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### **Coronavirus Update #16**

19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents,

I'm starting with an extra big smile today. Rufus in Year 6 has written a lovely letter to Torbay Hospital that is really worth a read. You can find it in *Smiles in June 2020* under our *Let's Smile* page or by clicking [here](#).

We are slowly seeing more children return to school this week with between 93 and 117 in each day. They are really happy to be back and it's lovely to see some sort of normality resume.

We are very aware there are more children who would love to return and that there are many of you returning to work which makes it difficult with your child care. From Monday we have opened another key worker bubble group to help with this. Numbers are however capped at 15 for understandable reasons.

Although it's not much we are offering the transition taster days with next year's teachers to children who have not been in school since March. You should have received a letter about this yesterday with your child's allocated day and details about the arrangements. If your child has been in school since lockdown, we have a new staffing rota from Monday that ensures they will at some point also meet their new teacher and complete the same transition work.

Please note that if your child is currently in Reception or Year 1, you will not have received a letter inviting your child in because they already have the offer of coming in. Their new teachers will join them in school towards the end of term for their transition taster day.

New teachers will also be contacting some children individually who might benefit from enhanced transition.

We don't yet know if we will be back full time in September but we are making our early plans on the assumption that we will be. As soon as I know anything for certain, I will let you know.

For your information, here is a list of which classes are transferring where from September.

Class of 2019-2020	Class of 2020-2021
Reception – Ash (Mrs Russell)	Year 1 – Beech (Mrs Tandy)
Reception – Elm (Miss Watkinson)	Year 1 – Pine (Mrs Morgan & Mrs Posey)
Year 1 – Beech (Mrs Tandy)	Year 2 – Apple (Mrs Turner)
Year 1 – Pine (Mrs Morgan & Mrs Wall)	Year 2 – Oak (Mrs Rice)
Year 2 – Apple (Mrs Turner)	Year split in Year 3 to either Birch (Miss Pritchard) or Rowan (Mr Tullier) - letter
Year 2 – Oak (Mrs Rice)	
Year 3 – Birch (Miss Pritchard)	Year 4 – Hazel (Mr Robinson)
Year 3 – Rowan (Mr Tullier)	Year 4 – Cherry (Mrs Wall)
Year 4 – Cherry (Mrs Wall & Mrs Bindon)	Year 5 – Holly (Mrs Kennedy & Mrs Bindon)
Year 4 – Maple (Miss Palfrey)	Year 5 – Willow (Mrs Kerswell)
Year 5 – Holly (Mrs Kennedy & Mrs Kerswell)	Year 6 – Maple (Miss Wooldridge)
Year 5 – Willow (Mr Robinson)	Year 6 – Hawthorn (Mr Marchant)

### Miss Palfrey News

Some of you might have spotted above that Miss Palfrey appears in one column and then vanishes from the other column. Sadly, this is because Miss Palfrey is leaving us at the end of this term. She is moving abroad for an exciting new adventure in teaching half way round the other side of the world. She will be very much missed by staff and children.

### Next Week

Please remember to stick to the following times for drop off and collection to help with social distancing. In particular, as we now have more key worker children, **Year 1s should not arrive at school until their start time of 8.55am** unless you are a key worker.

The Year 2 key worker group will take place in the Year 2 Oak classroom from Monday. The Y5/6 one will be in Willow class.

On Wednesday, Thursday and Friday next week it's taster transition days for next year's Year 3. We look forward to seeing some faces we haven't seen for a while.

Group	Drop off	Collection
Reception	8:55-9:10am car park	2:45pm car park
Y1	8:55-9:05am front slope	2:45pm front slope
Key Worker children and vulnerable pupils	8:45-8:55am front slope	3.00pm front slope for Y2 3:05pm front slope
Taster groups from Wednesday	9:05-9:15am front Slope	2:55pm front slope

Just a reminder about when school is open for Reception and Year 1 over the next few weeks:

	June												July								
	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	
Ash	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Elm				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Pine	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Beech				✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

### Home and School Learning

I am being made increasingly aware of the ever more increasing challenges of teaching your child at home, especially around the difficulty of juggling work and home, but also with the challenge of keeping the momentum going. Children are running out of steam it seems, as are a lot of us as parent-teachers. We face these same challenges in our home too. If all else fails, I think you can't go wrong by turning to a good book with your child. On the *Home Learning* section of the website under *Information for Parents* I've added 3 documents titled 'sharing a book prompt bookmark'; one for EYFS, one for KS1 and one for KS2. You might find them useful in guiding your book sharing with your child. Follow this quick [link](#).

