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Caring, Sharing, Preparing for Life

01.09.2020

School Opening from Monday 7th September

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you all well and that you have all had a restful summer break from school. Preparations have continued over the summer holidays for all pupils to return to, or in the case of our new reception start, school next week. Whilst of course there will be some trepidation, the start of a new school year always brings excitement and anticipation and we look forward to welcoming your children next week.

I am sure you will be aware that there have been updates to the government guidance that was issued to schools in July over the summer months. We communicated with you in detail in July about how the school will be operating to meet the Covid secure measures set out in the government guidance. This letter is available on the front page of our school website to view again if you wish <http://www.st-erth.cornwall.sch.uk>.

I am writing to you today to provide you with the most up to date procedures and the key need to know information prior to **Monday 7th September**. Should you have any further questions then please get in touch via email using head@st-erth.cornwall.sch.uk or call the school office.

This letter will go on to explain how procedures will work, what you can expect from us and what we will be asking of you to enable us to manage and maintain infection control measures.

The school's procedures are planned in line with the full government guidance which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory in September, it is expected that all pupils will attend school. The usual rules will apply including:

- The parents' duty to ensure that their child attends school;
- The school's responsibility to record attendance and absence follow up;
- The availability to issue sanctions.

We must also point out that punctuality will be essential to ensure we can maintain the control measures in place. Please take careful note of the table for start and finish times.

What will the school day look like?/ Control Measures

An important note on well-being before you begin this section. Staff are very aware that returning to school in this fashion could cause anxiety and stress for children. Things will operate differently from what they are used to and



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there will be new rules, which they must follow closely. Every effort will be made to make the children as comfortable as possible and ensure that their days in school are enjoyable. We will also be using our outdoor space as much as possible whilst working within the government guidance.

The structure of the school day has been carefully planned to comply with government guidance. This involves following the hierarchy of control measures that the guidance lays out:

1. Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (covid-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
2. Clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual.
3. Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
4. Maintaining enhanced cleaning, including frequently touched surfaces.
5. Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible.

The school has developed effective and well established routines to meet controls 1-4. As meeting control 5 will have the biggest impact on school organisation and arrangements this letter addresses that in detail.

The school will be open between the hours outlined in the section below. In order to enable us to comply with the measures there will be no breakfast club or after school clubs initially. This will be reviewed on a weekly basis with the expectation that they will resume as soon as possible.

How will the school be minimising contact?

- The school will be organised into 2 separate bubbles Key Stage 1 (Treen and Mousehole) and Key Stage 2 (Fistral and Godrevy)
- These 2 groups will remain separate at all times once in school. Classes within groups will only mix whilst outside at break and lunch.
- The school's outside areas will be split and children in each bubble will have a dedicated space.
- The start and end to the school day will be staggered to ensure contact is kept to a minimum and to enable social distancing for parents dropping off.
- There are 3 pick up/ drop off slots: Key Stage 1 – Parents with children in Treen and Mousehole only; Siblings – Parents with children in Key stage 1 and 2; Key stage 2: Parents with children in Fistral and Godrevy only.

Group	Drop off	Pick up	Entrance
Key Stage 1 (Treen & Mousehole)	8:40 – 8:50	3:00 – 3:10	Treen and Mousehole double doors
Siblings in Key stage 1 & 2	8:50 – 9:00	3:10 – 3:20	As appropriate
Key Stage 2 (Fistral and Godrevy)	9:00 – 9:10	3:20 – 3:30	School Hall

- **All children must be supervised to school within their appropriate time slot. Children must not arrive at school earlier than their designated time.**
- All children will be met at the gate each morning by staff from their bubble and taken into school via their entrance.
- Parents will not be able to enter the school building without a pre-arranged appointment.
- The 3 separate times will ensure parents will need to make 1 trip only.
- At pick up staff will direct parents to designated waiting areas where space is sufficient to enable social distancing.
- We ask all parents to be aware of others and to maintain social distancing. The staggered start is planned to ensure this is possible.
- **Punctuality will be essential at both drop off and pick up; we appreciate parent's support with this.**
- St Erth Nursery will be open from Tuesday 8th September and will overlap for some drop off and pick up slots.
- Children and staff within bubbles will observe social distancing where possible, however the natural running of a school means this can't be maintained all the time.
- Lunch will be eaten in classrooms.
- There will be no group assemblies in communal areas, class assemblies will take place.
- Where appropriate, depending on the children's age, desks will be facing forwards.
- Children will have their own supply of stationery and an individual pencil case. **Stationery must not be brought from home.**
- Only essential items must be brought to school. E.g. book bag, lunch, water.
- Teachers have a clear space at the front of the classroom to teach from.

