

St Day and Carharrack Primary School

Self-belief, Determination and Courage

20th July 2020



Website: <http://www.st-day.cornwall.sch.uk/website>

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Dear Parents

Following recent Government Guidance, we are planning for the re-opening of school to all children in September. After opening for key worker children and 'special sessions,' we are excited to have all our children back, learning and growing, together. We have put in place a number of strategies to ensure we can keep everyone as safe as practically possible in September while still accessing an exciting learning experience.

Please can I start by thanking all our staff, governors, parents and children who have enabled a successful and steady re opening of our school during this 'lockdown' period. There has been a tremendous amount of resilience, creativity and determination shown by everyone in getting through this time. Everyone returning to school has been amazing – totally respectful and understanding of the measures we have had to put in place. Behaviour has been impeccable and your children have been a delight – especially our regular group of key worker children who have been in everyday! Staff have valued the positive communications with you and your children during this time. We have been able to trial and tweak a number of strategies during this time and have a clearer idea of what works and what is possible. We do know that there are still challenges ahead especially around drop off and collecting so please be patient with us to get this right during the first few days back. The most helpful thing you can do is to arrive at the agreed times, to prevent congestion. Our protective measures involve every child washing their hands on entry and maintaining social distancing between adults.

An updated 'Risk Assessment' will be on our school website a week before you return to school- very similar to the one already there. I am sharing this **draft plan** with you now to enable you to make plans for your individual family circumstances - but **please be aware that this could be subject to further government changes.**

You will receive an updated email from me by the end of August confirming our plan or any additional changes due to the local picture and/or government changes. Any changes will be flagged on the school website banner so please check this before returning to school.

In order to follow government guidance for September, there are some significant measures we have to put in place which will involve a number of changes to the school day and what we can offer. We hope that we can continue to support each other to get our children safely back in school and make this work for our whole community.

The following measures will be in place for at least the first half-term. The government's guidance asks that we pay particular attention to all other control measures such as **enhanced**

cleaning, limiting movement of staff and children and following social distancing where possible.

To prevent the spread of infection, everything will work around having whole class 'bubbles' and trying to keep the class bubble together without mixing with other children or adults. Social distancing of all adults – parents and staff - is still high priority alongside regular, thorough handwashing and rigorous cleaning procedures throughout the day.

For this to work, the following COVID-19 PLAN will be in place at our School:

- **School will be closed on Friday afternoons by 1.10pm starting on Friday 4th September. All children will need to be in school for the morning sessions.** Please see the attached staggered timetable for your child's departure time. Lunch will be served before your child leaves. This measure, adopted by a number of schools, is to ensure an additional 'deep clean' of the whole school building and prevent mixing of bubbles. It will also provide the same set time for all teachers to access their weekly entitlement to planning, preparation and assessment (PPA) time without breaking the class bubble with a different teacher teaching your child mid-week. Additionally, during this return to school time, we feel that the continuity of the class teacher all week is going to be crucial to re-establish positive relationships and behaviour expectations. Practical, optional home learning will be provided on the Friday afternoons. Please note, a detailed consultation document to possibly make this a permanent change is attached to run alongside this Covid-19 measure.
- To prevent 'bubbles' mixing, there will be **no breakfast club and no after school clubs. There will be no additional music provision due to the increased risk of transference.**
- Each class will have one Teaching Assistant assigned to the class for the whole day – supporting with all learning and staggered lunchtime routines.
- **Staggered 'drop off' times** for each year group (between 8.30 and 9.00am) and **'collecting' times** (between 2.45 and 3.10pm Monday to Thursday and by 1.10pm on a Friday). This will enable every child to wash their hands on entry and exit to school and prevent too many parents gathering outside the school gates. If you can walk to school, we strongly encourage this.
- **Children (and one parent) will follow the one – way system in and out of school** – using the hearts/spots to queue.
- **A return to full school uniform is expected. On designated PE days, children may wear their PE kit into school for the whole day to avoid changing. Please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled.** Trainers can be worn daily to support us with additional breaks and regular outdoor learning opportunities. A spare pair of trainers or wellies to be kept in school will enable us to be outdoors in all weather conditions.
- **School Equipment:** Personal writing equipment will be provided by school for every child stored in individual, named wallets. Please do not bring toys or pencil cases from home. Reading books can move between home and school but will need to be placed in a quarantine box when returned to school. **Every child must have their own personal labelled water bottle every day.**
- **The School Office will remain closed to parents.** Hayley Uren will be outside in the morning to take any important messages to pass onto teachers. Ideally, please contact Hayley Uren by telephone or email. All money transactions must take place in advance and via Parent Pay eg. meals, school uniform. For pre-paid uniform orders, collections will take place on **Wednesday morning, 2nd September.**

- **Lunchtime will happen in classrooms** – to prevent children using the hall and mixing with different 'bubbles'.
- **A new lunch menu** will be in place and sent to you before school starts. The menu will include a range of sandwiches and some hot cooked food options such as pasties and pizza – delivered to each classroom. Parents of children in KS2 will be able to order packed lunches as normal – but we will only be accepting online payment in advance.
- **Behaviour Expectations** – will be rigorously followed in line with our Risk Assessment in order to safeguard the school community.
- **Well-Being and Support** – Our team will be sensitive to the needs of everyone returning. All staff have undergone extensive 'Trauma Informed School' training and statutory PSHE training. We will offer opportunities to share experiences, look forward to the time ahead and discuss strategies in an age appropriate way. If you would like to inform your child's class teacher of any relevant information or experiences during lockdown, please send an email entitled: 'What I would like my teacher to know' and I will ensure it gets to the right teacher. Please let us know of any changes in your life that could be having a negative impact on your child. This will be kept confidential but will support us to support your child.

Parents you can support us by sticking to assigned times at the beginning and end of the day – please do not arrive more than five minutes early or late as this will tip into the next 'bubble' of children arriving (see attached timetable). In addition, please maintain social distance around the school grounds by queuing on the spots/hearts and using the one-way system in and out of school. I will be outside every morning to support with this. Staff will support everyone by remaining in one bubble, maintaining social distancing and modelling high standards of hygiene. Please find attached a document of '**Frequently Asked Questions**' for further information.

If you are worried about how any of these arrangements will work for your family, please do get in touch as soon as possible by emailing me.

Many thanks to all of you for your patience and support over these months – especially with all the wonderful home learning opportunities you have provided your children with – we have used your photos to create a great display in school to celebrate all the home-school achievements. We are excited about moving forward and building on the positive relationships we have developed during this time 'apart'. I do believe there is a greater understanding on both sides – with your children's best interests firmly in the middle! We all want the very best for every child in our care.

In September, we are planning some exciting learning opportunities based in and around St Day and Carharrack to re- establish relationships through a community based project. We thoroughly enjoyed the 'special sessions' and hope that this alleviated some worries for all of you. If your child did not make this session, we will go over all the routines and reconnect with each other as a class bubble on the first day back. We are fully committed to supporting everyone in our community and making sure we have a fabulous and safe return to school.

With best wishes for a safe, relaxing and well deserved summer break.

Yours sincerely

Susannah Storey

Headteacher