



School Lane
St Erth
HAYLE
Cornwall
TR27 6HN

Tel: 01736 753153

Headteacher: Mr B Coleman
www.st-erth.cornwall.sch.uk

Caring, Sharing, Preparing for Life

1st September 2021

School opening and Covid procedures

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope that this letter finds everyone well and that your summer holidays have been enjoyable. We are looking forward to welcoming your children back to St Erth School next week when term starts on **Tuesday 7th September**. Over the summer the government have updated the COVID-19 operational guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/schools-covid-19-operational-guidance> We have updated our risk assessment and procedures in light of this and this letter sets out what you will need to be aware of in this regard, prior to school starting next week.

The government has reduced the number of control measures schools must have in place from 5 to 4. **Significantly, they have removed the need for pupils to be kept in bubbles. From the start of the school term, pupils will be allowed to mix as one group during breaks and assembly time.** The remaining controls are as follows:

1. Ensure good hygiene for everyone.
2. Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes.
3. Keep occupied spaces well ventilated
4. Follow public health advice on testing, self-isolation and managing confirmed cases of COVID-19.

In order to meet controls 1-3 the school will maintain the effective procedures it had in place last academic year. These include, but are not limited to:

- Handwashing remains of high importance. Hands will be washed regularly, ideally with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer if required. Staff will supervise handwashing to ensure it is done effectively and that the children are aware of the correct technique.
- Children will be taught/reminded about the, 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach.
- Children are to continue to avoid bringing unnecessary items onto school. Lunches and book bags only please.
- Staff will clean frequently touched surfaces throughout the day both in classrooms and communal areas.
- Classrooms will be kept well ventilated throughout.
- The children will be outside as often as possible.

In relation to control 4, there are some significant changes in procedure from the last academic year which all members of the school community need to be aware of:

- **It remains essential that children do not attend school if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19. Recognised by the NHS as: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.**
- If your child is displaying these symptoms then a PCR test must be booked and the result returned as negative before they are able to return to school. Please note that Lateral Flow tests, which are being used twice weekly in secondary school, are not recommended for primary age pupils and only designed to pick up asymptomatic cases. A PCR test must always be booked in response to symptoms.
- Should symptoms develop at school then the individual will be kept separate from the rest of the pupils until collected by their parents. A PCR test must then be booked.



St Erth School is part of Truro and Penwith Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 08880841. Registered address: Academy House, Truro Business Park, Threemilestone, Truro, TR4 9LD

- Should a pupil test positive, close contacts will be identified by NHS Test and Trace. Test and Trace will work with parents to identify these contacts. The rest of the pupils' class will remain in school and will only be sent home if they develop symptoms.
- Government guidance states that individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with Covid-19 or are identified as a close contact if the following apply: they are below the age of 18 or they are fully vaccinated. Therefore pupils who are close contacts can continue to attend school, provided they are symptom free.

Outbreak Management plan

In line with the above guidance the school has created an Outbreak Management Plan. This can be found on the school's website. This plan details at what point the school will contact Public Health England should there be numerous cases at the school. The school will then be advised on what measures to put in place to stop the spread of the virus. Steps may include: reintroducing bubbles and staggered starts for example. The guidance states that everything will be done to minimise the disruption to pupils education and that following the amount of disruption children have endured, this should be prioritised. Indeed this was the message from the World Health Organisation this week also.

Drop off and pick up procedures

Whilst the requirement for a staggered start and finish to the school day has been removed, there were many positives to take from the approach last year. Therefore we will be maintaining some elements of last year's arrangements.

- The school gates will open at 8:45 and all children are expected to be in school by 9:00 at which time the gates will close and children arriving late must report to the school office.
- A 15 minute window will prevent the drop off area from becoming too congested and ease traffic on School Lane.
- Children will be met at the gates and directed to their classrooms from there. There will always be a familiar member of staff present to meet the children and receive any messages from parents.
- We will continue to require all parents to drop off at the school gates to reduce the amount of adults entering the school building.
- KS1 & KS2 children will continue to enter via separate entrances and go directly to their classrooms.
- At the end of the school day there will be a brief stagger, again to ease congestion, both in the playground and on School Lane
- KS1 Children will be ready to be collected at 3:10, Siblings in KS1&2 at 3:15 and KS2 only at 3:20.
- We ask that parents allow others to leave before arriving to collect.
- Parents are welcome to wear a mask for drop off and pick up should they wish to.
- The timings for pick up will be reviewed after the first 2 weeks to see if they are effective and then adjusted if necessary.

This letter is intended to outline the covid procedures and more general arrangements. Further information regarding curriculum, P.E days and homework, for example, will follow in the coming weeks directly from your child's teacher. Remember also to read the school's newsletter each week as important information will also be shared on here. Communications will continue to be sent via email and Seesaw; so please ensure the office has your correct contact details and that you have set up your seesaw account correctly. For the 1st day please ensure your child arrives with their book bag and any reading books they may have had at home over the summer. We are also looking forward to seeing the children in their new uniform, sporting the new school badge. Please remember though, that uniform with the old school badge is absolutely fine to wear and we expect that we will see both badges for some time to come.

We can't wait to welcome everyone back on Tuesday 7th September for what I am sure will be another excellent year at St Erth School. In the meantime, if you have any queries at all please get in touch by calling the school office or emailing head@st-erth.cornwall.sch.uk

Yours Sincerely



Bill Coleman
Headteacher