



# BISHOP CORNISH CHURCH OF ENGLAND V.A. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lynher Drive Saltash Cornwall PL12 4PA

Head Teacher: Mrs Sue Green

Tel: 01752 845463 Fax: 01752 848055

www.bishop-cornish.cornwall.sch.uk



Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents, carers and children

## Partial opening for Year R, Year 1 and Year 6 and Key Worker children

Last week the staff worked hard to prepare classrooms ready for the partial reopening of school for some year groups and they have planned appropriate activities based on the guidelines issued by the government. We are really looking forward to welcoming some of the children back to school on Monday. As I said in my previous letter, for those children who are staying at home we will continue to provide home learning packs which will be uploaded on a Monday morning for the whole week and will be based on the learning activities that the children in school are undertaking.

We hope you have had a chance to watch the videos prepared for the children, which show what the classrooms now look like. We have not felt it necessary to use some of the measures other schools have taken with regard sectioning of areas as we believe we can talk to the children about the new rules of social distancing and not sharing equipment – we urge parents to have the same conversations at home in preparation.

We know, however, that some aspects of this will be difficult, particularly for the younger children especially when they see their friends for the first time! Staff are very sensitive to this but will also be very vigilant. We cannot guarantee that children will always be at a 2m distance but, by keeping them in their teaching groups, we believe that we have minimised the risks. We cannot eliminate them. The challenges of this aspect of opening are something the government has now acknowledged will be extremely difficult but we will try our best. The major emphasis will be on hygiene – frequent hand washing and disinfecting key areas of the school.

In my last letter I asked parents to help us in several key ways, the first being to ensure that, if your child is unwell in any way, you do not send them to school. It is vital that you help us in this way. If any child complains of being unwell we will isolate them from the other children immediately and contact parents so they can be collected. The second important way that you can help us, as we all do things for the first time, is to help with staggering the start and finish times of the school day. It is vital that only one adult accompanies the children into the car park where the children will be greeted by a member of staff and escorted to their assigned entrance. **Please can parents ensure that they are socially distancing whilst waiting for the children and closely supervise them as you leave the grounds. It is really important that these times are adhered to so we minimise the number of children and adults waiting together.**

### Start times are as follows:

**Year 6** – arrival at 8.40am

**Key worker children (Years 2, 3, 4 and 5)** – arrival at 8.45am

**Year 1** – arrival at 8.50am

**Reception** – arrival at 9.00am

Children who are attending Breakfast Club will be escorted over to school by staff.

**At the end of the day the children will be brought out to the car park or play area by staff at the following times to be collected by one adult:**

**Reception** – depart at 3.00pm

**Year 1** – depart at 3.10pm

**Key worker children (Years 2, 3, 4 and 5)** – depart at 3.20pm

**Year 6** – depart at 3.30pm

Children who are attending afterschool club will be escorted into the Education Centre through the school hall at 3.30pm.

We understand that for those of you who have children in different year groups this may be inconvenient, as you may have to wait. Please do bear with us. We cannot make any exceptions at this stage, as it will create additional congestion at those key times. Sadly, parents will not be able to enter the classrooms under any circumstances. We know this will be hard, particularly for the younger children, for you as parents and for us as staff, especially if anyone becomes upset or anxious. If you need to speak to a member of staff we will only be able to accommodate one parent at a time in the main entrance, so please wait outside until another parent leaves. Ideally, if you have any queries email either Lotty or Chris and they will get back to you as soon as possible. As I am sure you appreciate the volume of emails have risen significantly over the last few weeks but rest assured someone will get back to you.

We do ask that the children wear school uniform on their return and bring their PE kit so we can get them outside to exercise. We also fully understand that some parts of the uniforms may be a little snug. Please do the best you can but we will understand. The children will also be able to book a school meal (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6). For the children in Reception and Year 1 they will be able to have a Universal Free School Meal.

I am very aware that for some parents who have a sibling who can now return to school and another who cannot this must be a challenge. We cannot accept any requests for places for a sibling to return to school unless you are classed as a Key/Critical Worker. The definition is, **'Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response including those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the Government guidance.'** We will require a letter from your employer indicating that your role falls into this category.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>

The last few weeks and months have been a challenge for us all and we are all facing making adaptations that we have never had to deal with or experience before. In school, our first challenge is to get the children all safely and calmly into school and safely back to you at the end of the day on Monday. Please do bear with us – it may feel strange but we are all trying our very best in new circumstances. We may not get it completely right but we will be constantly reviewing the way we approach this. Thank you once again for your amazing support over the last few months – this feels like a step in the right direction. We are all so excited about seeing the children again.

Finally, I want to commend the work of every single member of staff to you. They have worked tirelessly and positively over the last few months. They have been in school helping with the children of key workers, preparing home learning, uploading documents, cleaning and decorating and keeping in touch with children and parents – they have been amazing. Thank you to every single one of them.

Every blessing

Sue Green  
Headteacher