



BISHOP CORNISH CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lynher Drive Saltash Cornwall PL12 4PA

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Wednesday 1st July 2020

Dear Parents, carers and children

Further to my letter last week we have been looking very closely at how we can invite more children back to school on a rota basis so they can see friends, teachers and just enjoy being back at school for a few days before the summer holidays. The responses we have received have been very encouraging and, as a result, we have been able to prepare a timetable of days when we can welcome more children into school. Mrs Dunbar has been amazing at helping with this process which, I am sure you appreciate, has been extremely complicated and challenging.

Based on our current numbers we are able to increase our group sizes to 15. This takes into account the reduction of social distancing to 1m+ and we feel that we can be creative with all the year groups in order to ensure that children are kept safe and yet able to see their friends and classmates.

Given the positive response we are only able to offer a school place to those returning for the first time from Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 for 2 days a week for the final two weeks. This means your child will be able to join us for 4 out of 10 days. We would love it to be more but unfortunately the government guidance has not been eased with regard group sizes and we must ensure that there are no more than 15 children together at any one time.

Arrangements for Year 6

For Year 6 all children who have indicated that they would like to return can do so. This means that we will use 2 teaching spaces, the hall/outdoors/marquee and the Year 6 classroom and the children can all attend from the 6th July until the end of term. Mr Hill will oversee this work with Miss Thompson. Year 6 dropping off time is 8.40am and collect at 3.20pm.

Arrangements for children returning from Years 5, 4, 3 and 2 (non-critical worker children)

Things will be different for children in **Years 5, 4, 3 and 2** who will be in groups of 15, in their own classrooms, with their own teachers. For these year groups we will notify you of the days allocated – **please only send your child into school on these days and do not swap these with other parents**. Please let us know if your child cannot attend any of these days but please note that we cannot offer alternatives. We have tried hard to timetable siblings together; however I am sure you appreciate that we cannot accommodate specifically the requests from parents for children to be with best friends. Over the four days they will meet their classmates and friends. You will receive an email tomorrow, Thursday 2nd July, indicating which days your child/ren has been allocated. **Please check your inbox/junk/spam boxes** for an email and please only respond to enquiries@bishop-cornish.cornwall.sch.uk if your child **will not** be attending on any/all days.

Arrangements for children of critical workers who have already been attending school

The children of **Critical Workers** in these year groups will continue to attend as they are currently, attending on the days required based on parents' working rotas – we will confirm these with you individually. We have been able to increase some of the days you have requested if numbers allow.

Arrangements for children in Year 1

For Year 1 all children who have indicated that they would like to return can do so. We will be changing things slightly so that Mrs Clelland can teach her own Year 2 class. Year 1 will be accommodated in two groups overseen by Mrs Oakes. They will be located in the Year 1 classroom and the library. The existing groups will stay but new children will be fitted into these groups. This will be decided by Mrs Oakes, who will be assisted by Mrs Berry.

Arrangements for the children in Reception

For Reception Class all children who have indicated that they would like to return can do so. Again things will need to change slightly for the children, who will be taught by Miss Edlin and supported by Mrs Taylor. As there are more than 15 children in the class Miss Edlin will plan a group activity throughout the day utilising the music room and outdoor areas including the woods and play area, where the children will work with another member of staff, Mrs Taylor, as part of a rotation.

In order to facilitate this increase in pupil numbers we will need to continue to operate a staggered start and end of the day. It is essential that parents, and those collecting children or dropping them off, continue to maintain social distancing even under the new easing of social distancing. We ask parents not to come early to collect their children or drop them off as this increases the numbers gathering on the school premises. This means we can enter and leave school in a managed and orderly way which has worked exceptionally well so far.

We also ask that parents do not enter the building unless by appointment and only through the main entrance.

Once in school, as we do currently, children will not be able to mix with other classes but will stay in their groups. It is essential that parents explain this before the children come back to school. Those children who are already in school have rehearsed this important aspect of 'new' school life many times, however, it is important that parents, in sending their child/ren back to school, fully understand that we cannot guarantee social distancing for the children all the time. Staff are very vigilant but we know that the more children we welcome back the harder this will be and children do find it hard to stay apart.

Children are not able to leave their classrooms and enter the corridor areas so we ask parents to reinforce that message before they return to school. If a child becomes disruptive this places classmates and staff in a compromised position and we are not using the corridors other than access to the toilets. We have a system which allows children to use external doors and a one-way system. It does feel very different but still very happy and productive.

Teachers are working in the classrooms alone to minimise the number of adults who children come into contact with inside the building. Support staff supervise the children outside as well as disinfect classrooms throughout the day – everyone is doing an amazing job. We ask parents to ensure that they do not, under any circumstances, send their child to school if they are unwell in anyway. Any child who complains of being unwell in school will be isolated and sent home immediately – I am sure that I do not need to emphasise the seriousness of this for everyone in school. It is vital that we ensure the safety of the other children and staff at all times.

All of these important messages will be reiterated by staff when the children return. During the day we have staggered playtimes and lunchtimes – these will continue as normal and are already well established and working well.



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Drop of and pick up times are as follows:

START TIMES

Year 5/6	-	8.40am
Year 3/4	-	8.45am
Year 1/2	-	8.50am
Reception	-	9.00am

FINISH TIMES

Reception	-	3.00pm
Year 1 and 2	-	3.05pm
Year 3 and 4	-	3.15pm
Year 5 and 6	-	3.20pm

Once your child/ren has been dropped off and collected we ask that parents do not stay on the school premises but leave immediately to avoid groups gathering. Staff are outside and supervise the children's arrival and departure and this procedure is working well.

Once in school children will be required to wash their hands regularly throughout the day. For the younger children this is closely supervised. We limit the number of children who are allowed in the toilets at any one time and again children stay in their groups.

We are able to offer school lunches as normal or the children can bring a packed lunch from home. The current menu is on the website.

We would like the children to return in school in uniform **if at all possible**. If not, something as close to a uniform, such as a white polo-shirt/shirt and trousers/shorts/ skirt are fine. Please do not send the children wearing football kits or party dresses! If the children return in winter uniform that will be equally acceptable. Please do not go out and buy anything new. We do have a small stock of second hand uniform if you contact Mrs Dunbar.

The children do not need to bring any equipment or PE kit. Our aim will be to enable the children to use the outdoor space as much as possible. If you require breakfast or after school club during the next two weeks, please email Mrs Dunbar to book your child/ren in. Please note that after school club is only available until 5.15pm during this time.

If your child has not been able to fully engage with all the home learning set please do not worry! We want to reassure you that this process is about being reunited before the end of term.

Finally, I am sure you appreciate the complexities of preparing for this next phase. Over the two weeks our priority will be the emotional wellbeing of all the children and the safety of them and the staff. This is new for all of us and I ask for your patience as we adapt the measures we have in place – we may not always get it right but the staff are working incredibly hard to deal with new situations and with no additional guidance for schools. Please bear with us.

My apologies for the length of this letter but hopefully it gives information for the different groups of children returning next week.

We cannot wait to see those children who are returning albeit for a few days.

Very best wishes

Mrs SC Green