



St Ives Infant School

Trenwith Burrows

St Ives

Cornwall

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4<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Happy new year to you all – not quite the start any of us wanted but I do hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break.

### Logistics Day & Future plans

As you aware we took a suggested logistics day today in order to address the many changes and new challenges that have taken place in the last few days. These include changes to all government advice and guidance regarding school openings on the 30/31<sup>st</sup> December, the advice from many educational unions to their members not to return physically to school but to remote educate and new scientific reports. Cases in St Ives and in Cornwall have risen, the new strain is more transmissible and many scientists are calling for the government to move to remote education. This has caused lots of anxieties amongst our whole school community and we needed to assess if we were able to reopen fully, based on staffing levels and ensure everything was in place to do so.

School staff only had confirmation from their unions about this on Saturday, with meetings taking place on Sunday. They have therefore only had the opportunity to write to me this morning with their decisions and to outline their rights as outlined by their unions. The letter also sets out their commitment to continuing online learning for all children working from home whilst teaching the critical worker children and vulnerable groups in school.

Therefore, I am sorry to advise you that as a result, **we are not able to open to children from tomorrow morning, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. This is due to not having safe levels of staff available to provide teaching for all children on site. We will therefore move to remote learning for the time being. I know that this will cause many of you difficulty and I can only apologise for having to take this decision at very late notice – unfortunately this situation has evolved very quickly for us over the past 48 hours. We will remain closed until W/C 18.01.20 unless the situation changes and will, of course, keep this under review.

From Tuesday 5th January, school will **only be open for pupils of critical workers** (as defined by the government's list [Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)) and **vulnerable pupils** until further notice. The accompanying letter outlines the definition of critical workers. If you think that this applies to you, and you would like to request a place in school for your child, please read the

information carefully and complete and return the form as soon as possible. If you are unable to download the form please just let us know the same information by email to [secretary@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk) or by phoning us. If your child is in one of the vulnerable categories you will be contacted to confirm if you would like them to attend school. **For either reason, please wait for confirmation that your child has a place before attending.**

If places are limited, priority will be given to children who have both parents (same household) classed as critical workers.

## Remote Learning

Teachers will use Google Classrooms, emails and text to communicate with you.

Further to our survey sent out last term and the 'You said, We did' document we are very aware that everyone's circumstances are very different in regards to home learning. The teachers have worked hard to ensure they provide work which is flexible enough to meet everyone's needs.

### What can you expect?

- One Maths, English and Wider Curriculum video from a teacher within the year group daily (Reception, Year 1 & Year 2)
- A daily timetable
- Feedback on work shared
- Expectations for Maths and English learning daily
- Expectations for wider curriculum learning
- Work book and paper copies of work available if requested
- Teachers available between 9am – 3.30pm to answer any questions
- Welfare check ins regularly

Please be aware that all teaching staff will be in school on a rota system, to provide teaching to the vulnerable and critical worker children. On these days they will not be available as they will be teaching in school. To ensure a prompt response, please email both year group teachers in any communication, so a teacher (not necessarily your child's teacher) can respond to you.

All children should engage with the remote learning, if you have any difficulties with this, please email [secretary@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk)

Please be reassured that everyone's home circumstances are different and people will engage with remote learning in different ways and that is okay!

## Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for a free school meal then we will contact you with arrangements for collection of your food box. The box is planned by our cook to ensure the same nutritional values are considered as they would be in school, and are to provide enough meals for the week.

## Contact

If you need to contact school then please call or email [secretary@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk)  
The school office will be closed.

Class teachers can be contacted on their email addresses or via Google Classrooms

Nursery	Miss Sturges	<a href="mailto:estruges@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk">estruges@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk</a>
Reception	Miss Singh	<a href="mailto:asingh@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk">asingh@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk</a>
	Mrs Lamb	<a href="mailto:clamb@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk">clamb@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk</a>
Year 1	Mrs Pulley	<a href="mailto:lpulley@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk">lpulley@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk</a>
	Mrs Hicks	<a href="mailto:jhicks@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk">jhicks@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk</a>
Year 2	Mrs Thomas	<a href="mailto:hthomas@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk">hthomas@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk</a>
	Miss Lewis	<a href="mailto:elewis@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk">elewis@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk</a>

Any concerns regarding children with SEN, please contact Mrs Pulley or  
[head@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk)

Any matters concerning safeguarding, please contact [head@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:head@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk)

## Communication

We will use our Website and text service as our main communication channel so please check these regularly. Please ensure all your contact information is up to date to ensure you receive these messages, including your email address.

We are working on enabling the systems that we do have, to ensure we can message you promptly.

Our Governing Body are aware of the situation and have been kept informed.

I appreciate this is a really difficult situation and is often changing. We will keep you informed and hope to be able to reopen safely for all children as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Leisa Farrar

Mrs Dawn Stevens

Headteacher

Chair of Governors