



SENNEN SCHOOL
Sennen, Penzance, Cornwall TR19 7AW
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Headteacher: Mrs N Smith
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Coronavirus (COVID-19): School reopening arrangements letter to parents

RE: Arrangements for school reopening

June 19th, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by offering a huge 'thank you' for supporting the school over recent weeks and for supporting your child with their home learning.

As you will be aware, the government has announced that, although there was no requirement for schools to open more widely before the summer holiday, they could do so if they felt it was safe. We are very lucky at Sennen to be fully staffed and have lots of space, so we are in a position to be able to offer extended provision.

We are very much looking forward to seeing many of our children once again, but I would like to reassure you that the safety of our school community is our priority.

I am therefore writing to share with you the arrangements we have implemented to ensure the safety of all staff, pupils and parents. These arrangements have been put into place following a full risk assessment process and are in line with guidance from the Department for Education. You are receiving this letter because you have stated that you would like your child to return to school. Please read all of the information carefully.

We will continue to review the arrangements we have implemented and update you with any changes as and when we make them.

We recognise that some of you may have some concerns about your child returning to school and that for some children another change will be unsettling for them. We also understand that the past weeks will have been challenging for many families. If you would like to talk to us about your child and any concerns you have about their return to school, please – in the first instance – contact Mrs Smith.

School staff

School staff have been placed into 'bubbles' to ensure that we have adequate cover for both those returning to school and those who are still home learning. There will always be a safeguarding lead available both on and off site and a point of call identified for anyone who needs help and support either online or on the phone.

Organisation of pupil groups

To allow for the numbers of pupils wishing to return, and the staff and space available, we are offering a mixed timetable as below. Please note, the day is shorter than usual as we will be having a reduced lunchtime. The highlighted part of this timetable indicates the sessions we are able to offer your child.

| Pupil grouping | Allocated base | Adults | School week |
|----------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Reception/ Year 1 | Aire classroom | Mrs Garbutt and Miss Clackworthy | Mornings only 9-12 |
| Year 2/3/4 – group 1 | Brisons classroom | Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Long | Monday and Tuesday 9.00 – 2.45 |
| Year 2/3/4 – group 2 | Brisons classroom | Miss Sawle and Mrs Jackson | Thursday and Friday 9.00 – 2.45 |
| Year 5 / 6 | Cowloe Classroom | Mrs Smith and Miss Robson, Mrs Tindall and Mrs Pickard | Monday 8.45 – 2.30 Tuesday 8.45 – 2.30 Wednesday 8.45 – 12.00 Thursday 8.45 – 2.30 Friday 8.45 – 2.30 |

YEAR 6 - Please note – this timetable is effective from Monday, June 29th

YEAR 5 - To help them transition back to school, we would like them to come in on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th June from 9.00 – 12.00 and then moving to the above timetable on Monday 29th June.

Brisons 1 – Your child’s first day will be Monday 29th June

Brisons 2 – your child’s first day will be Thursday 25th June

I think it is very important for parents to understand that it is not possible to socially distance pupils in school. *“We know that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff.”* DfE Planning guide for primary schools 14/5/20

However, in our school we are doing all that we can to mitigate risks, and as part of this we are placing a strong emphasis on social distancing measures. Therefore, each group will be treated as a separate unit and drop off/collection arrangements, movement around the school site and all other everyday procedures have been adapted accordingly.

Maintaining a safe school environment

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the preventative measures the school has put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection.

As per the advice from the government, the following actions for infection control remain in place:

- Displaying coronavirus infection control measures information posters around the school.
- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - After breaks and sporting activities
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food, including snacks
 - Before leaving school
 - At regular intervals throughout the day

- Installing alcohol-based hand sanitiser dispensers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol throughout the school
- Ensuring pupils and staff understand that they must cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away
- Placing the children in 'bubbles' whereby they remain in the same location with the same children and the same staff (as much as possible) to avoid mixing with too many children.
- Ensuring frequently touched objects and surfaces are cleaned and disinfected more regularly than usual
- Reducing the resources in class – we will be introducing the toys on a rota system so that they can be continually cleaned after use.
- Adapting the corridor with floor markings (like a road) so that children can be supported in social distancing.
- Adapting our early years' environment with wipeable mats to encourage children to play in an appropriate space.
- Staggering arrival, break, lunch and home times to support social distancing outside the school
- Taking children outside regularly
- Providing children with their own stationery pack that will contain everything they need through the day
- Calling NHS 111 if someone becomes unwell, isolating any unwell people in a separate room, and providing a separate toilet, where possible.

As parents we are asking the following:

- Your child must have a named water bottle – we will not be using the water fountain and will not be able to provide cups
- In order to maintain good hygiene standards, we would like the children to come in wearing clean clothes every day. We do not expect uniform to be worn, just sensible clothes suitable for going outside.
- Every child will need a packed lunch. We are not able to begin using our caterers yet as the numbers will be too low. If your child is entitled to FSM they will still be eligible for the vouchers.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that we are doing all we can to ensure that our school remains a positive and stimulating environment in which children can learn and be nurtured. Whilst we have obviously removed items that can't be easily cleaned, we have tried to maintain the 'feel' for our school as we don't want children to feel anxious about being here.

