



ST. DAY & CARHARRACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents of children in Year Reception and Year 1

We are writing today to notify you of our intention to welcome back Year Reception and Year 1 children (a week apart). We appreciate that it probably feels like it's been a long time since your child was able to access the school building; you'll understand that we have had to 'reopen' school carefully in line with the ever-changing government guidance and school's own unique circumstances. We thank you for your patience with this. Please note the contents of this letter could change with the emergence of new health and safety information and/or changes in staffing. You will be informed of all changes. **Government guidance, which has informed this letter, can be found at the end.**

Please be aware that the school office building will remain closed during this period, as we have no skilled staff available to run it. You are able to contact Hayley Uren by email during office hours, as she remains available remotely.

Do continue to email the school office as the most efficient method - rather than phoning.

Returning safely to school

Please find attached a lengthy and thorough risk assessment in line with government guidance - to enable you to make an informed choice regarding the return of your child to school. This has been written for Year 6 children and is being slightly adapted to include all children. I apologise in advance but this letter will also be lengthy in order to inform you of all the changes we have made to the school in light of government guidance we need to follow.

Provision for Key Worker and Vulnerable children across year groups will continue as before.

I would like to state at the out-set, that I will support the needs and wishes of every individual family – we are able to offer you a degree of flexibility with all decisions regarding a return to school being in your hands. You will be able to change your mind. For many this is a difficult decision and I want to reassure you that I understand this.

The 4 options available to you include:

1. Keep your child at home and continue to access home learning
2. Return to school on a regular basis Monday – Thursday (or agree a part-time timetable in advance – as a supportive measure for those who may find this transition challenging)
3. Attend one special '**outdoor day**' to be arranged later in July - to support with closure and transition. You may decide this option is the best one for you and your child as it will give everyone the opportunity to say goodbye before the start of the summer break. Our hope is to make sure every child feels special in some way.
4. Return your child with the option of withdrawing at any point



Dependent on the number of children looking to return to school, our intention is to:

- Welcome **Year Reception** children back, Monday to Thursday 09:15-11.45 (in the first instance) from the week beginning **29th June 2020**.
- Welcome **Year 1** children back, Monday to Thursday 09:30 -12:00 (in the first instance) from the week beginning **6th July 2020**.
- In the first week back, all children will return home for lunch.

Once we have confirmation of pupil numbers returning, we will notify you of the final arrangements via email on Wednesday 24th June.

Please inform us of your intention to return your child to school by completing and sending the forms attached to this email to secretary@st-day.cornwall.sch.uk by **Tuesday 23rd June**. Please confirm your option choice with Hayley.

The remainder of the letter below outlines the measures we're taking to ensure a return for your child that is as safe and as smooth as possible.

Keeping Children and Staff Safe

We will follow the Government advice by implementing measures, applicable to our school's context to reduce the risk to children and staff to the best of our ability. Measures will include the following and more may be needed when reviewed daily:

- Children will be split into small groups ('bubbles') of no more than 10. Children have to remain in their set group.
- Each group will be assigned 1 teacher and 1 or 2 teaching assistants.
- Desks will be arranged 2m apart and used where necessary for example RWInc sessions. We are aiming to spend most of our time outdoors.
- Movement around the school will be limited to specific locations for each group and we will operate a one-way system where possible.
- If more children return to school, Entry and Exit to the school will be staggered at either end of the school day so groups and adults do not mix – only 1 parent/family member may accompany your child when dropping off or collecting – you will be notified of these times.
- Break and Lunchtimes will be staggered, with each group assigned an outdoor space to avoid mixing of groups
- Washing of hands on entry to and exit from school. Regular handwashing sessions will be supported throughout the day and children will be reminded to follow hygiene guidance when sneezing/coughing/eating.
- Children will not share materials such as pencils, books, rulers, PE equipment
- Provision may be altered depending on the availability of staff and increase in pupil numbers.

Behaviour Expectations - clear additional guidance will be rigorously followed

As with any day in school, all children are expected to, or where needed - supported to, adhere to the school's 'Positive Behaviour Management' policy. This was constructed with relationships between a child/children and a key adult at the heart of it - it is on the school website for you to access. Whilst mentally and emotionally, those relationships and the ethos that underpins our policy will be key between children and adults upon a return to school, **the physical safety of the children and staff**

must prevail at this time. It is imperative that those children returning to school understand the **need to follow the Golden Rules**, now more than ever.

