



15th May 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been quite a week as you can imagine with lots of announcements from the government. I start though with the wonderful news that Mrs. Fox had a baby boy on Tuesday called Arlo. Both mother and baby are doing well and we send them all our best wishes.

Earlier in the week I explained that I would let you know of any further updates regarding the reopening of schools and therefore wanted to share with you the current position of our school and the thinking of the governors. I am sure you are all fully aware of the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening which included the possibility that schools may re-open for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from 1st June, at the earliest. Like you, this was the first time we had any official confirmation of this possibility. The guidance referred to in his announcement reached us on Monday evening and we are currently going through these documents and planning for re-opening.

The guidance is lengthy, (if you would like to read it for yourselves it can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>) and asks us to consider many factors for our children, parents and staff. It will mean significant alterations to the school day for all of us, ranging from accessing the school site, to reduced contact hours for your children, managing lunches, timetabling and the health and safety of all, amongst many other requirements.

When your children do return to school, be that on 1st June or later, the experience for your children will be different - we will not be able to run as we did before the closure. Our staff will endeavour to make the school a welcoming place to be, but strict restrictions and limitations will need to be imposed to ensure we can maintain the safety and health of all.

It is important to note that within the guidance, the government states 'unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff'. In light of this we will be reducing class sizes and using different timetables and approaches to reduce the number of other



children any individual may come into contact with. As a parent of primary aged children myself, I am very aware of the worry and concern about how your children can remain safe in school in these circumstances, but I cannot promise that strict individual social distancing is possible when children naturally gravitate to play together. Head teachers have been asked to encourage children back to school, however I realise that many of you will have concerns and as parents, you have a decision to make regarding your child's attendance under these circumstances. All I can say is that we will adhere to the guidance offered to us and, with the help of the local authority and Truro Penwith Academy Trust, will ensure that the physical and mental wellbeing of your children is at centre of our thinking.

As the guidance is changing on a daily basis, further information will be sent to those of you with children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 next week outlining how we will do our utmost to provide safe provision for those children and the restrictions we will all need to work with. Please note that after this time, there may well be a change in the remote learning resources for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, as school provision will be more focussed on those children in attendance in those year groups.

Provision for key worker children not in Years R, 1 and 6 will still continue and booked through me as has been happening. After school club will only run for key worker children and there will be no after school activity clubs.

I am sure that you will have many, many questions - I will try to address these in future communications, and as we get more guidance - if however, there is anything particularly pressing, please do email me on head@chacewaterschool.co.uk.

We are thinking of you all. Please stay safe and well.

Best wishes,

Mr Gould

Headteacher

Terry Lister

Chair of Governors