I know that there have been lots of pictures in the press of solitary tables marked out with hazard tape and bare walls. We have not taken that approach. Most of our displays will stay up but will be fully wipeable, and whilst tables have been set up to be more socially distanced further up the school, we aim to make these inviting by giving the children their own little stationery pack so that they can set up their 'desk' (I wonder if it will be tidier than mine?!).

In the early years we have cleared a lot out and selected toys that aren't easy to clean, put PE mats down to encourage space when playing and will be creative with resources (e.g. their own playdough pack, scissors etc.). We know that in the beginning we will need to do a lot of reminding but we feel the children can adapt to this new way. We are very proud of the positive relationships that we have with our children and all of the staff want to make sure that stays exactly the same.

We understand that what children need at this time is support for their physical and mental health and we intend to take the children out as much as possible – daily walks, trips to the beach and tree planting are just some of the lovely activities that we would like the children to take part in, as well as supporting them in their curriculum subjects.

As an important part of our school community, I would ask that you continue to encourage good infection control practices, such as thorough handwashing at home and keep your child informed about the things they can do to discourage the spread of infection.

In line with the current NHS and government advice, you should keep your child at home if they develop coronavirus symptoms for a period of seven days. Symptoms include a high temperature or a new, continuous cough. Where symptoms continue after seven days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child's household has symptoms, your child must self-isolate for 14 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear. More information regarding symptoms and actions can be found on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>).

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, or if your child receives a positive test result for coronavirus, please contact the school on 01736 871392 at the earliest opportunity.

Arrangements

Please note – depending on numbers attending, we may choose to mix some of these groups together, we will confirm once we know full numbers.

Arrangements for the start and end of the school day

The beginning and end of the school day are the busiest times for children and adults congregating together in one place and maintaining safe distances within normal arrangements can be a challenge. We have implemented the following measures for when pupils return to school:

| Year group | Start time | End time | Entrance / exit point |
|------------|------------|----------|---|
| R/1 | 9.00 | 12.00 | Aire classroom door (by the adventure playground) |
| 2/3/4 | 9.00 | 2.45 | Brisons fire door in the main playground. |
| 5/6 | 8.45 | 2.30 | Fire door in corridor |

We will make sure that all the gates are unlocked so that there are plenty of exit points.

Arrangements for break times and lunchtimes

We recognise the importance for all pupils to have a break from learning and to enjoy time outside during the school day. Reconnecting with friends will be an important aspect of pupils settling back into school life, but we have made some adjustments to break and lunch times. All children will eat in their classrooms, with the tables being cleaned before and after use; when it is nice enough, we will eat outside. **Please bring a packed lunch.**

| Year group | Break time / location | Lunchtime / location |
|------------|--------------------------------|---|
| R/1 | As necessary – yard and garden | N/A |
| 2/3/4 | 10.40 – field and playground | 12.00 – Classroom then field and playground |
| 5/6 | 10.20 - field and playground | 12.30 – Classroom then field and playground |

The school day

To minimise the number of pupils and staff assembling for periods of time, we have made the following changes to the school day:

- No whole school assemblies – teachers will do class assemblies around a theme
- Children will eat in classes to avoid mixing
- Regular toilet breaks will be ‘scheduled’ so that we can clean in between – don’t worry though, they will still be able to go if they need to, we have designated an adult toilet for this and it will be cleaned after
- Playtimes and PE lessons adapted to ensure social distancing.

Transition from Year 6 to Year 7

We recognise that this is a really important time for our Year 6 pupils as they are preparing for secondary school in September. Whilst we will not be conducting any on-site visits to secondary schools we will still be doing everything that we can to support these pupils to be ready. This includes:

- Liaising closely with our secondary schools to make sure they know all of the important information about your child.
- Providing bespoke lessons and guidance for year 6 pupils about transferring to secondary school.
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We will answer any questions that they have and support them with any anxieties so that they can make the best possible start.

Support for pupils and families

We do not underestimate how difficult the recent weeks have been for us all and we all will have been touched in some way by the coronavirus pandemic. We recognise the need to focus on pupils’ emotional wellbeing as well as their return to learning. The following support is in place for pupils once they return to school:

- Mrs Hawkins and Mrs Long are available to support with activities from our Trauma Informed Schools programme
- Mrs Smith and Mrs Garbutt are available as safeguarding leads to discuss any concerns you may have
- Mrs Thomas is available as our SENDCO to support with any concerns you may have with either your child’s academic, physical or emotional well being
- Mrs Pickard is able to support with social stories or any other resources needed to integrate pupils back in to school.

Parents may wish to seek support for themselves from the following support agencies:

- Samaritans – call free 24 hours a day on 116 123
- National Domestic Abuse Helpline – call for free and confidential advice, 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247
- Shelter provide free confidential information, support and legal advice on all housing and homelessness issues if you call 0330 0536 083 (please note, this is not a free phone number and your call will be charged). A free webchat is available at https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/webchat
- There are lots of other resources and agencies signposted on our website

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nichola Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nichola Smith
Headteacher