We recognise changes to the logistics of the school day and environment of the school building will be a new experience for the children, but we ask for your support in ensuring your child to the best of their ability understands why these changes have been implemented and the importance of adhering to social distancing measures. **The key message - without causing worry or anxiousness - is about ensuring everybody's safety.** Please refer to our 'Mental Health and Well-being' page on the website. **If you feel your child will need additional support with managing the changes, it is vital you contact myself or Laura Vallance in order to talk this through with us prior to your child returning to school in order to make a more personalised return plan.**

For children who deliberately choose not to follow the Golden Rules resulting in the new Risk Assessment measures/changes becoming compromised, you will be called to collect your child from school immediately. Whilst staff will undertake reasonable endeavours to meet the social, emotional and behavioural needs of pupils, whilst themselves adhering to the measures outlined in the Risk Assessment, behaviours (intentional or not) that put others (children and/or staff) at risk will be taken extremely seriously. Biting, spitting, hitting, pushing, kicking or refusal to follow adult instruction will result in a phone call home and you will be asked to collect your child immediately – we do not have additional staff to keep your child in school. You need to ensure that we are able to get hold of you or one of your three emergency contacts. **The safety of all at this time has to be the priority and we will be rigorous in following this guidance.**

We very much appreciate that this is a challenging time for everyone. Now more than ever, we are **asking for your support** that the changes we're making to school life for the safety of each other, are respected by the children.

A reminder of the Golden Rules:

1. We are gentle
2. We are kind and helpful
3. We listen
4. We are honest
5. We work hard
6. We look after property

School Uniform

We are relaxing school uniform slightly to support you with daily washing and outdoor learning. *It is good practice for children to wear a clean change of clothing each day to minimise risk of spreading infection. Children will be expected to wear a white polo shirt but can wear comfortable bottoms or sportswear suitable for outdoor learning and changing weather. This will eliminate the need to get changed in school. Sensible footwear such as trainers must be worn – **no open toe shoes or flip flops.** A bag of spare clothes would be appreciated if you know your child may have accidents.

Social Distancing

Social distancing will be encouraged for both YR and Y1. **However, we will not be able to**

guarantee that social distancing will take place between children. Please consider this when deciding on whether to send your child to school.

Government Guidelines state: “While it is not expected that children and staff within a group will keep 2 metres apart, it is important for settings to consider how they can reduce contact between groups of children and staff as far as possible, for example by ensuring children and staff mix in a small consistent group and that small group stays away from other groups.

We will adhere to the following guidance as follows:

- physical distancing between groups of children and staff as far as possible
- individual groups use the same area of a setting throughout the day as much as possible (including outside spaces)
- the sharing of toys and resources is reduced
- any toys or resources that are shared can be easily cleaned between different groups’ use
- washing hands throughout the day regularly and for 20 seconds

Drop off and Pick Up:

As numbers increase, we will need to stagger the drop off and collection time to avoid contact between each group. **Families will need to stick to this time schedule in order to be compliant with our risk assessment.** Please do not drop your child off before 9.00am or allow your child to arrive earlier – they will not be supervised. There will be a clearly marked one-way route of ‘green spots and hearts’ to briefly wait on and follow to maintain social distancing. Children and families will be guided to walk around the KS2 playground towards Sunny Days building.

Lunch and breaktime:

Children will eat their lunch in each group’s individually assigned classroom or outside space- weather dependent. Handwashing and cleaning of tables will be completed beforehand. Children will not have the opportunity to mix with other groups during this time. Children must bring their own packed lunch, snack and water bottle – in a small ruck sack which will be kept at their desk (not on pegs).

Children are not currently able to order school lunches, as we have decided to keep our kitchen closed in the first instance - this may change in July depending on demand and safety.

Curriculum

When the children first return to school, we will be teaching reading, writing, maths and the wider curriculum, but initially, our focus will be **entirely on emotional health and wellbeing**. Our priority will be to make the children feel safe and secure and be able to discuss their feelings in relation to lockdown and missing their friends. We will no doubt have to teach the children new rules, routines and expectations in line with the changes we have made to the school day and physical environment.