Although our review into home learning is still on-going, we are making one change sooner rather than later: from the end of next week your child will receive an invite for a live school assembly from their teacher. This will replace the weekly newsletter for now and give your child a chance to interact with their teacher and friends. Teachers will be in touch. Please note though that not all these assemblies will necessarily take place next week. Some might start the week after as staff learn new technology and juggle various commitments.

When livestreaming like this, teachers must follow strict rules. Acceptable Use agreements for use of IT by pupils and parents can be found under *Information for Parents* in *Home*

*Learning.* These will be sent out for signing in the new academic year but in the meantime please support us from your end by adhering to the following points when livestreaming:

- Access links should not be made public or shared by participants.
- Encourage learners to attend sessions in a shared/communal space or room with an open door and/or when appropriately supervised by a parent/carer or another appropriate adult.
- The session will not be recorded without prior agreement with the member of staff

Thank you to our governor, Jamie Cree, who is supporting us in our review of home learning. Look out for your questionnaire which will help feed into this.

If you need any support with this or any other IT related issue, our IT help desk is now only open 9.30 – 11.30 Monday to Friday from next week. Please email [ithelp@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:ithelp@st-margarets.torbay.sch.uk) and one of the IT help team will get back to you.

Well done to the staff and pupils who are learning in our Hearing Support Centre. They feature in this month's Torbay SEND newsletter which you can find on our website under 'Hearing Support Centre' or by clicking [here](#).

Keep an eye on the 'Let's Smile' page on our website as you can see some of the creative learning that's going on in school and at home. Miss Pritchard recently lent her artistic skills to Year 2, helping them learn to paint some amazing lighthouses as part of their topic. [Click here](#) for a quick link. You can also find the weekly newsletters to each phase. Click [here](#) to see KS1's this week.

#### Benefit Related Free School Meals Information

##### ***For children in Foundation Stage and Year 1:***

The government has advised schools that If a child is entitled to receive benefit related free school meals and the school is able to provide a meal , that this is the preferred option. A meal will be provided on the days that they are entitled to attend school. Please order on line.

The vouchers will only be issued once every fortnight. This is because your child is entitled to come into school for part of each week which equates to 5 out of 10 days. The voucher is to replace the 5 out of 10 days that your child is not in school. If your child is unable to come into school as they are unwell, a grab and go option will be available for collection. Please phone the school office to order this before 9.30 a.m. each day and we will tell you what time you can collect your box. If you require this service for the whole week please order by 9.30 a.m. on Monday morning.

**For children who are on the Key Worker / Vulnerable Pupil list in all year groups:**

If you are sending your child into school and you are entitled to benefit related Free School Meals please order your meal online as usual. If your child is not attending school, then you can order a “Grab and Go” box by calling the office on a Monday morning before 9.30am. We will let you know what time you can collect your box.

**For Year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 who are not on the Key Worker / Vulnerable Pupil list:**

You will receive a weekly voucher.

**For all benefit related Free School Meals for the summer holidays:**

The government has extended the provision to children entitled to benefit related free school meals to cover the summer holidays. A voucher will be sent to you to cover this period.

Test and Trace

For the latest information on *test and trace*, follow the link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youre-contacted-after-testing-positive-for-coronavirus/>



Covid-19 – Stay Alert

You are probably likely aware but just a reminder that from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June wearing face coverings was made mandatory on all public transport.

The key message is still to **stay alert** which means you must stay at home as much as possible, work from home if you can, limit contact with other people, keep at least 2 metres apart from others if you go out and wash your hands regularly.

The message about symptoms now includes a loss of taste or smell as well as having a new and continuous cough or a high temperature. In this case stay at home for 7 days if you live alone, stay at home for 14 days if you live with others, including all household members. Only use NHS 111 if your symptoms get worse or are no better after isolation. Guidance on what to do while staying at home if you have suspected coronavirus can be found here by clicking this link to the [NHS website](#).

**The most up to date guidance for parents can still be accessed via this link and it includes lots of questions and answers that you might find useful:**

**<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>**

Department for Education helpline for parents - phone: 0800 046 8687,  
Email: [DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk](mailto:DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk), opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday and Sunday)

Updates on COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

For games and resources about good hygiene and bugs, try the e-bug website which is being run in conjunction with Public Health England. [Click here](#).

**Updated handwashing advice, including video, can be found here:**

**<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>**

Very best wishes to you and your families,



Tim Hughes (Headteacher)