



ST. DAY & CARHARRACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Dear Year 6 Parents

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well after an amazing week of sunshine. Thank you to all of you for your expression of interest – this has helped us to plan and re-structure the school building for the **potential return of Year 6 children on June 15th**. All decisions have been thoroughly discussed and unanimously agreed with the Governing Body, using all available information at the time. Please note the contents of this letter could change with the emergence of new health and safety information and/or changes in staffing. You will be informed of all changes. **Government guidance, which has informed this letter, can be found at the end.**

Please be aware that the school office building will remain closed during this period, as we have no skilled staff available to run it. **You are able to contact Hayley Uren by email during office hours**, as she remains available remotely.

Do continue to email the school office as the most efficient method - rather than phoning.

Returning safely to school

Please find attached a lengthy and thorough risk assessment in line with government guidance - to enable you to make an informed choice regarding the return of your child to school. I apologise in advance but this letter will also be lengthy in order to inform you of all the changes we have made to the school in light of government guidance we need to follow.

Provision for Key Worker and Vulnerable children across year groups will continue as before.

I would like to state at the out-set, that I will support the needs and wishes of every individual family – we are able to offer you a degree of flexibility with all decisions regarding a return to school being in your hands. You will be able to change your mind. For many this is a difficult decision and I want to reassure you that I understand this.

We are still aiming for a provisional opening for Yr 6 children only - on Monday June 15th providing the 'R rate' does not increase further in Cornwall. We have a duty of care to our school and wider community.

The 4 options available to you include:

1. Keep your child at home and continue to access home learning
2. Return to school on a regular basis Monday – Thursday (or agree a part-time timetable in advance – this may be a supportive measure for those who may find this transition challenging)
3. Attend any of our **'special days'** only (more information to follow for dates in July)
4. Return your child with the option of withdrawing at any point



To celebrate the end of Year 6, we are planning four **special days** to support with closure and transition. You may decide this option is the best one for you and your child as it will give everyone the opportunity to say goodbye before the start of new adventures ahead. Our hope is to make sure every child feels special in some way.

Keeping Children and Staff Safe

We will follow the Government advice by implementing measures, applicable to our school's context to reduce the risk to children and staff to the best of our ability. Measures will include the following and more may be needed when reviewed daily:

- Children will be split into small groups ('bubbles') of no more than 10. Children have to remain in their set group all day.
- Each group will be assigned one teacher and one teaching assistant. There is no guarantee children will be with all of their friends or usual class adults.
- Desks will be arranged 2m apart.
- Movement around the school will be limited to specific locations for each group and we will operate a one-way system where possible.
- If more children return to school, Entry and Exit to the school will be staggered at either end of the school day so groups and adults do not mix – **only one parent/family member may accompany your child when dropping off or collecting.**
- Break and Lunchtimes will be staggered, with each group assigned an outdoor space to avoid mixing of groups
- Washing of hands on entry to and exit from school. Regular handwashing sessions will be supported throughout the day and children will be reminded to follow hygiene guidance when sneezing/coughing/eating.
- Children will not share materials such as pencils, books, rulers, PE equipment
- *Parents are asked not to gather outside the school gates and to remain 2m apart if queuing to enter the one-way system – please use the green 'spots'.
- Provision may be altered depending on the availability of staff and increase in pupil numbers.

Behaviour Expectations - this additional guidance will be rigorously followed

As with any day in school, all children are expected to, or where needed supported to, adhere to the school's 'Positive Behaviour Management' policy. This was constructed with relationships between a child/children and a key adult at the heart of it - it is on the school website for you to access. Whilst mentally and emotionally, those relationships and the ethos that underpins our policy will be key between children and adults upon a return to school, **the physical safety of the children and staff must prevail at this time.** It is imperative that those children returning to school understand the **need to follow the Golden Rules**, now more than ever.

