









St Mary's C of E School, Truro - Ways we have supported our school community throughout the Covid19 Pandemic

Issues faced by the school community	What did we do?	What was the impact of this?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families felt isolated and disconnected from usual support at school • Families affected by poor mental health and anxiety • Families unable to access their usual community worship groups • Families concerned about increased screen time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing Calendars (actionforhappiness.org) • Continued to share school values on FB page • Headteacher and teachers made videos to keep in touch with children (stories, science experiments) • Developed a virtual prayer space on school website (featured photographs of peaceful Cornwall taken by staff) • We shared a post from 'Our Kingdom Come' which featured the Archbishop of Canterbury and Gemma from CBeebies demonstrating a new digital family prayer map resource. • Weekly newsletter - parents asked how they would like this to look. • Ideas for how to support mental health in the outdoors, written by our Forest School Leader • Shared examples of real-life courageous advocates (e.g. Joe Wicks donating funds raised to the NHS) • E-Safety updates and shared a family agreement • Shared examples of educational online learning opportunities (BBC Bitesize, Oak National Academy) • Cornwall School Games - we supported this as a school. • Virtual camp- Y4 and Y5 	<p>Questionnaires showed that parents engaged with:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;">  <p>The screenshot shows the header of the newsletter with the school logo and a quote: "Don't let anyone keep down on you because you are young. Be an example to all believers, in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith and your purity." (1 Timothy 4:12). Below the header is a photo of a woman and a child, and several paragraphs of text.</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%;"> <p>When surveyed, 73% of parents still wanted the weekly newsletter to continue throughout school closures.</p> </div> </div>  <p>A photograph showing several baskets filled with various baked goods like bread, rolls, and scones, some with tags attached.</p> <p>One of our older pupils baked goodies for a tea party and donated them to charity for VE Day. A Y6 child shared how she had planted seeds in her garden to encourage bee friendly flowers.</p> <p>Before school closed, children wrote letters to the local care homes where we are regular visitors (for singing at Christmas, etc.). Children were saddened that the residents could no longer receive visitors, so wrote letters to let them know they were in their thoughts. Mrs Spencer shared one with her Grandad and made a video to show the children. We received feedback from the manager and personal letter from a resident.</p>  <p>A photograph showing a young woman sitting on the floor and reading a letter to an elderly man sitting in a large armchair. They are both looking at the letter together.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children becoming disengaged with learning • Parents working full time from home meant that time to deliver home learning was limited • Lack of parental confidence in delivering learning • Parents of SEN children were unsure of how to maintain progress towards EHCP targets • Children concerned that they were missing their residential trips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular contact with children via messages and videos • Shared videos of new classroom layouts • Set up Seesaw accounts for new starters to ensure some virtual transition • Shared 'All about Me' sheets with new classes to learn about their new teacher • Responded regularly with voice notes for children to hear our voices. • Staff from classes where residential had to be cancelled attended virtual camps with their classes online. 	<p>From our parental questionnaire:</p> <div data-bbox="1077 148 1440 635" style="background-color: #4a86e8; color: white; padding: 10px;"> <p>Great to catch some of you on Houseparty at your virtual camp 😍 Love your setups and entertainment!</p> <p>We did some den building this afternoon so that we could share the experience with you.</p> <p>Heading off to put my own little camper to bed now, but I hope you have a brilliant evening 😊</p> <p>Take care and see you soon,</p> <p>Mrs Read 🍌</p> </div>  <p>‘The school has been amazing, keeping in regular contact and offering support with my child’s home learning. The use of the Seesaw app has been great as my child is able to feel he still has interaction with his class teacher’</p>
<p>Returning some children back to school in June (Years R, 1 and 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental confidence very low • Children anxious about coming back 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videos for children to see what a socially distanced classroom looked like • Introduction videos from new teachers • Exciting learning opportunities • Detailed letter to explain routines and expectations 	<p>‘I feel very confident that the children will be happy to see each other and their teachers being with their friends and in a learning environment where they are focussed and being taught by professionals is key’</p> <div data-bbox="1077 970 1400 1417" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <p>Thanks Mrs read I had a really fun day at school and it was really nice seeing everyone hopefully tomorrow i will have a more tidy desk looking forward to tomorrow lots of love</p> <p>♥ Mrs Read</p> <p>💬 Mrs Read 🍷 Thanks for this lovely message, too. I loved seeing you and all of your classmates 😊 You did a great job with tidying your desk 😊 See you in the morning! 🌈</p> </div> <p>‘Thank you for the letter it has answered all my questions...thank you for all your support’</p> <p>‘A big thank you to everyone who is working so hard to make sure our kids are safe when they return’</p>

