



St Ives Infant School

Trenwith Burrows

St Ives

Cornwall

24th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus Update

School update

We have all adapted well to our new way of living which hopefully is having a wider positive impact on limiting the spread of Covid 19. I know there may still be a few people who are not fully aware of what we are currently providing, so from a school point of view this is our current focus;

- Providing 'age and stage' appropriate work and suggested websites for all of our children via our website
<https://www.st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk>
- Making regular phone contact with all of our families
- Updating our website and Facebook regularly (this is our main form of communication so please check regularly)
- Undertaking home visits
- Responding to email inquiries, supporting with home learning, wellbeing and administration around new starters
- Signposting to further wellbeing support
- Working with the local community to source financial, or practical support with food, for families not in receipt of Pupil Premium (Home Deliveries taken place)
- Supporting our families in receipt of pupil premium through Coop and Edenred vouchers
- Writing reports
- Communicating with other agencies and schools to continue to support our children e.g. school nursing team, social workers, early help hub etc.
- Working together with the Junior School to discuss and plan for the transition of our Year 2 children
- Completing our regular staff meetings, along with more focused ones around transition for all children in school, the curriculum etc
- All staff are undertaking a wide range of online training from home
- Planning the transition of our new Nursery and Reception children and communicating with parents/carers

- Providing childcare on a daily basis for identified groups in school
- Continuing maintenance and upgrades to our building where we can

Whilst there are many more aspects of our new working day, these are currently our priorities. All staff are working hard to ensure they can meet your needs, however in light of a few inquiries, I confirm we have made a school decision to not produce individual lesson videos. We do not feel this is appropriate for our age of children or in meeting the needs of the majority of our families. Our teaching staff are also working very hard each and every day to connect with all their school families whilst working from home, often with other responsibilities. We are a small school with limited technological resources but are trying hard to meet our new remote way of working. All the teachers are doing a brilliant job and I am extremely proud of them.

I am unable to list everything our families are currently doing, not because I don't know as I have had the pleasure of coming out to see so many of you and speaking to you on the phone. I can't list them as it would quite simply take up too much space. All of our families are working very differently BUT you are all doing an amazing job! So whether you manage a little bit of work every day, are working on personal projects with Maths and English thrown in, completing science experiments, working out with Joe Wickes, baking, creating, reading or simply some days getting up and snuggling together watching a film – You are all doing an fantastic job!

We are here to help, so please do not hesitate to contact us if you want any help with school work, signposting to local community support or just time to talk.

Free School Meals (Pupil Premium children)

I am pleased to say that the Government site seems to be functioning reasonably well now, although there can still be some odd delays. I can see that all voucher codes have been sent out from my original order at the beginning of the launch. I have since put in another order to fulfil another two weeks. These are currently been processed but again should be with you soon. This would mean that funding is in place or ordered until the end of the current lockdown period. If this is extended I will apply for further vouchers from the Edenred scheme.

These are all emailed out from Edenred, not school, so please look out for an email from them. Any difficulties at all please let me know and I will chase up for up.

*** For anyone not eligible for pupil premium please get in touch if you are experiencing difficulties, we are working with groups in the local community and can help, just let us know. In addition there are many local options in regards to accessing food. We have put these details on our Facebook page***

Transition

Not knowing if, and when, we are returning this school year is making long term plans very difficult, however we are working on transition for all of our age groups and can currently update you on the following;

- We are working closely with the Junior school to make plans for Year 2 transition, they will be communicating to all of our Year 2 families shortly.
- Reception transition is currently being planned and we will make a decision on the 29th May if we will go ahead with this virtually or if it is looking like we will be back for some of the Summer Term.
- Internal transition (Reception to Year 1/Year 1 to Year 2) will also be finalised once we have sort of indication if we will be returning to school this academic year. We are looking at virtual options along with key plans for September if this is not the case.

I would kindly ask you to bear with us as there are so many unknowns at the moment it is difficult to make any concrete plans. What I can assure you, is that we are all working on options to ensure our children have the smoothest transition possible in these tricky times. We will continue to update you regularly.

Communication

We will continue to be available via email, please email teachers directly in regards to year group work and then myself with any other queries. Whole school updates will be posted on Facebook and will also be available on our school webpage.

esturgess@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk

lsaunders@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk

asingh@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk

jhicks@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk

lpulley@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk

elewis@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk

hthomas@st-ives-inf.cornwall.sch.uk

*** Please note we are contacting all our families to ensure you are all keeping well. Teachers are making calls from home so their number will show as 'withheld', they may also attempt contact using our text service or email. Please look out for these calls and messages, we all care greatly about our families and if no contact can be made via these methods I am completing home visits to ensure everyone is okay. If your contact details have changed at all, please update us via email or by phoning school. Thank you

Wellbeing

There are many helplines and avenues open to support people in lots of different ways at the moment. Several organisations have produced a local leaflet for the St Ives Parish that

provides a really good source of information. Hopefully you will all have received regular updates of this through your door, however I have also put a copy of it on our website and our Facebook page. If you do need assistance with anything please do not hesitate to get in touch with me as there may be other places I can signpost you too.

Yours Sincerely,

Leisa Farrar

Headteacher Infant School

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