

15th April 2020

Coronavirus - COVID-19 – Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the Summer Term, albeit a rather unusual one. I hope that despite the challenging circumstances we find ourselves under, you were able to find some time to enjoy the Easter Holiday and the glorious weather that accompanied it.

Childcare provision for key worker and vulnerable children

Thanks to the commitment of our staff, we were able to offer childcare across the Trust over the Easter break (including over the bank holidays) for children of key workers and vulnerable children. This provision will continue into this new term at our 'hub' schools.

Hubs:

Looe Primary the hub school for Trenode, Polperro and Duloe

Brunel Primary will be open

Delaware Primary the hub school for Gunnislake

Lanlivery Primary will be open

Pelynt Primary the hub school for Polruan

St Cleer Primary the hub school for Darite

Wadebridge Primary the hub school for Blisland

Please see contact details below of the Hub Location for your child's school:

Brunel (Hub) - Tel: 01752 848900 or email secretary@brunelprimary.co.uk

Delaware (Hub) – Tel: 01822 832550 or email secretary@delawareprimary.co.uk
Gunnislake

Lanlivery (Hub) – Tel: 01208 872662 or email secretary@lanliveryprimary.co.uk

Pelynt (Hub) – Tel: 01503 220262 or email secretary@pelyntprimary.co.uk
Polruan

Looe (Hub) – Tel: 01503 262172 or email secretary@looeprimary.co.uk
Duloe, Polperro, Trenode

St Cleer (Hub) – Tel: 01579 342196 or email secretary@stcleerprimary.co.uk
Darite

Wadebridge (Hub) – Tel: 01208 814560 or email secretary@wadebridgeprimary.co.uk
Blisland

If your circumstances change and you find yourself requiring childcare, the information about your nearest hub can also be found on your child's school website along with contact details.

Benefits related Free School Meals

We have been working hard to ensure that all our families who are entitled to Free School Meals continue to access these whilst our schools remain closed. Building on our initial offer of providing a daily packed lunch, our central team have worked closely with external agencies over the holiday to enable us to offer families supermarket vouchers or 10-day food parcels. The government have chosen one provider, EdenRed for vouchers, as with many of the new initiatives being put into place the website crashed and was rebuilt over the weekend. Please keep trying, the DfE have assured us it will now cope with the additional traffic. If you have any queries regarding free school meals, please contact your Headteacher by email.

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Staying safe online

We have arranged for your children to learn from home via our school websites which may mean they may be online more regularly than usual. All of our content and sites that we direct children to are educational and age appropriate, however we understand that some children will be using devices to access the internet for reasons beyond completing home learning. The sites below may be useful to support you in keeping your children safe online:

- [Internet Matters](#) - Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - Support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - Support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - Advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - Advice for parents and carers
- [NSPCC](#) - Advice for parents and carers

We suggest you ensure children are in supervised areas whilst completing anything online and that you regularly check in with them on their activity.

Home Learning

As the new term has officially begun, teachers will start uploading work to your child's class page on the school website. We have tried to post learning opportunities which will motivate and inspire as well as continue to develop key skills across the curriculum. We do appreciate that many parents will be juggling other commitments as well as supporting home learning so if you have any questions or queries please do contact the school via email in the first instance. A member of staff will get back to you to advise on next steps.

We have been told in the government briefings that we have at least another three weeks of 'lockdown' with schools only open to families of key workers and vulnerable children. With the way the numbers are looking at the moment, I think it is likely this will be extended for a further three week period. Six weeks is a considerable amount of time to continue with home learning and not to have the usual freedoms as a break for the children. Please take time for yourselves and your family, health and well-being should come first. We have completed the strange 'holiday period,' now is a time to bring back some routine for children – I am speaking from experience with two young adults at home with us! We all need to come out the other side of this intact. Children's learning is important, but the infrastructure of family is paramount. I have been contacted by a number of people who feel they are not keeping up with home learning, they seem to be treating this as some sort of educational marathon, putting strain on themselves and their children. Please pace yourselves and the activities of your children over the coming weeks. If children can complete some of the resources we have offered online that is all to the good, it will help to keep their minds in shape, ready for the return to school whenever that takes place. But using the time as a family unit, is also invaluable. Please don't overly criticise yourselves or your children for not completing 'enough' distance learning.

Could I also suggest you are open with children about what is going on globally. Help children to 'scale' what has happened. Sadly, people are dying; helping children to understand this avoids anxiety. By not talking about the issues with your children, they will build their own 'logic' from the limited information they have and possibly exaggerate scenarios out of all proportion.

If there is anything we can do to support you further through the coming weeks, please get in touch. Some staff are self-isolating so if you don't get a response from a school email address in the first instance and need a response please forward your query to the Bridge Schools Trust email address enquiries@bridgeschools.co.uk

I hope you all continue to be well. With all good wishes,

Adrian Massey and everyone at Bridge Schools.