



ST. DAY & CARHARRACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Susannah Storey
e-mail: secretary@st-day.cornwall.sch.uk

School Hill
Burnwithian
St. Day, Redruth
Cornwall, TR16 5LG
Tel: 01209 820456

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Dear Parent/Carer

Coronavirus (COVID – 19)

The coronavirus has officially been declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. I would like to assure our parents, staff and children that we are closely monitoring the latest information and advice issued by Public Health England (PHE) with regards to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We are following advice from PHE and the DfE daily to stay informed of the changing situation and we will update you accordingly.

Safeguarding our children, staff and community as best we can remains our priority. I feel that as a school community we have a moral duty towards the wider community - of postponing unnecessary trips and limiting our interactions in confined public places where larger gatherings are held. Particularly, this is to protect grandparents and vulnerable people in our community. Regardless of who is at risk, all people children included, have the potential to carry the virus and therefore pass it on. In response, we are taking additional precautions to protect our children and staff by avoiding any unnecessary trips to public enclosed places until further advice emerges. Our school can remain open if we maintain the health and well-being of our whole community – including children, parents and staff. However, if a positive coronavirus case is identified from within our staff or pupils we will seek immediate advice from PHE and inform our whole community.

As a school community we ask for your support and flexibility to safeguard our children as best we can. If any of your family are diagnosed with the virus we need you to inform us as soon as possible. Our staff team, will also be following this new advice so we may experience staffing shortages at times. When this is the case, we will work carefully to limit disruption to your child's usual provision as much as is possible.

If there is an enforced closure by PHE we will inform you by email and on our school website. Please see the enclosed letter on school closure procedures. Individuals are now asked to stay at home for seven days should they experience a **fever** or a **new, continuous cough**. More information about this advice can be found here:

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

If you or your child experience these symptoms, this does not necessarily mean that it is the coronavirus.

Through circle time we are giving our children the opportunity to talk in a safe space, listen to them, correct misinformation and stress how everyone of us has a responsibility to do our part for the greater school community - if everyone washes their hands, it makes a difference! If this continues at home, it makes a difference.



Some additional precautions we are taking as a school community include the following:

- Children's personal hygiene – hand washing routines for longer and more often
- Daily thorough cleaning of the school building
- No unnecessary trips in public enclosed spaces will be planned before Easter
- Swimming is on hold until further notice
- Parents' evening is postponed (new dates tbc)
- Getting our children outdoors in the fresh air more often during the school day

Although schools remain open, it is also possible that we may be asked to close for a period of time in the coming weeks. We know that this will cause some challenges for families at home and plan to support you in any way we can. We are also currently working on plans to ensure that children who are staying at home due to this advice are able to access learning activities from school should they be well enough. Your child will be able to access learning online via our website. We will provide project based learning tasks, a daily physical challenge in addition to reading, spelling and times table work (as appropriate for age of child). Staff are working to gather all this information in one place on our website under the 'pupils' tab – 'useful links'.

Further information about the coronavirus can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
A useful handwashing video for younger children can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>

Please could you also ensure that you have provided the school with an **up to date email address** to enable us to communicate with you and in case it becomes necessary to send work/access to different teaching programmes home. Please do let us know if there have been any changes to your contact details especially mobile contact numbers.

Please check the school website banner for urgent updates.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation during a very difficult time. If you have any suggestions or concerns please do email me or catch me on the gate.

Yours sincerely

Susannah Storey
Headteacher

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I consent to the school contacting me using the following email address:

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Name of Pupil:

Signed (parent/carer): Date: