



'To live life, life in all its fullness'

Newsletter 8th January 2021

<http://www.wendron.cornwall.sch.uk>

www.southerlypoint.co.uk

Well it is fair to say that this hasn't been the beginning to the New Year that we were all anticipating or looking forward to! However, I would like to thank my staff for working quickly to make new arrangements and to provide remote home-learning to all of the children currently unable to attend the school-setting. Most of you have already managed to access the work prepared for your children each day through **Google Classroom** and have been sending completed work to the class-teachers to view and be able to comment on. There will be the opportunity for the children to have a virtual meet with their class-teacher on most days but please remind the children of the agreed protocols.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please use Class Dojo to contact the class-teachers or contact the school office and we will hopefully be able to resolve these for you!

Please be reminded, however, that the teachers and other school staff continue to work in support of the children from families of critical key-workers throughout the school-day so please be patient.

Children who are unable to return to school presently are expected to engage with the lessons set for them by their teachers and to complete the activities planned for them on a daily basis. Please encourage your child to do their best and provide what support is needed to help them to access their learning. The older children should be able to attempt much of the work independently but may sometimes require some help at the beginning of an activity to get going with it or in moments when they get a little 'stuck'.

If you are unable to access the on-line materials due to lack of suitable IT equipment please get in touch with your child's class-teacher.

The DfE is also now providing support with internet access. Find out more about the [different ways you can help children to get online](#).

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/internet-access>

Technology tip from the DfE

If parents do not have a spare device or laptop for Home Learning but have an Xbox and/or PlayStation they can use them to access Google Classroom!

Google Classroom can be opened on Xbox and PlayStation. There isn't an app that the students can add to their consoles. Instead, they are going to have to use the built-in browsers that come on the two devices.

On Xbox, it is Microsoft Edge.

On PlayStation, it is the "www" browser.

Your children will probably know how to find the browsers on their consoles, but if not, each one has a search function they can access on the home screen.

Once the browser has been opened:

- Type in classroom.google.com in the URL bar. A prompt for a Google account will appear. Type in your login details from school. The Classroom home screen will open up.
- If you have a keyboard then you can plug it in, you will have a much easier time navigating. Otherwise, use the controller to click on the classroom tiles, open up assignments and type.



Executive Headteacher: Mr Paul Hunkin
Email: head@wendron.cornwall.sch.uk



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However, if you don't have a compatible games console then you could always check to see if you're eligible to be allocated a laptop/tablet via the Governments scheme they have in place with schools/local authorities, you might also be able to apply to increase your data or broadband allowance on your devices too.

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk>

Digital Devices/Data Allowance

The DfE have announced there is an opportunity for schools to apply for temporary additional mobile data for certain pupils.

The hyperlink below sets out the full details and how to apply but in summary, there is the possibility of applying for additional mobile phone data for pupils who:

- do not have fixed broadband at home
- cannot afford additional data for their devices
- are experiencing disruption to their face-to-face education

In addition, there is also the possibility of requesting mobile data increases for children who cannot attend school face to face due to being clinically extremely vulnerable or if there are restrictions preventing them attending.

If increasing mobile data isn't a suitable option there is also the opportunity to apply for 4G wireless routers and again, full details can be found within the hyperlink below:

[Increasing data allowances on mobile devices to support disadvantaged children –](#)

<https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/about-increasing-mobile-data>

Those children fortunate enough to be able to attend school will be completing the same work that has been set for remote learning at home.

The school day for these children will run from **8.45 am to 3.15 pm** each day, with the **After School Club** available unto 4.30 pm – **booking essential**.

These children will be taught within their class-bubble-groups:

The DfE guidance to schools was amended at 5.30 pm on Friday afternoon.

A Department for Education spokesman said:

"Schools are open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. We expect schools to work with families to ensure all critical worker children are given access to a place if this is required.

If critical workers can work from home and look after their children at the same time then they should do so, but otherwise this provision is in place to enable them to provide vital services.

The protective measures that schools have been following throughout the autumn term remain in place to help protect staff and students, while the national lockdown helps reduce transmission in the wider community."





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It is important to stress that although the government criteria for a place at school is one parent being a critical worker, please consider whether your child could stay at home with the other parent. There is no criteria yet from the government for when a school is at capacity, we are controlling this through our own risk assessment - but clearly the message for this lockdown is stay at home whenever possible.

We welcome vulnerable pupils and pupils where both parents are working in critical jobs and we are happy to work around your working hours and have your child in for certain days only.

If we continue to face upward pressure on places, we will use the county's prioritisation list: health workers including paramedics, police, fire service, social care, education and navy personnel. Hopefully this will not be necessary if people only book a place when they really need it.

Please be reminded of the **Parent and Pupil Protocols** on the school website.



NB: Children must not attend school if they are displaying any of the COVID-19 symptoms or anyone in their household has been in close-contact with someone who has received a positive test result or is showing symptoms of the coronavirus.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The present national lockdown and partial school-closures is in direct response to escalating cases of the COVID-19 virus so it is imperative that we all do what we can to help limit the transmission of the virus.

Hot meals are available for the children attending school – *please see the amended menu below for the coming week.*

Free School Meals – These will be provided as before if your child attends school. For those not attending school, we are still awaiting news from the government about how they intend to operate the free school meal scheme. In the meantime, if your family are struggling, please do get in touch and we will can try to make interim arrangements.

Safeguarding – Concerns about a child's safety and welfare during the national lockdown period can be reported to the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead or alternatively to the **Multi Agency Referral Unit** on **0300 1231 116** or to Devon and Cornwall Police on **101**.

If a child is at imminent risk of harm, you should call 999 without delay.

Dates –

W/b Monday, 15th February: Half-term holidays begin.