What will classes be like? What protective measures will be in place?

Within the government guidance it clearly states, 'We know that this (maintaining 2m) is not always possible, particularly when working with younger children.' **We must be very clear and state that social distancing within these groups will not be possible.** However there are measures we can take to reduce the risk of transmission. These have been designed in line with the hierarchy of controls as set out in the guidance and will be specific to each year group. **We will however be guided by the principals of care that underpin all of our work at St Erth and whilst staff will make every effort to follow measures and minimise contact, when children need comfort or individual support, it will be provided.**

Uniform

Normal school uniform will be required. P.E days will be communicated by class teachers in their class letters at the end of the 1st school week.

School Dinners

Unfortunately, our school dinner providers, Caterlink, are only able to offer a packed lunch option initially this term. We are working with them to get hot meals provided as soon as possible and will keep you updated on when this will be. Children will be able to order a school packed lunch each morning, with a number of options.

Face Masks

I am sure that you will have heard that the government made an announcement last week about face masks in schools. In this they recommended that masks were used by pupils in year 7 upwards whilst they move around their secondary schools. The guidance for primary schools is unchanged and remains, "*Primary school children will not need to wear a face covering.....Based on current evidence and the measures that schools are already putting in place, such as systems of controls and consistent bubbles, face coverings will not be necessary in the classroom even where social distancing is not possible. Face coverings would have a negative impact on teaching and their use in the classroom should be avoided.*" St Erth School will be adhering to this guidance.

What happens if there is a suspected case of Covid-19 in school?

It is essential that children are not sent to school if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 or are at all unwell. It is essential that this is strictly adhered to. Symptoms are:

- A new and continuous cough,
- A high temperature,
- A loss of, or change in, sense of taste and smell.

The school library has been allocated as a dedicated space for children who become unwell whilst in school. The space will be used for children to be isolated until they are collected and thoroughly cleaned after use.

If a child is sent home with suspected symptoms of Covid-19 there are a clear set of procedures in place:

- A Covid-19 test must be booked and carried out immediately. Parents are responsible for organising this and communicating with the school subsequently.
- Parents and the school will engage with NHS test and trace.
- Pupils and staff in the same bubble remain in school while test results are pending.
- If the test is negative then the pupil may return to school.
- If the test proves positive the school will work with the Local Health Protection Team to carry out a rapid risk assessment and ensure those who have been in close contact are asked to self-isolate.
- Those asked to isolate follow the stay at home guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

Curriculum

Although there'll need to be some changes to reflect the teaching time that was lost during the lockdown, we'll still be doing our best to provide an ambitious, broad curriculum. Staff are planning systems to identify gaps in knowledge and understanding during the first weeks of term. These findings will then be used to adapt the curriculum throughout the

year and meet identified needs moving children who may have fallen behind back on track in a timely and supportive manner.

We are also keenly aware that our curriculum needs to be responsive to the social and emotional impact of the lockdown and the prolonged period out of school for many children. The experience will have had different impacts on all individuals. Please let us know if you feel your child may need extra support when returning to school, they may feel anxious for example. Contact details are at the end of this letter.

When recovering our curriculum every effort will be made to ensure the correct balance between academic and emotional recovery is found.

Keeping you informed

The school office will be open to answer enquires from Wednesday 2nd September. Alternatively, you can contact head@st-erth.cornwall.sch.uk. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries about the return to school.

Finally, during lockdown and the phased re-opening of the school all staff were bowled over by the collaboration, understanding and support shown by everyone in our school community. We look forward to starting the school year with you next week.

Yours Sincerely,

Bill Coleman
Headteacher