

The Bishops' C of E Learning Academy

Faith to Belong, Believe, Aspire and Achieve

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Date

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Partial Reopening of Our School

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to start this letter by saying a massive **thank you** for all of the support that you have shown during this time of national crisis. Your kind words, supportive emails and commitment to using our distance learning resources have been invaluable to us.

This letter will provide you with detailed information as we prepare to implement the government's plan for schools to open to pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, as well as continue to care for key worker and vulnerable children, and, also support those children still at home. As you can imagine this is a lot for schools to implement, and therefore this is a lengthy letter, as we want to be thorough in sharing our plans with all of you.

It is important to note that our plans are dynamic and will depend upon the most recent government decisions, and our staff availability. As you will be aware, these changes are being planned to be implemented **from** the earliest of 1st June. **At the time of this letter, no date for reopening schools has been confirmed.** Schools are awaiting this information from the Government who will make the decision (28th May) on when to move into Step 2 of coming out of lockdown.

Many people are divided, at this point in time, on whether a return to school is a good or bad thing. We will continue to support all children and families whether you continue to keep your child at home or send them into school.

Below, I am sharing our plans so that you can make an informed decision. Whilst we can put into place specific control measures and follow the latest government advice, **I cannot guarantee anyone's safety from coming into contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school.** I suggest that families continue to monitor the daily reports and government briefings, so that you feel informed enough to make a decision on whether returning to school is right for your child and family's individual circumstances.

Prioritising Year groups

Following government guidance, our first task was to prioritise the key worker and the vulnerable children for school places. Once we had done this, we had 153 pupil places available, based on the



number of classrooms, staff available and maximum group sizes of up to 15. This means that we are able to invite back the following year groups:

- **Key Worker and Vulnerable children on Monday 1st June**
- **Nursery and Reception on Wednesday 3rd June**
- **Year 1 on Monday 8th June**
- **Until further notice ALL other year groups must continue to stay at home and can access our online provision.**

Attendance

In relation to attendance you will have my full support on any decision that you make. The government has made it clear that there will be no implications or fines for families that choose not to send their children to school. Individual families are in the best place to decide what to do. Factors that you must consider include:

- underlying health issues of your child and family members
- whether the structure of the school day will meet your aims and expectations for what is beneficial to your child
- your own interpretation of the current risk to your child / family of being in contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school.

We have put the information that you need into sections, which will hopefully make it easier to read and understand, but please email the school on thebishops@kernowlearning.co.uk with any questions you may still have following this letter.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Child Provision from Monday 1st June

The provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children will continue. **This provision will move back to The Bishops' from Monday 1st June 2020** and will run from Towan, Gannel, Harbour, Atlantic and Holywell classrooms from **08:30 – 15:15**.

Please use the left hand steel gate if your child is in Towan and Harbour classroom.

Please use the right hand wooden gate if your child is in Gannel, Atlantic and Holywell classrooms.

Key workers will be told by the end of the week which classroom their child will be in. Children have been grouped based on their age, so siblings may not be in the same classrooms as they have been until now.

Due to the wider reopening of the school, the capacity for these spaces will tighten as we simply have neither the space nor the staff, and so we ask that if you are able to safely keep your child at home then please support us by doing this, and only ask to use this provision if absolutely necessary.

Nursery and Reception Children from Wednesday 3rd June

Our children in Nursery and Reception will be in groups of up to 15. These children will be based in Fistral, Towan, Porth, Perran and Watergate classrooms. Parents are asked to use the left hand steel gate entrance to school for drop off and pick up.

Nursery children can be dropped to school at 08:45-08:55.

Reception children can be dropped to school between 08:55 and 09:00.

Parents of these children will need to come to their allocated class where the children will be welcomed into their class base by a member of staff. On Wednesday 3rd June, children will be allocated to their classrooms upon arrival at the gate. **Staff will be on hand to show you and your child which classroom they will be based in.**

Nursery children will need to be collected at 11:45.

