

ST. DAY & CARHARRACK COMMUNITY SCHOOL



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Dear families

Firstly, we'd like to thank you all for your support at a time which is completely unprecedented. School has been navigating this ever-developing situation in the same way that you as families will have been – following central government guidance which is in place to prevent the transmission of the virus. We have had to make some difficult decisions along the way; please be assured they have been made keeping our social responsibility and moral obligation at the heart to ensure the safety and well-being of our children, families, staff and the wider community.

As of the end of today, Friday 20th March 2020, school will be closed and will remain closed until further notice.

Most importantly, the government's advice on self-isolation, household isolation and social distancing take precedent over any child-care provision that is made available.

We are currently seeking advice on the non-statutory provision we need to put in place to support vulnerable children and key workers who are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. Following this, our next step is to ensure we have a robust plan in place to support these groups of children; this will be communicated to you via email as further information is released to educational settings and from working with other schools in the local area. **School will remain closed to everyone next Monday** - in the first instance - to enable us to plan accordingly and work with other schools to undertake appropriate risk assessments, safeguarding procedures, pupil premium entitlements and a deep clean of the school. Please check the website for daily updates as we will respond and re-evaluate our procedures on a daily basis, in line with government advice and safety procedures for all concerned.

The government are clear with their message: *'If children can stay safely at home, they should'*. They go on to add, *'the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.'* Other advice contained within this guidance is that children should be socially distancing also e.g. not mixing with their peers. **This is in place to ensure the health and safety of everyone within our communities –including school staff and their families.** To offer provision we need to make sure we take all necessary precautions to keep our staff healthy and the school open.

Attached is the 'Key Workers and Vulnerable Children Application' which needs to be carefully read and fully completed for us to consider each case individually.



We absolutely recognise the potential strain this is going to cause families and we know that you are going to have to make difficult decisions. School staff are committed to supporting you through this time and have already:

- Organised learning packs for all children to use whilst at home
- Updated the school website with learning opportunities
- Spent time talking with the children about how they can structure their day and the importance of balancing their time whilst at home
- Considered the most effective ways of maintaining communication with all families throughout the period of school closure – thank you for updating your email address.
- Explored options for those children in receipt of pupil premium funding and how meals can be accessed during the time of school closure – more information on this will follow shortly. For next week we are looking into securing a food voucher scheme to be used locally in the community.

Communication between school and families

The school website will be the first place to visit should you have any queries or questions. There will be a coronavirus tab on the website – developed over the weekend and updated daily with the latest advice as this situation unfolds.

I will be sending daily updates via email which will also go onto the school website. Next week you will receive an email about home learning and well-being. We have explained this additional time at home as being similar in length as the summer holidays as our children can comprehend this.

Class teachers will send a weekly email to their class via the email addresses you have provided us with. Please keep in mind that teachers will not be able to respond to every received email individually – many teachers will now be juggling their own responsibilities in response to the virus outbreak including supporting their own families.

In these extraordinary times, it is very clear that our community will need to pull together and find new ways to support each other. Safeguarding the welfare and education of our learners is our priority and this does not change now that the school is closed. We are committed to doing everything we can to support you and your family within the constraints of this national and global challenge.

If it is essential that you need to get in touch with the school for any reason please email secretary@st-day.cornwall.sch.uk and it will be sent on to whoever may be able to help.

If you or your child feels ill and you want to know what to do next please use [NHS 111 online](#).

Thank you again for your continued support. We sincerely hope that you all keep safe during this very difficult and unprecedented period.

Heartfelt best wishes to everyone

From Susannah Storey and all at St Day and Carharrack School