



BISHOP CORNISH CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents, Carers and children

Like many of you I too was watching the Prime Minister's announcement last night as the difficult decision to partially close all schools was made. Given the timescale this has given us very little time to communicate clearly with you all and we are using today to get our contingency plan up and running.

We will be providing remote learning for all those children who must now stay at home. The link to the Home Learning page for each class will be emailed to parents and also put on the school website every Friday afternoon. If you need paper copies of the home learning these can be provided if you contact Mrs Dunbar. These will be posted on a Friday ready for the following week. Unfortunately, we do not have computers that are available for home learning and children would not ordinarily complete their school work on a computer, therefore access to paper copies should assist families. We are so sad that we did not get a chance to say 'goodbye' to the children yesterday or to send them home with learning packs and books. We will be addressing this over the next few days.

During the last lock-down families had very different experiences of home learning – some good some not so good! It is important however that children do complete the work set – they have worked so hard to make up lost learning from the summer and we do not want to see that progress lost over the next few weeks. Whilst staff will all be teaching during the day they will be able to respond to emails at other times so please do keep in contact with us and ask for help if you need it – we are here to assist in any way.

The work that children will be doing at home will be mirrored at school so all children will be covering the same curriculum. We do not expect the children to work solidly for 5 hours a day but create bite-size times for learning. One really important area we would like to encourage all the children to partake in is reading – in whatever age-appropriate way you can encourage your child to use books. This will help enormously.

Our school does however remain open for children of **critical/key workers** and **vulnerable children** only. Both of these categories are clearly defined by the government.

Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

If parents' employment falls into these categories please can you email Mrs Dunbar secretary@bishop-cornish.cornwall.sch.uk giving us details of your school requirements along with a letter from your employer evidencing that you are a 'critical worker.'

It is absolutely vital that we maintain the smallest possible classes in order to minimise risks – children in KS2 will now be working at a 2m distance in the classroom and therefore the number of children we can accommodate each day is severely limited. Once we have an up-to-date register of all those critical workers we will be able to plan our in-school learning more effectively. I will be writing to those critical worker parents separately explaining how the school will be functioning for this half term.

Finally, the current situation shows how quickly things can change and we look forward to a time when we can all be back together again. Until then we hope you all stay safe and hold every single one of you in our prayers.

Best wishes

Sue Green