

Otterham C P School

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Dear Parents

I hope you and your families remain well, both physically and emotionally. At least the sun continues to keep shining!

As we plan and prepare for a possible, partial opening for specific groups of children on 1st June, an important part of the process is to share the measures we have been instructed to implement to try to keep children, staff and yourselves safe.

- There will be a staggered start to the school day with separate entrances being used for the Elliot building (CI 1 and CI 2). Whilst we have reduced numbers, surnames A – M to arrive between 08:45 - 09:00 and surnames N – Z to arrive between 09:00 – 09:15.
- Reception & Y1 children will be using their own classroom, as will the Y6 children. Children of key workers and children who have been advised to attend will be using CI 2. These children will be using the entrance into CI 2 from the playground.
- It has been acknowledged that the younger children will be unable to socially distance themselves, however the Y6 children and those attending CI 2 will be seated spaced around the classroom and the expectation will be that this is maintained. These children will also be expected to maintain a distance when outside (as much as possible). Staff will be trying to maintain a distance (as much as possible) from children and may choose to wear PPE when needing to be in close proximity i.e. when administering first aid.
- Playtimes will be staggered, as will lunchtime. Each class group i.e. pupils and teacher/TA, will not mix with another class group. This is to restrict the possibility of cross contamination between groups and allows easier tracking and tracing should anyone become ill.
- Aspens (Debbie) will start to produce lunches on Wed 3rd June. All children will need a packed lunch on Monday 1st and Tue 2nd June. The likelihood is that it will be cold lunches only as children will need to eat them in their classrooms or outside if the weather is fine.
- If someone within a group becomes ill, displaying any Coronavirus symptoms, the individual should be tested while the rest of the group isolate. If the test comes back negative, the group returns to school. If the test comes back positive, the rest of the group should be tested. Testing will be available for children and their families.
- If a staff member becomes ill (with something other than coronavirus), it is likely that that group will have to remain home as we will be unable to provide adequate cover for staff breaks. We cannot bring someone else into the group.
- There will be an enhanced cleaning regime to include regular disinfecting of tables, handles and equipment. Each class will have their own cleaning station with wipes, gloves, antibacterial spray and cloths.
- Children are to use hand sanitiser on arrival and continue with at least hourly handwashing throughout the day.

- Children will not be allowed to bring anything of their own from home except lunchbox, drinks bottle (vital), sun hat and coat. If children in CI 1 and CI 2 could bring in a pencil case with colouring pencils/pens, a rubber and a pencil sharpener it would be much appreciated. We have plenty of basic resources to dish out but usually children share these items and they will be unable to do so. The pencil case will need to remain in school at their work station and will not be allowed to move between home and school.
- PPE will be available for staff to use but there is no expectation for them to do so. Face masks have been deemed unnecessary, by the government, for both pupils and staff.
- There will also be a staggered end to the school day with surnames A – M being collected between 15:00 – 15:15 and N – Z between 15:15 – 15:30.
- There will not be any breakfast or after school provision, although for children of key workers we may be able to come to some sort of arrangement in order to assist you in your role.
- Please apply sun cream on your child before they come to school. It should be of a high factor in order to last the day.
- Parents will not be allowed within the school building and so please drop at the gate if possible or say a quick goodbye at the class external door. If you need to speak to a staff member, they will come out to you.
- If your child is using CI 3 or CI 2, please use the car park entrance. For CI 1, please use the main entrance.
- As children will have grown over the last couple of months, there is no expectation to wear uniform. Please ensure clothes are suitable for outdoor learning. Clothes should be washed at the end of each day.
- If you need to speak with Kerry in the office please keep as far away from the glass hatch as possible.

The safety measures we will be implementing highlight the potential severity of the situation and these have been created on advice from the government. Please talk through the above with your child (age appropriate), if they are returning to school.

When we eventually open, we will obviously be making your child extremely welcome and they will no doubt benefit from increased social interaction but their school day will be far from 'normal'. As schools in Denmark have discovered, it will be an opportunity for children to develop independent learning skills as staff endeavour to maintain a 2m social distance for everyone's safety. Children's work cannot be marked by the teacher until 3 days have passed. Work will either be self-marked or placed in a tray and marked at a later date.

Teachers will be continuing to provide support for those learning at home and the educational provision within school will probably look very similar i.e. Learning Packs, BBC bitesize etc. There will also be as much outdoor learning as possible as the 'scientific evidence' shows that being outside poses less of a risk.

For children continuing to learn at home, we will be able to provide paper copies of the Learning Packs, carry on with the book exchange system and support as much as possible via email or phone. Please notify Kerry (secretary@otterham.cornwall.sch.uk) if you are going to collect Learning Packs and books so we can avoid over photocopying and prepare the correct number of reading scheme books. The next collection will be on 10th June and will follow a similar system to the one that has been used.

Our Chief Finance Officer has notified us that the likelihood is the government will stop the voucher scheme for FSM for the year groups that school is open for. So this will be Rec, Y1 and Y6 in the first instance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have shown towards staff at school, throughout this situation to date. It has been most appreciated and I have no doubt it will continue over the weeks to come. As always, if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

All of these plans are subject to change depending on further Government guidance and the decision of the North Cornwall Learning Trust board of Trustees. We wait with great anticipation for the government announcement on 28th May.

Kindest regards

Helen Ward