



BISHOP CORNISH CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, can I wish everyone a very happy new year and I hope your Christmas was the best it could have been under the circumstances. We do however return in very uncertain circumstances and at a very difficult time with regard the transmission levels of the new variant of COVID-19.

We are awaiting further information from the Department for Education, however we now rely on hearing announcements through the news rather than directly from the Department. Today the staff have spoken to their classes in an age-appropriate way about the need for us to continue with our hand washing regime, that they maintain space as much as possible with their classmates and stay in their own class bubbles. Staff will continue to ensure classrooms and other facilities in school are regularly cleaned. It is however clear that as a community we need to 'step-up' and look at the possible consequences if we cannot reduce the rate of transmission.

We therefore need your help even more than before if we are to avoid seeing primary schools close in the future. When dropping your child/children off in the morning please do not stay and chat to friends but leave via the main gates leaving the smaller pedestrian gate as an entrance.

Please can I ask that those collecting children from school **do not** arrive earlier than the child's allotted leaving time. We have noticed that a growing number of parents/carers are arriving up to 20 minutes before the start of the staggered leaving times. This increases the congestion in the school car-park. We will continue to call older siblings out of class to ensure that waiting times are kept to a minimum and that will be our priority. Can we also remind parents/carers that only one person, if at all possible, should be collecting a child/children from school.

Whilst waiting for children please can you ensure social distancing is respected **at all times** and that you leave the school premises as soon as a child/children have been collected. Can you also ensure that your child/children stay close and so do not go over to other families and children from different households.

One area that is causing concern is when children are collected by multiple/different households during the week. The Tier 3 regulations state that:

People in a childcare bubble – parents are able to form a childcare bubble with one other household for the purposes of informal childcare, where the child is 13 or under.

What a childcare bubble is

- From 2 December, childcare bubbles are allowed in all tiers.
- A childcare bubble is where **one household** links with **one other household** to provide informal childcare to anyone under 13. All adults in both households must agree to this arrangement. 'Informal' childcare means it is unpaid and unregistered.
- Members of either household can provide childcare in a home or public place. This includes overnight care.
- **You can only have one childcare bubble with one other household. This means no household should be part of more than one childcare bubble.**

- *You can only use a childcare bubble for childcare. **You cannot use a childcare bubble to mix with another household for other reasons.***
- *If you form a childcare bubble, it's best if this is with a household who live locally. This will help prevent the virus spreading from an area where more people are infected.*

If you are forming a 'childcare bubble' please can you let us know so that we can supervise children safely at the end of the day.

Finally, we urge everyone to take all the necessary steps to ensure that households are not mixing; that children do not go back to each other's homes unless it is part of the one 'childcare bubble' and that families do not mix. All of these measures will keep our children, their families and our staff safe. We have been so fortunate that our staffing capacity has not been adversely affected so far and I do not want that to change forcing a school closure. You will have seen in the news that this has affected many schools across the country. Staff will feel safer if they know that everyone is following the Tier 3 rules.

Thank you for all your support over what has been a very challenging few months. We are not in the clear yet and we face more difficult times ahead but together we can overcome this if everyone plays their part.

Every blessing



Sue Green