Reception children are to be collected at 15:00 from their class base at the end of the day.

Children should attend school in uniform.

Year 1 children from Monday 8th June

Our Year 1 children will be groups of up to 15, and these children will be based in Gannel, Whipsiderry, Crantock, Lusty Glaze, Tolcarne and the new hall. Parents of children in this group will need to access school using the right hand wooden gate entrance.

Year 1 children need to arrive at school between 9:05 and 9:15.

Year 1 children need to be collected at 15:15 from classroom doors.

On Monday 8th June Year 1 children's classroom bases will be allocated on arrival. **Staff will be on hand to show you and your child which classroom they will be based in.**

We ask that when waiting to collect your child at pick up you adhere to the social distancing rules.

Year 6 children – We are not able to safely accommodate Year 6 children in school

This difficult decision was necessary due to our Risk Assessment of the available space as outlined in government guidance. This may change as guidance develops.

Keeping Children and Staff Safe

We are following government advice to keep our children and staff safe, so for example:

- Children will be split into groups of no more than 15
- Individual groups will not mix
- Each group will be allocated one key adult (this is unlikely to be your child's regular teacher)
- Tables will be spaced so children can sit 2 metres apart.
- Soft furnishing / resources that cannot be cleaned daily will be removed.

We will attempt to maintain social distancing rules and will teach the importance of good hygiene and personal space but we cannot guarantee that children will follow these rules at all times.

Please consider this when deciding on whether to send your child to school.

Returning Children

As we have 3 year groups returning to school, children and staff will form 'bubbles' using their own class base, washing facilities and play areas. This will ensure that children are able to be kept apart

from the other children in school and ensure that corridors will be less busy and, therefore, reduce risk of virus transmission. Children will use the closest toilets to their class base.

As it currently stands, we are able to staff each base with **two** adults who will remain the same throughout the week. It is **unlikely that your child will be taught by their current class teacher**, but wherever possible we have ensured that there is a known adult in their base as we understand the importance of this.

We will provide stationery and all resources for children, and politely request that children do not bring in their own. Where possible, we do not want objects from home coming into school and vice versa, especially soft toys as these cannot be cleaned effectively.

Dropping off times

To support in reducing any size of gathering on site, all groups have a staggered drop off and pick up time slot, and the locations of these have also changed. It is vital that you stick to these timings and do not arrive early or late wherever possible. There will be markings outside classrooms to help all adhere to the 2-metre social distancing guidance. In addition to this, only one parent will be allowed to accompany their child onto site and, again, we politely ask that any toddlers or younger children accompanying parents are either in buggies or kept closely by their parent. A swift departure of the school site will be required to enable the next group to more safely arrive.

Cleaning of key areas – school will close to all on Fridays from 1pm.

Additional hours for cleaning have been put into place, and the school will be cleaned early in the morning before children arrive, the 'heavier-use' areas cleaned again at lunchtimes – toilets, door handles, etc. and at the end of every day. It has been decided that to ensure a full deep clean of the site each week, the **school will close to all from the end of the morning session on a Friday** so that this be completed on a Friday afternoon when the site is empty. By implementing this closure of the site on a Friday afternoon, we will also ensure that teachers get their statutory entitlement of time for Planning, Preparation and Assessment.

School Meals

All children will have a lunch in school – either at their space in the classroom or in their designated outside space if the weather is fine. If your child is in receipt of free school meals, then a lunch will be provided by the school kitchen.

When schools reopen for Reception and Year 1 children, universal school meal provision will be reinstated and so every child attending school in these year groups is eligible to receive a lunch from the school kitchen. Further information will be sent out on this so that we get an idea of indicative numbers.

Children in Year 1 and other year groups (keyworker children) will also have a lunch provided by school – there will **be no packed lunches**. This is to minimise the risk of virus transmission from children bringing in their own packed lunch.