We recognise changes to the logistics of the school day and environment of the school building will be a new experience for all of us - the children especially, but we ask for your support in ensuring your child to the best of their ability understands why these changes have been implemented and the importance of adhering to social distancing measures. **The key message - without causing worry or anxiousness - is about ensuring everybody's safety.** Please refer to our 'Mental Health and Well-being' page on the website. If you feel your child will need additional support with managing the changes, it is vital you contact Laura Vallance or myself in order to talk this through with us prior to your child returning to school.

For children who deliberately choose not to follow the Golden Rules resulting in the new Risk Assessment measures/changes becoming compromised, you will be called to collect your child from school immediately. Whilst staff will undertake reasonable endeavours to meet the social, emotional and behavioural needs of pupils, whilst themselves adhering to the measures outlined in

the Risk Assessment, acts of non-compliance by children, or behaviours that put others (children and/or staff) at risk will be taken extremely seriously. Biting, spitting, hitting, pushing, kicking or refusal to follow adult instruction will result in a phone call home and you will be asked to collect your child immediately – we do not have additional staff to keep your child in school. Following a single incident, we will need to consider if school is the right environment for your child's success and well-being at this time. You need to ensure that we are able to get hold of you or one of your three emergency contacts. **The safety of all at this time has to be the priority and we will be rigorous in following this guidance.**

We very much appreciate that this is a challenging time for everyone. Now more than ever, we are **asking for your support** to ensure our Golden Rules are respected and followed.

A reminder of the Golden Rules:

1. We are gentle
2. We are kind and helpful
3. We listen
4. We are honest
5. We work hard
6. We look after property

School Uniform

We are relaxing school uniform slightly to support you with daily washing and outdoor learning - it is good practice to wear clean clothing each day to minimise the spread of infection. Children will be expected to wear a white polo shirt but can wear comfortable bottoms or sportswear suitable for outdoor learning. This will eliminate the need to change in school. Sensible footwear such as trainers must be worn – no open toe shoes or flip-flops.

Social Distancing and Hygiene

Social distancing will be encouraged for Year 6 with verbal reminders, use of posters and visible tape on the floor. **We will not be able to guarantee that social distancing will take place between children.** Please consider this when deciding on whether to send your child or not to school. Hygiene will be discussed throughout the day.

Drop off and Pick Up:

As numbers increase, we will need to stagger the drop off and collection time to avoid contact between each group. Families will need to stick to this time schedule in order to be compliant with our risk assessment. Please do not drop your child off before 9.00am or allow your child to arrive earlier – they will not be supervised. There will be a clearly marked one-way route of 'green spots' to briefly wait on and follow to maintain social distancing.

Lunch and break time:

Children will eat their lunch in each group's individually assigned classroom or outside space- weather dependent. Handwashing and cleaning of tables will be completed beforehand. Children will not have the opportunity to mix with other groups during this time. Children must bring their own disposable packed lunch (**no lunchboxes**) and water bottle – in a small rucksack, which will be kept at their desk (not on pegs).

Children are not currently able to order school lunches, as we have decided to keep our kitchen closed in the first instance - this may change in July depending on demand and safety.

Curriculum

The timetable will feel different so we can build in regular outdoor and handwashing breaks. When the children first return to school, we will be teaching reading, writing, maths and the wider curriculum, but initially, our focus will be entirely on emotional health and wellbeing. Our priority will be to make the children feel safe, secure, and able to discuss their feelings in relation to lockdown and to prepare for secondary school. We will no doubt have to teach the children new rules, routines and expectations in line with the changes we have made to the school day and physical environment.

It is our intention for school learning and the continued home learning to be as similar as possible so no child is left behind, whether they are continuing to learn at home or at school.

Unfortunately, there will be challenges in offering a well-rounded curriculum – for example, children will be unable to work in close groups or partnerships and the variety of materials and resources we can use will be limited, following government advice, in order to prevent the possible risk of germs. It remains; however, our ultimate ambition to ensure returning to school is fun for children and our desire to keep nurturing their love of learning.

