is no advantage in applying early – but there would be a disadvantage in applying after the deadline as it is possible that some schools will already be full.

**Myth: It will not matter too much if I miss the application deadline.**

**Incorrect:**

- Applications submitted after the deadline will not be processed until after all those submitted on time. There will be some delay before a place can be allocated and it is possible that some schools will already be full.

**Myth: If I only put one school preference my child will be more likely to get a place there/the Council will have to offer my child a place there.**

**Incorrect:**

- Listing only one preference means that, if Cornwall Council cannot allocate a place at the school because you do not have enough priority according to the school's oversubscription criteria, you will be allocated the nearest school with a space available after all other parents' preferences have been taken into account. If you have not listed any other preferences, you might be allocated a school some distance away as other parents who did express additional preferences will take priority for the nearer schools. This is why Cornwall Council encourages parents to name more than one preference and **strongly recommends** listing your nearest school or schools as one of those preferences.

**Myth: If I don't get a place at my preferred school, I will get a place at my nearest school anyway.**

**Incorrect:**

- If Cornwall Council cannot allocate a place at your preferred school because you do not have enough priority according to the school's oversubscription criteria, you will be allocated the nearest school with a space available after all other parents' preferences have been taken into account. If you have not listed any other preferences, you could be allocated a school some distance away from your home address as other parents who did express additional preferences will take priority for the nearer schools, even if those schools are designated or nearer to you.

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**Myth: Having my child in the nursery/pre-school at my preferred school means I do not need to apply/I get more priority for a place in reception.**

**Incorrect:**

- All reception places must be applied for, regardless of whether or not a child is attending the attached nursery/pre-school. Schools are able to offer some priority to children with specific circumstances that are attending an attached nursery/pre-school in their oversubscription criteria but this does not guarantee a place if there are other children who rank higher in the criteria.

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**Myth: One of my children already goes to the school so my other child will automatically get a place.**

**Incorrect:**

- Each child's school place must be applied for and there is no automatic allocation based on having a sibling at the same school. This depends on the individual school's oversubscription criteria and whilst many schools do offer some priority to siblings in their oversubscription criteria this may come after children living in the designated area, or vice versa. Your child having a sibling in the school does not guarantee a place if there are other children who rank higher in the criteria. If your child does have a sibling attending the school already, make sure you indicate this on your application form.

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**Myth: Living near to a school gives you greater priority for a place.**

**Incorrect:**

- Many schools do offer some priority based on designated area or distance from the school in their oversubscription criteria but this does not guarantee a place if there are other children who rank higher in the criteria. Just because someone living near to you was allocated a place last year, does not mean that you will also secure a place there.

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**Myth: One of my children receives transport free of charge, so my other child will also receive transport free of charge to that school automatically.**

**Incorrect:**

- Transport is allocated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the Council's Home to School Transport Policy so there is no guarantee of transport free of charge to an additional child in a household. If one of your children receives transport to a school because it was the nearest one with a place available, other children may not be entitled if a place would have been available for them at a nearer school. We strongly recommend that you enquire about transport entitlement before applying for a school place if you are in any doubt.

## Contact us

Email: [schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk)

Call: **0300 1234 101**