

29th May 2020

Coronavirus - COVID-19 – Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family continue to be well.

You will no doubt have seen the news yesterday where the Prime Minister confirmed plans to phase the wider opening of schools to Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children from next week. The government feel that we are meeting the five tests enabling them to start easing 'lockdown' in a limited way. We wrote to you last week to explain that we will begin our plans with Year 6, assess that the operational functions of all our schools are working safely, and then move to opening to children from Year 1. We have chosen the older children as they will understand how to socially distance themselves from each other, enabling staff to test the measures we have put in place work adequately. We may need to modify our operation, please bear with us if we do.

The heads in each of the schools have written to you separately with the details of how we would like the children brought into school to ensure everyone's safety. Please respect signage around sites and do not enter school buildings unless invited to do so by a member of staff. The safety of the school community is our prime objective. It is important everyone keeps to the timings and distancing measures each school has in place. Please ensure that children are dropped off and collected at the designated times to minimise cross contact.

We are following the Department for Education guidance and trying to ensure each group stays within a 'bubble' of children and staff to minimise any possible cross infection. If someone in that group, or 'bubble' shows symptoms of being ill we will ask that whole group of children and staff to self-isolate for 14 days. If this happens the rooms and areas used will then be deep cleaned but this allows us to keep all the other groups attending school.

You may have heard Sir Patrick Vallance, the Chief Scientific Adviser to the government say in the briefing, 'We should proceed very cautiously while the R value is close to 1.' That has been our plan all along.

As I said in my last letter, we have completed risk assessments for the schools, now purchased over £6,500 of additional cleaning and sanitising materials for the schools and are working with heads in each of the schools to ensure there is enough staffing to open safely. For this reason, Trenode will need to continue to hub with Looe and Gunnislake with Delaware, we are able to open all other sites from Tuesday 2nd June to children of key workers, vulnerable children and children in Year 6.

All schools will remain closed to all children until Tuesday 2nd June.

There will be some children who cannot return for medical reasons. Please remember that children with a pre-existing medical condition or those that live with someone with a pre-existing medical condition will need to follow the government guidance.

- *Children that have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield and should not come to school. We will continue to support their home learning.*
- *Children that have been classed as clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable) are those considered to be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. Parents/carers will need to follow medical advice if their child is in this category and must inform the school of what has been advised should they wish to return.*

- *If your child lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, they are able to understand and follow those instructions. We would ask that these children continue to learn from home at this time.*

Thank you to over 700 parents who replied to the latest survey to help schools to plan for reopening. There are a number of parents, who are understandably nervous about the wider reopening of schools and have opted to follow online learning instead of their children attending school. All staff understand the individual decisions taken and we will support you as best we can whichever way you make your decision. We will continue to provide access to learning online in parallel to classes returning to school. Once we have welcomed Year 6 back to school, I will write to you again next week about our plans for Year 1.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this period of continued beautiful weather.

With all good wishes,

Adrian Massey and everyone at Bridge Schools.