



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

19th May 2020

URGENT NOTICE: New Classes for September + Plans to Re-open

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all, I would like to share some positive news with you, which I hope will give you some reassurance about the return of your children to school in September. Behind the scenes, we have been working on the bigger picture and pre-empting what we feel all our children will need. Positive, nurturing relationships are essential and where possible, I want our children to return to their key adults so we can start rebuilding our school community in a safe, reassuring and fun way.

Our Early Years and Key Stage 1 team will consist of Miss Rogers, Ms Horne and Miss Peters. This means that our youngest children in Reception and Year 1 will receive the continuity of established relationships and remain with their current teacher - who knows them best of all - as they transition to the next year group. Miss Rogers will be a brilliant Reception teacher and has already started making outdoor plans to welcome our new children.

Our Lower Key Stage 2 team will consist of Ms Vallance, Mr Hayes and Miss Barron. Ms Vallance and Mr Hayes will remain in Yr 3 as a strong team to welcome and support our current Yr 2 children. Miss Barron will move into Year 4 as she already knows your children well. As we return, these two classes will be able to work closely together to maintain positive relationships already formed.

Miss Clark will take her Yr 5 class into Yr 6 building on the positive relationships already in place and knowledge of your children. Our Yr 4 children will move into Yr 5 with Ms Popperwell with the intention of staying together into Yr 6. We welcome Miss Rogers moving into Reception Class with our new joiners. In September, Miss Rogers will be able to spend time with her Yr4 before our new Reception children join us full time.

I hope you feel reassured - I think this is exciting for everyone! I would like to thank our team for being flexible in moving year groups. We are fortunate to have all the same staff staying, providing stability with the same familiar faces around school. All our children will be welcomed back positively by the staff who know them best of all. Where this is not possible, there will be opportunities built in for the children to spend time with their previous teacher.

To confirm:

Reception- Miss Rogers
Yr1- Ms Horne
Yr2- Miss Peters
Yr3- Ms Vallance, Mr Hayes
Yr4- Miss Barron
Yr5- Ms Popperwell
Yr6- Miss Clark



Our current Yr 6 – you are not forgotten! You will receive transition information shortly and we plan to see you in school next month to help get you ready for the next phase in your school journey and to think about how we can celebrate the end of your time with us. And yes, we will be ordering hoodies!

Half-Term

We will be closed to all children during half term- next week – try and have a different type of break! If you wish to stick to your routines, please use the school website to access learning resources and websites. Teachers will now send the next newsletter on June 1st and make phone calls the week beginning June 1st. This will enable us to plan and restructure the school in line with government guidance to re-open.

Having shared the views of staff and parents who responded to the survey – the vast majority of people remain highly concerned about the return of all children to school before September. Following a Full Governing Body meeting yesterday, and in light of your concerns, it has been agreed that our school will proceed cautiously in the re-opening to additional children. As a Governing Body we feel strongly that we need to be rigorous in our health and safety procedures and risk assessments in order to protect the health and well-being of children, staff and our wider community. Until further scientific evidence emerges, we will not be immediately opening to our Reception and Year 1 children. The conditions we will have to operate under could have a greater negative impact on the mental and emotional well-being of our youngest children and this is something I am not prepared to risk. We are a very nurturing school and the guidance around social distancing would be impossible for us all to follow. The children seeing their rooms stripped back and not being able to be comforted would cause unnecessary anxiety. When our youngest children return, we want to be able to welcome them with open arms. Please read the government guidance available online if you require further information of what needs to be implemented. Within this we also need to consider staffing; you'll understand that some staff are not able to return to work as they are shielding or they have wider commitments which need their attention.

We remain open for key worker and vulnerable children (these children remain our 'priority' group). If your situation has changed and you meet the key worker criteria (see the school website)– **please return the key worker application form to Hayley Uren by Thursday 21st May at noon to guarantee a place from June 2nd.** We will then be able to confirm whether your child has a place from 2nd June (at the earliest) and provide you with further details on drop-offs/pickups and the new arrangements to the day. The government advice to remain at home if you can, is still in place and we would advise this. Thank you for your patience and understanding. **Please note, we will be closing on Fridays throughout June in the first instance.** This is to ensure teachers are able to support children who remain at home in addition to teaching in school. The school will undergo a deep clean on Friday afternoons. Should we receive a large quantity of requests, these will be looked at on a case-by-case basis – staffing being a key factor here. You are reminded that a key worker/vulnerable child place is flexible and your child does not need to be in everyday or for the full school day.

Year 6

From 15th June (at the earliest), we are planning to welcome back some additional children in Year 6, alongside priority groups. **Please contact Hayley Uren to confirm your requirement of a place.** This information needs to be with us **by Thursday 21st May at noon. This is to enable us to plan our provision with the right number of staff.** Once we have numbers, you will receive confirmation of the details including a risk assessment and procedures that will have to be in place. We have a duty to inform you that a return to school is not a return to 'normal'; school will need to make changes to adhere to government guidance. We need to inform you that teaching and learning will not prevail in the way both you and your children are used to. It is likely that we will need to split Year 6 into two or three separate groups/bubbles to meet social distancing guidelines. We believe our Yr6 children will understand this but it will be different for them as they will not necessarily be in their own class with their own teacher. We will manage this situation and make it a positive experience as best we can. Of course, this offer remains optional and it will be your parental choice to make the decision you feel is right for your family.

If this week is successful with Year 6 and if scientific information has emerged, we will then consider the phased return of Reception and Year 1 children.

We will constantly be monitoring the situation and inform you of all changes. I would like to thank you for bearing with us during this difficult time. I know many of you would like clear answers but we find ourselves in a changing situation with the need to take it week by week as further evidence emerges. We realise this may not be ideal for some families. Our priority is to adhere to health and safety risk assessments so that we have the full school community back healthy and ready for a fresh start in September.

Please email the required information for Year 6 to Hayley Uren
secretary@st-day.cornwall.sch.uk

Further information will follow this week. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you to all of you who took the time to reply and express your concerns, worries and wishes. This has all been shared with the Governing Body and helped us to reach these decisions. We appreciate your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Susannah Storey
Headteacher