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Caring, Sharing, Preparing for Life

14.07.2020

September Opening

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you all well. I want to start by thanking you again for your support for home learning during the lockdown. Last week's sports events were incredibly enjoyable and in school we loved seeing all the children's efforts. There is plenty to look forward to this week as Summer Fayre gets underway.

As you're likely aware, the government has announced that schools should fully reopen from the start of the upcoming autumn term. They've decided this on the basis of:

- The prevalence of coronavirus decreasing
- The new NHS test and trace system being in place
- More clarity about the measures that need to be in place to create safe environments in schools
- Time out of school being detrimental to children's development
- The low risk to children of becoming severely ill from coronavirus

This means we're planning to open to all of our pupils in September. We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back on **Monday 7th September**, and we're working hard to adapt school procedure and set up to meet government guidelines, whilst ensuring children return to a nurturing, welcoming and enjoyable environment. 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>

At this point in the school year we would also inform you of any changes to class organisation regarding staff etc. There are no changes to class organisation or staff deployment. The table below shows the classes for 2020/21. Staff will conduct detailed handovers of information between teachers for children moving up.

Class	Treen (R/Year 1)	Mousehole (Year 2)	Fistral (Year 3/4)	Godrevy (Year 5/6)
Teachers	Mrs Thomas	Miss Bloxam	Mrs Murgatroyd Mrs Walsh	Mr Hammond

Attendance

Attendance will be mandatory in September, as the government expects all pupils to attend school. The usual rules will apply, meaning we'll be recording attendance and following up on any absences. We must also point out that punctuality will be essential to ensure we can maintain the control measures in place. If your children have been staying at home due to the current shielding guidance, the government is due to pause this guidance on 1 August if there's a continued decline in coronavirus transmission rates. That means they should be able to come back to school in September. However, if



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you've received clinical or public health advice that your children should still remain at home, please let us know and continue to follow that guidance. We'll be offering remote education to these pupils.

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 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 arrangements this letter will address 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 available during this time. However if the times cause great issues for families we will work with them on an individual basis to see if adjustments can be made.

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 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 – 9:20	3:20 – 3:30	School Hall

- 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.
- Punctuality will be essential at both drop off and pick up; we appreciate parent's support with this.
- 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. The school kitchen will be open for hot meals as normal.
- 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 above 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

The requirement for school uniform has been relaxed during the phased reopening. From September uniform will again be required.

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.

If a child is sent home with suspected symptoms of Covid-19 there are a clear set of procedures in place. These have been updated since the June 1st opening:

- 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 our children. 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

We will continue to update you between now and September on any relevant developments that will affect the plans laid out above. Staff will be back in school from Thursday September 3rd ready for pupils to return on Monday 7th September. During this time training will take place on our new procedures and any adjustments that have been made.

The school office will be open to answer enquires until Tuesday 21st July and again from Thursday 3rd September. Urgent issues that arise over the summer holiday can be sent to head@st-erth.cornwall.sch.uk they will be answered as soon as possible during this time, please bear in mind however that normal working hours will not be kept.

Before concluding I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the fantastic staff at St Erth. Throughout this period they have all gone above and beyond to provide the best support they can to our pupils and community and done an outstanding job. My deepest thanks to all of them.

Yours Sincerely,

Bill Coleman
Headteacher