



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have had a good summer break with your children.

Our school is thoroughly cleaned and ready to open and the teachers have prepared exciting learning activities for the new term. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming our pupils back and to meeting our new reception class and other children joining our school.

Below you will find information regarding our arrangements, planning and response to COVID19 for the start of term. You will have seen in the press that due to the high rates of infection across the South West at the moment, Cornwall and Devon have been moved to an Enhanced Response Area (ERA) by central government. This means that authorities across the South West have more flexibility to introduce public health measures if considered necessary. This response will last for five weeks initially and will be reviewed after four.

Our Aspire Health and Safety team have been busy this week consulting with and taking the most up-to-date advice from Public Health England, the Department for Education and the Cornwall Local Authority teams. Our individual school risk assessments have been updated and signed off by the health and safety teams and a COVID Outbreak Management Plan is in place.

Our planning has been based on balancing the need for the children to have an enjoyable start to their school year with a necessity to reduce any further disruption to their education and to keep the children, families and our staff as safe as we can.

### **School News**

On returning to school tomorrow children and adults will notice that there are areas of the playground and field fenced off in preparation for the new development to be built throughout this term. This will certainly be challenging in terms of loss of space for this coming term, however, the end goal of having a new set of classrooms and being able to offer pre-school provision for our families will ensure that our staff plan effectively around any disruption to allow all our children to remain smiling, learning and excelling at our school.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as the building moves forward.

### **Bubbles:**

Children will no longer be grouped in 'bubbles.' They will however be grouped in their normal classes and we will endeavour to keep children within their class groupings whilst learning indoors. We will avoid classes mixing inside the buildings as much as possible.



Large indoor assemblies and gatherings will NOT take place for at least the first five weeks. Assemblies will take place remotely and children will stay in their classes.

Should our school experience an outbreak of confirmed COVID infections we may consider temporary re-introduction of bubbles if advised to do so by the South West Health Protection Team.

**Break times and Lunch time:**

Children will be able to play freely and with their friends whilst outside. There will be no designated zones for bubbles and children will be able to mix with other classes.

During lunch the dining halls/rooms will run as normal, although with a class using the hall as a temporary home some children may need to eat their meal in their classroom for this first term. Windows and doors will be opened to ensure good ventilation. All children will wash their hands/use sanitiser before entering/leaving the dining hall.

**Carbon Dioxide Monitors:**

The government has announced that they will be providing monitors to schools to enable us to take readings from across the indoor spaces in our schools, providing reassurance that existing ventilation measures are working, and helping balance the need for good ventilation with keeping classrooms warm. At this time procurement has not yet been finalised and we do not yet have a date for delivery. When we have more information on this we will let you know.

**Cleaning:**

Our cleaning contractor (Mitie) will continue to carry out high level cleaning regimes for the whole term. Additional cleaning during the day will take place for highly used areas and frequently touched areas/resources. Children will use their own equipment where possible.

**Covid Response Flowchart:**

Please see the attached information for a chart of measures we will take should there be a rise in cases in any individual school.

**Covid contact tracing and self-isolation:**

From 19th July schools were no longer expected or able to undertake contact tracing. Schools will not be asking families to keep their children home to isolate nor asking any member of staff to isolate unless they have Covid symptoms. This is now undertaken completely by NHS Test and Trace.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parents to identify close contacts. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of



the close contact. As parents or carers, you may be contacted to help with identifying close contacts.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- **they are fully vaccinated**
- **they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months**
- **they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial**
- **they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons**

Instead, NHS Test and Trace will inform affected individuals, children or their parents or carers that they have been in close contact with a positive case and advise them to take a PCR test.

**Do not send your child to their school if: • they are showing one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms and/or they have had a positive test result**

Pupils should only self-isolate if they have symptoms or if they get a positive PCR test

#### **Curriculum and Wellbeing:**

We are returning to our full and exciting curriculum plans and all subjects will once again be taught as normal. We understand there will be gaps in learning and teachers we will continue to plan for catch up for individual children.

We also understand that all children have experienced a great deal of disruption and chaos in their learning and school life and many children have experienced personal traumas as well. Pastoral care and mental health and wellbeing of children is at the top of our agenda and our staff are skilled in recognising, supporting and helping children with social, emotional and physical wellbeing needs. There may also be a reduction in confidence and resilience levels as well as social anxieties for some children.

Please ensure you talk to your child's teacher about any specific concerns you have regarding your child/children's return to school.

#### **Education and support for pupils at home:**

Should your child/children need to isolate and stay at home but remain well, we will provide remote education that meets the same quality and quantity of education that pupils would receive in school.



The school will continue to provide food vouchers for pupils eligible for benefits-related free school meals while they are not attending school because of COVID-19 isolation guidelines.

**Face Coverings:**

Children are not required to wear a face covering at any time. We are requesting that staff, visitors and parents do wear a face covering in communal areas of the schools for the next five weeks. We politely ask parents to please continue to wear a mask if entering the school buildings.

**Hygiene:**

Hand hygiene

Frequent and thorough hand cleaning will be a regular practice for all children and adults. Staff will continue to ensure that pupils clean their hands regularly with soap and water or hand sanitiser.

Respiratory hygiene

The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important and will be followed in our schools.

LFD testing:

All school staff will be asked to continue with twice weekly Lateral Flow Device testing.

