



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

Lynher Drive Saltash Cornwall PL12 4PA

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Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents, carers and children

We are coming to the end of the most extraordinary academic year with a strange sense of 'unfinished' business. We have not had sports day, a summer fayre, our residential trip, visits, our Leavers' Service, video reports or any of the usual celebrations to mark the end of a year and significant events for our Year 6s ending their time at Bishop Cornish School. We have however hopefully given the children who have been back in school some unique experiences which they will remember for years to come. It has been wonderful to welcome nearly everyone back for a few days (or longer if you are part of the key groups) and for those of you who we haven't seen we look forward to welcoming you back to school in September.

I have now had a chance to respond to the guidance from the Department for Education regarding a full reopening in September and we have made extensive plans in preparation. There are some significant changes that will need to be in place for our return. Over the last few weeks we have had a chance to rehearse some of these with smaller numbers of children and more adults to support the 'cleaning regime.' In September the expectation is that all children will return to school in an environment that will be safe for everyone.

The autumn term starts for the children on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – please see the times below (please note that there are different times for the Reception class for the first two days).

The guidance indicates that when we return, children within their year groups will not be required to socially distance however, the adults, staff and parents, will need to abide by the existing social distancing rules. This means that our staggered start and finish times will remain in place for the foreseeable future – this is something that has worked incredibly well over the last few months. The staggered times means that we will not have children and adults congregating in the car park thus making social distancing easier. The times will be as follows:

## Drop off times:

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

## Collection times:

Reception – 3.00pm	Year 1/2 – 3.05pm	Year 3/4 – 3.15pm
Year 5/6 – 3.20pm		

It is really important that the person dropping off and/or collecting children adheres to these times – please do not be late for your time slot or too early! We ask that just one person comes on site, again to reduce the number of adults waiting. Whilst the guidance states that staff must maintain a distance of 1m+ with the children please rest assured that we will be very sensitive to the children's needs and be there for them in whatever way they need us.

Once in school the children will stay in their class 'bubbles' and staggered playtimes and lunchtimes will continue as they do at the moment – again this is already working well. The children will continue to frequently wash their hands and the classroom surfaces will be disinfected throughout the day as we do at present. With significantly more children in school, however and a limit on the number of children who can be accommodated in the toilets, this may take a little longer until we get into the swing of things!

The children will still not be able to access the school corridors but will continue to use their external classroom doors. The two key stage areas will continue to stay separate with the main foyer accessible to adults only. Only parents/visitors will be allowed in school if they have made an appointment and only one visitor at a time will be allowed to enter the premises except in an emergency.

It would be really helpful if in September, the children in years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are able to bring some of their own stationery equipment such as a pencil, rubber, ruler, crayons or felt pens in a pencil case. We do have this equipment in school but if children have their own equipment it reduces the need for children to share. If this is not possible, please do not worry. Children will need to bring PE kit into school as normal.

If you wish to purchase uniform please order and pay for any new uniform directly through the supplier – details are on our website.

Once again we ask parents to ensure that they do not send their child to school if they are in any way unwell. If a child is taken ill during the day they will be placed in a quarantine room and we will contact a parent to come and collect them immediately. Please note that children can be tested for COVID19 if they are displaying any symptoms and we ask that parents do the same. The consequence of a child or member of staff testing positive will be that the whole class will be sent home to self-isolate. We will work closely with the NHS Track and Trace service.

One of the sad consequences of this new normal is that initially in September we will need to cancel extra-curricular after-school clubs. This is because our clubs consist of mixes of classes. I am sure that Mr Brown will be able to lead some class-based lunchtime activities to provide some extra sporting daytime opportunities and we will aim to restart these as soon as possible.

One important aspect of our planning has been the need for us to be able to respond to a localised lockdown and ensure that we can provide home learning remotely and swiftly if necessary. We have therefore this week asked parents to complete a quick SurveyMonkey questionnaire so we are prepared and ready to respond – more about our plans September.



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Finally, can I thank you all for your understanding and support over the last few extraordinary months. Your kind and compassionate messages have really galvanised our determination to care for the children and make the right decisions here in school. I cannot thank the staff enough for all their dedication and hard work – they are amazing.

My thanks also to the Governors who have provided the strong and supportive core of our work – they have always been there for sound and sensible advice helping to keep everything heading in the right direction.

I therefore wish you all a very restful summer holiday and pray that you are able to find time with families with a renewed focus.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue Green', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mrs Sue Green  
Headteacher