<p>Vulnerable family support -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of families unemployed. • Increasing families experiencing domestic abuse. • Increase in families unable to support children with challenging behaviour or complex SEN needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food packages • Hard copies of work for those without web connections • Virtual communication with SEN • Vulnerable children returned to school (other than those identified on the governments list). • Continued to liaise with agencies for support (Educational Psychology, Education Welfare) • Virtual transition meetings held for new YR children with complex SEN needs. • TIS program offered to children who have experienced trauma. • Wellbeing day held on the first day back. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School were able to safeguard venerable children. • Strengthened relationship between school and parents. • Children who have experienced trauma are now being supported by trained practitioners. • Parents felt confident to support their child's needs at home during lockdown.
<p>Staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff anxious about coming back, particularly staff who were shielding. • Staff with families suffering from critical illness • Staff feeling disconnected from the workplace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three times a week a staff briefing was held to keep everyone in touch • Designed the rota around needs of staff and their families • All staff had a break during May Half term • Staff offered opportunities for personal meetings with leadership to discuss any concerns following lockdown. • Governors checking in on the wellbeing of staff and headteacher throughout • Shielding staff had opportunities to come into the school when the children were not in. • Staff buddy system from staff members who are anxious. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff returned to school. • Confidence levels high- no one has taken up the supervision sessions offered, but many appreciated the offer (staff have consistently used supervision in previous years). • All staff regularly attending virtual staff briefings. • All staff engaged with inset training and home learning opportunities. <p>A 'thank you' from a staff member which quotes - 'You put the SAINT in St Mary's'</p>  <p>Regarding rotas, a staff member said in an email to the head: 'Lovely to be back. I must admit I was a bit worried about today, but I needn't have been - it was really good.'</p>

<p>Wellbeing day for whole school return</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest School Sessions for classes who had not been in school since March • Meet and Greet from previous teacher • Wellbeing themed activities during lessons • Introduction of Jigsaw PSHE scheme for whole school • Continued virtual assemblies to bring the whole school together. We share our values and Bible stories. 	<p>98.7% attendance on first day back</p> <p>Children have returned to school confidently returned to school</p> <p>Children felt comfortable to confide in previous teachers about issues raised in lockdown (bereavements or family breakdowns). As a result of this, our Trauma Informed Practitioners have begun planning intervention sessions.</p>   <p>Virtual Assemblies in Classrooms</p>  <p>Gratitude work by Y5 on return to school</p>
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Additional Support from our governors:

St Mary's C of E Truro
July 22 -

During this unprecedented time, the Governors at St Mary's have been supporting all the work that our amazing staff have been doing. We have been holding our regular meetings via Microsoft Teams to ensure that we are up-to-date with all policies, procedures and risk assessments that the Senior Leadership Team have been putting in place. We have been busy working alongside Mrs Bray to set the budget for next academic year to provide the best value for our pupils. One of the most important things has been to check that both pupils and staff are safe during the Covid-19 crisis. We would like to wish all of our families and staff a lovely summer break. Stay safe and we will be back working alongside you in September.



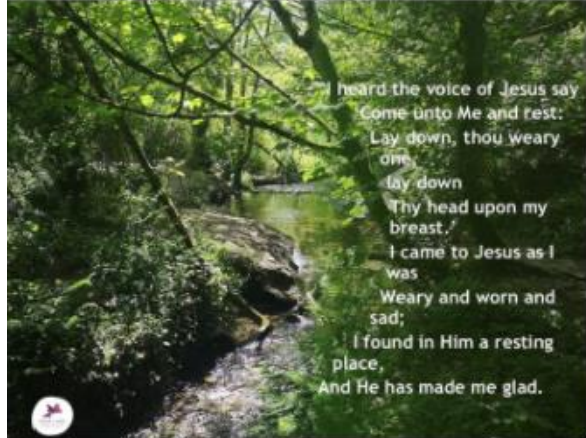
More from parents:

‘We can’t thank you enough for all your hard work in making it possible for the Y6s to come back. It’s been invaluable for them to ‘finish’ their primary years with some brilliant memories.’

More from our Facebook Page:

St Mary's C of E Truro
July 8 -

Uplifting words from Truro Diocese for those of us who may be feeling weary



I heard the voice of Jesus say
Come unto Me and rest:
Lay down, thou weary one,
lay down
Thy head upon my breast.
I came to Jesus as I was
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
And He has made me glad.

Truro Diocese
July 6 -

Prayerful words for all who are weary.
Bishop Philip and his wife Ruth sang this during their online service this Sunday. The Hymn was written by Horatius Bona... See More