

15th October, 2020

Coronavirus - COVID-19 - Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well this has truly been a unique start to a school year, and we are already approaching the end of the first half term. It has been a huge effort on the part of so many to welcome all children back to our schools safely and I would like to take a moment to thank you as parents and carers for the role you continue to play in such a positive return.

Friday Afternoons

Together we have navigated a system of staggered starts, regular hand washing, altered play/lunch time routines and changed classroom layouts. The positive comments you have offered to staff about these additional safety measures have been very gratefully received. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to you all for accommodating our decision to close schools after lunch on Friday afternoons. This has allowed not only for a deep clean of our buildings and extra cleaning of resources, but has also allowed staff to come together to review systems and processes used to help keep all those in our school communities safe, making immediate changes to risk assessments and procedures where appropriate. Up to the point of writing, we have not had any positive cases in our schools, despite the fact we know there have been cases in our local communities. In light of an increasingly uncertain national picture, we would like to continue to close on Friday afternoons into next half term. Please do bear with us whilst we navigate through these unusual times and we assure you we will regularly review the situation. Meanwhile, we will continue to offer on-site care to support working parents.

Catch-Up Curriculum

Our schools are all delivering a carefully planned 'catch up' curriculum to help mitigate any impact from the lock down and we are also providing tailored intervention sessions for individuals and groups of children who need additional support. Furthermore, all children are receiving an enhanced Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) curriculum to support their emotional wellbeing. We remain committed to ensuring no child's education is negatively impacted by this pandemic and continue to provide a wide and engaging curriculum offer.

Distance Learning – Consent Needed

In the case of another lock down, or if the need arose for a 'bubble' to isolate, we have comprehensive plans in place to ensure we could continue to deliver an effective education. For many children, Microsoft Teams will be used to support this offer – with children being able to access recorded lessons, upload work and receive feedback from their teacher. With this in mind, please ensure you have completed the consent form on the Arbor Parent app. If you are having difficulty logging on please contact the school secretary who will be more than happy to assist you.

As you will be aware, we have only offered packed lunches over this half term. Having reviewed our processes we are confident that we can now safely organise a mix of packed and hot lunches in the majority of our schools, as we head deeper into the colder months. Heads will contact you with regard to the specific menus which will be available after the half term break.

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Nurture Group

Finally, I am delighted to announce that Bridge Schools will be opening a nurture group based at Looe Primary Academy from the beginning of January. This provision will offer a number of children from across our 14 schools the opportunity to receive specialised support within a nurturing and caring small group environment.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half term at the end of next week. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Massey and everyone at Bridge Schools