As a school, we will:

- Continue to monitor the situation daily.
- Continue to be robust in our risk assessments and application of rules to ensure maximum safety for school children and staff.
- Continue to take note of the latest scientific advice
- Monitor the local condition including the R-value for our area
- See how the new Test and Trace system is working in our local area

The Department for Education confirmed that 1st June was an 'aspiration' and therefore the responsibility for taking the decision about when it is safe to increase pupil numbers rests with our Governing Board. **The provisional opening date of Monday June 15th will be confirmed on Thursday 11th.** As always, our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of our children and staff. We believe that this has been central to all the decisions that we have made.

Although our Year 6 children will be learning in two different settings, home and school, we want to reassure you we consider every family part of one community and we will continue to support you all. If your situation changes, please inform the school office by email. The message to reduce the risk of COVID-19 remains the same, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that it is really important that you continue to promote hand washing with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds.

Thank you for all that you are doing during this challenging time. I welcome contact from families who have any questions. I am happy to talk on the phone or respond to any emails.

Many thanks as always

Susannah Storey, Headteacher and The Governing Body

Research:

'The Independent SAGE Report 2 - Should Schools Reopen? Interim Findings and Concerns'

Published on May 22, 2020

As a Governing Body, we have stringently followed all Government updates and guidelines and carefully assessed all of the information made available to us- so we can constantly reassess and adapt our plans if necessary. 'The Independent SAGE Report 2 - Should Schools Reopen? Interim Findings and Concerns' - supports our plan for a later opening. It states that the risk to life is halved by delaying the wider opening of schools by two weeks to 15th June.

The report also reminds us that schools do not operate in a vacuum and what happens in them will have wider ramifications for everyone within and outside of schools. We have a duty to protect our school communities as much as we can during this unprecedented time; a responsibility we take incredibly seriously.

You will undoubtedly have heard the Prime Minister's statement on Thursday evening in which he set out his assessment that each of the five tests are being met, **but that we must proceed with great caution.**

It is important to remember:

- The fact that we remain at the Government's Alert Level 4 (transmission is high or rising exponentially).**
- The R is close to one.**
- There are 8000 new infections every day.**
- The test and trace system is not yet fully in place.**
- There are increased numbers visiting Cornwall.**

Whilst we can put into place specific control measures and follow the latest government advice, we cannot guarantee anyone's safety from coming into contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school at this time.

Individual families are in the best place to decide what to do and to consider the mental health and wellbeing of your child. Families will have my full support on any decision you make regarding a return to school. The Government has made it clear that there will be no implications or fines for families who choose not to send their child to school. Factors you must consider include: underlying health issues of your child or family members in the household; whether the structure of the school day will meet your aims and expectations for what is beneficial to your child; your own interpretation of the current risk to your child/family being in contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school.

Government guidance for schools states:

"The safety of children and staff is our utmost priority."

"The advice seeks to support staff working in schools, colleges and childcare settings, to deliver this approach in the safest way possible, focussing on measures they can put in place to help limit the risk of the virus spreading within education and childcare settings."

"In education, childcare and social care settings, preventing the spread of the coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmissions (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces.) A range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this."

Government guidance for parents concerning re-opening of schools states:

“We have provided guidance and support to schools, colleges and child care settings on implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings to help them reduce the risk of transmission as more children and young people return.”

“Whilst such changes are likely to look different in each setting, as they will depend upon individual circumstances, they are all designed to minimise risks to children, staff and their families.”

In the event of a child/adult showing symptoms of Covid-19:

Latest Government advice to schools states:

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to be tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

If a child/member of staff is suspected of having COVID-19, families will be informed (without disclosing the information of who the person/child is) so they can decide if they wish to take precautionary measures themselves. **If a child/adult tests positive for COVID-19**, all families will be notified, the school will close for a deep clean and all members of staff/children who were in attendance at school will be encouraged to self-isolate as per the government advice above. St Day and Carharrack School will only re-open when it is clear that staff have tested 'negative' and there is enough staff to safely reopen the school. In this event, Key Worker/Vulnerable families may have to seek provision elsewhere through Cornwall Council.