**Staffing:**

Thank you all again for your endless patience and understanding during the last 18 months. We endeavour to ensure your children are taught by their familiar adults, but we do expect some disruption with staff shortages due to sickness and/or need to isolate (as many workplaces in Cornwall are experiencing at this time with cases rising)

Our fabulous staff in our schools will always 'go the extra mile' to ensure that children are cared for by familiar adults whenever possible. We ask for your continued support should we need to cover your child's class short term with unfamiliar (but qualified and experienced) adults.

We welcome two new members of staff this term. Firstly **Mrs Taylor**, who many children will know well as she was with us throughout last year covering a long-term staff absence. We are also pleased to say hello to another **Mr Wilson**. This may be a little confusing, and I'm not sure referring to myself as Old Mr Wilson to avoid misunderstandings is the way forward! A warm welcome to them both.

**Wraparound Care:**

Early Birds (7:50 – 8:30) and After School Club (3:15-5:15) are both planned to run from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September. **Places for After School Club need to be booked in advance through Parent Pay.**



Please be aware however that whilst case rates are high in Cornwall it is possible that staff shortages may cause some disruption to our after/before school activities.

### **Classes**

A reminder that we are running six classes for this coming year and have moved to naming our classes as follows.

Class Name	Teacher	Access for drop off and collection
Tamar	Mrs Stanhope	Drop off: Through reception outside area Collection: Steps on playground.
Kenwyn	Miss Adler	Drop off: Steps on playground Collection: Steps on playground
Fal	Mrs Lewis & Mrs Warchal	Drop off: Side door of Miss Eddison's classroom Collection: Side door of Miss Eddison's classroom
Helford	Mrs Ashley	Drop off: Steps on playground Collection: Steps on playground
Lynher	Miss Eddison	Drop off: Steps on playground Collection: Steps on playground
Gannel	Mr Easter	Drop off: Door nearest classroom Collection: Door nearest classroom

### **Arrangements for Drop Off and Collection:**

As stated in our final newsletter in July, the last eighteen months has taught us things can change rather quickly concerning guidance locally and nationally for schools. With the current situation regarding rates of Covid-19 infection, we have had to keep our staggered drop off system in place for the start of this term.

<b><u>Class:</u></b>	<b><u>Arrival Time</u></b>	<b><u>Departure Time</u></b>
Gannel – Mr Easter	8:30-8:40	3:00
Lynher – Miss Eddison	8:30-8:40	3:00
Helford – Mrs Ashley	8:30-8:40	3:00
Fal – Mrs Lewis	8:40 – 8:50	3:10



Kenwyn – Miss Adler	8:40-8:50	3:10
Tamar –Mrs Stanhope – Following a settling period of two weeks.	8:50	3:10

- Staggered drop off and collection times based on class
- 1-way directional system
- An adult will be at the main gate entrance welcoming the children and supporting with the direction of movement.
- **One adult per family** will accompany their child – unfortunately, no parent or carer will be able to enter the building
- **No child or adult should gather on the school site at any time**
- Children will enter their classrooms via their external classroom door and will immediately wash their hands or use hand sanitizer.
- For collection, the gates will be open at 14:55. Do not to arrive before 14:55 as this would result in congestion
- **Siblings to be dropped off/collected at earliest time**
- To support the safe environment, **parents must adhere to the collection and drop off times**

**One way System:** The one-way system has been extremely effective in enabling the children to enter and leave their classrooms in a calm way. We have appreciated your co-operation with this during last year and know from your comments that you have found this system efficient too.

Therefore, please continue to enter through the gate near Reception class (as you do currently) to walk around the building, dropping off children at classroom doors.

### **Uniform**

A reminder that we ask for your child to wear a school sweatshirt, cardigan or hoodie as part of our required uniform. These can now be purchased from Key Wear in Truro. The rest of the uniform can be purchased anywhere you wish. This decision is in place to ensure that the cost of uniform is kept low. However, we wish to ensure our uniforms is fully affordable and accessible, therefore, high street alternatives to branded school uniforms are very acceptable.

As we are returning to a full and normal curriculum all children will be expected to return in their full school uniforms, please and with their PE/Sport kits. Please ensure school shoes and trainers are plain, not brightly coloured and 'brand name' logo free.





It is important that you support our school by ensuring your child has the correct uniform. If you do have any issues sourcing or affording the correct uniform, please contact the school for help and support.

### **School PE Kit**

We would like to keep the children coming into school in their PE kit on PE days. This has almost eliminated lost kit and, because children do not need to change, actual PE teaching time is extended.

Children should wear their SCHOOL PE KIT as detailed below. On all other days they should wear their normal school uniform. The Uniform Policy is on the website:

- White T-shirt
- Black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms
- Trainers for outside activities.
- Choice of **school** hoodie, sweatshirt or cardigan

There is no class scheduled for PE on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

### **Non Pupil Days/Term Dates 2021-22**

We have set our INSET (Non pupil) Days for the next academic year as:

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Platinum Jubilee Day

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

### **Our Term Dates for 2021-22 are:**

#### Autumn Term:

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
(Half-term: 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October)

#### Spring Term:

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
(Half-term: 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February)

#### Summer Term:

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022  
(Half-term: 30<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> June – return to school on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June**)

We look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure a smooth start back, happy settled children and a great term of learning. Warm Regards

Mr Wilson



# Shortlanesend School Newsletter

06/09/21

Smile – Learn - Excel