It is our intention for school learning and the continued home learning to be as similar as possible so no child gets left behind, whether they are continuing to learn at home or at school.

Unfortunately, there will be challenges in offering a well-rounded curriculum – for example children will be unable to work in close groups or partnerships and the variety of materials and resources we

can use will be limited, following government advice, in order to prevent the possible risk of germs. It remains, however, our ultimate ambition to ensure returning to school is fun for children and our desire to keep nurturing their love of learning.

As a school we will:

- Continue to monitor the situation daily.
- Continue to be robust in our risk assessments and application of rules to ensure maximum safety for school children and staff.
- Continue to take note of the latest scientific advice
- Monitor the local condition including the R value for our area
- See how the new Test and Trace system is working in our local area

Although our children will be learning in two different settings, home and school, we want to reassure you we consider every family part of one community and we will continue to support you all. If your situation changes, please inform the school office by email.

The message to reduce the risk of COVID-19 remains the same, and I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that it is really important that you continue to promote hand washing with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds.

Thank you for all that you are doing at this challenging time. I welcome contact from families who have any questions. I am happy to talk on the phone or respond to any emails.

Many thanks as always

Susannah Storey, Headteacher and The Governing Body

Research:

'The Independent SAGE Report 2 - Should Schools Reopen? Interim Findings and Concerns' Published on May 22, 2020

As a Governing Body, we have stringently followed all Government updates and guidelines and carefully assessed all of the information made available to us- so we can constantly reassess and adapt our plans if necessary. 'The Independent SAGE Report 2 - Should Schools Reopen? Interim Findings and Concerns' - supports our plan for a later opening. It states that the risk to life is halved by delaying the wider opening of schools by two weeks to 15th June. We did this.

The report also reminds us that schools do not operate in a vacuum and what happens in them will have wider ramifications for everyone within and outside of schools. We have a duty to protect our school communities as much as we can during this unprecedented time; a responsibility we take incredibly seriously.

Whilst we can put into place specific control measures and follow the latest government advice, we cannot guarantee anyone's safety from coming into contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school at this time.

Individual families are in the best place to decide what to do and to consider the mental health and wellbeing of your child. Families will have my full support on any decision you make regarding a return to school. The Government has made it clear that there will be no implications or fines for families who choose not to send their child to school. Factors you must consider include: underlying health issues of your child or family members in the household; 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 being in contact with COVID-19 whilst attending school.

Government guidance for schools states:

“The safety of children and staff is our utmost priority.”

“The advice seeks to support staff working in schools, colleges and childcare settings, to deliver this approach in the safest way possible, focussing on measures they can put in place to help limit the risk of the virus spreading within education and childcare settings.”

“In education, childcare and social care settings, preventing the spread of the coronavirus involves dealing with direct transmissions (for instance, when in close contact with those sneezing and coughing) and indirect transmission (via touching contaminated surfaces.) A range of approaches and actions should be employed to do this.”

Government guidance for parents concerning re-opening of schools states:

“We have provided guidance and support to schools, colleges and child care settings on implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings to help them reduce the risk of transmission as more children and young people return.”

“Whilst such changes are likely to look different in each setting, as they will depend upon individual circumstances, they are all designed to minimise risks to children, staff and their families.”

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

Latest Government advice to schools states:

When a child, young person or staff member develops symptoms compatible with coronavirus, they should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 7 days. Their fellow household members should self-isolate for 14 days. All staff and students who are attending an education or childcare setting will have access to a test if they display symptoms of coronavirus, and are encouraged to be tested in this scenario.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests negative, they can return to their setting and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation.

Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms.

If a child/member of staff is suspected of having COVID-19, families will be informed (without disclosing the information of who the person/child is) so they can decide if they wish to take precautionary measures themselves. **If a child/adult tests positive for COVID-19**, all families will be notified, the school will close for a deep clean and all members of staff/children who were in attendance at school will be encouraged to self-isolate as per the government advice above. St Day and Carharrack School will only re-open when it is clear that staff have tested 'negative' and there is enough staff to safely reopen the school. In this event, Key Worker/Vulnerable families may have to seek provision elsewhere through Cornwall Council.