In the event of a child / adult showing symptoms of COVID-19

As part of our Risk Assessment, if a child/member of staff is suspected of having COVID-19, **ALL families** will be informed that day (without disclosing the information of who the person/child is)

so that families can decide if they wish to take precautionary measures themselves. If a child/adult tests **positive** for the virus, families will be notified, the school will close for deep cleaning and all members of staff / children who were in attendance at the school will be expected to self-isolate as per government advice.

Home learning and the curriculum

Please do not worry if your child is in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, or if you are keeping your FS and Y1 children at home, they will continue to learn from home through the online planning and resources that will be provided. All learning will be continued using the weekly tasks published on either Tapestry, Class Dojo and Google Classroom whether the children are at school or at home. In order for us to open our school to this many year groups, and follow government guidance for size of groupings, every available member of staff has been used, and so the majority of teachers will be in school every day every week. It would be impossible (and unreasonable) for them to plan for home learning and reinstate the full curriculum for those at school. We will use the same online planning and resources in school, to deliver the national curriculum and year group objectives. Class teachers will continue to plan for their own classes. *E.g, Mrs Hine will plan work for Gannel class but will be delivering lessons for Year 1 children in school.*

Keeping in touch and communication

It has actually been very difficult to arrive at many of these decisions and to write this letter, as it goes against how welcoming and inclusive we are as a Church school, but we know that you understand the reasons these rules are in place, and will support us in implementing these stringent measures to keep us all as safe as we can be.

We ask that no parent accesses the inside of the school building, including the foyer and school office, but instead communicates with us via email in the first instance. For more urgent enquiries, the school telephone will be manned from 1st June.

We also ask that you leave the site promptly after drop off and collection of your children and to avoid gathering on site.

For those children at home, please continue to send in photos of your children's learning and these will be responded to. We will also continue to phone you whilst at home accessing learning to offer our support, although please be aware this might not be by your child's actual class teacher. It is likely that staff who have to work from home as they are shielded or critically vulnerable will take up this to support their colleagues and also to ensure you continue to get prompt responses.

Preparation and Planning

Note: Our school will be closed to all but Key Worker children on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June for staff training and the rearrangement of the physical spaces ready to accommodate the new groupings of children. On Wednesday 3rd June, school will be open to Nursery and Reception ONLY. This staggered start will allow us to identify and rectify any potential issues that might arise on those first days. WE WILL STILL BE OFFERING PLACES TO OUR KEY WORKER / VULNERABLE CHILDREN ON THE MONDAY AND TUESDAY.

School will be closed to ALL except Key Worker children EVERY FRIDAY afternoon from 5th June onwards. This is to ensure staff have appropriate planning time and to allow the school site to be thoroughly cleaned ready for the next week.

Year 1 will return on Monday 8th June. All returning children will wear school uniform.

At present it is not possible to safely accommodate any other year groups, including Year 6.

In Conclusion

I want to reassure you that we are looking forward to being able to open to more of our pupils over the coming months if we are able to do so. We will, as always, communicate with you fully, openly and promptly as plans evolve and change as more information from the government becomes available.

We will do all we can to welcome your children back into a warm environment, and we have put a whole pastoral and well-being plan into place to support children transition back into a school which will look and feel very different to the one they left. Making your children feel happy and safe in school is our utmost priority.

Main points in this letter:

1. We will not know until the 28th May whether the government will ask us to go ahead with this plan.
2. From Monday 1st June, the children that have been attending our essential childcare at Trenance will return to The Bishops'.
3. We will do our best, but we cannot guarantee that all children will follow the safety rules, particularly around social distancing.
4. You have to decide if you want your child to return.
5. Only Key Worker / vulnerable children will be in school on Mon 1st June.
6. Nursery / Reception children are invited to return on Wed 3rd June.
7. Year 1 children will be invited to return on Mon 8th June.
8. ALL other year groups will remain at home until further notice.
9. Our school will be closed on Friday afternoons from 1 p.m. for teacher planning and deep cleaning (Key Worker children can still attend)

If you have any further questions which you would like clarifying, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us.

*If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. **Matthew 17:20.***

Yours sincerely



Adam Richards
Headteacher