



St Ives Infant School

Trenwith Burrows

St Ives

Cornwall

14th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Coronavirus Update

School update

The Easter 'holidays' have just finished and we find ourselves in the Summer term in this rather surreal and unknown environment. We reopened school today as we continue to provide childcare for children of critical workers and other identified groups. Staff will only be in school when needed to work with children and our office support is very limited. If you need to contact school for any reason please email, rather than phone, and please do not call up to school, as all staff will be practicing social distancing and following current government guidance for educational settings.

Thank yous

Nursery

I am sure you will join me in saying a huge thank you to the whole nursery team and Mrs Champion Merrill in particular, for their fantastic positive attitude, dedication to our children and families, and sheer professionalism since the sad passing of Esther. We are all so grateful for the care and education they have provided to ensure continuity in Nursery at what could have been a really unsettling time for the children and this has all being whilst they were coping with their own grief. They are a great team and one which we are very proud of. Thank you Mrs Champion Merrill, Mrs Crocker and Mrs Smith. We are very lucky to have you!

Children and Families

Thank you to all of our families and children who have been absolutely brilliant from the beginning of this lockdown. There have been so many positive and lovely messages on Facebook and made to me personally that have just made us all smile! We appreciate all you are doing and thank you for your ongoing support.

Staff

I also wish to thank all the staff, who continue to work from home to support all of our children. They are undertaking phone calls to all families, responding to individual emails, completing online training, writing reports, preparing resources and continuing to plan ready for our return. All whilst caring for their own families.

Welcome

We would also like to welcome Miss Sturgess, Nursery Teacher, to our team today. We have been lucky that she had been able to visit school prior to the lockdown to get to know our children and the wider school team. She brings a wealth of experience to our school, along with a vibrant enthusiasm and we are all looking forward to working with her.

Good bye

Sadly, we also need to say goodbye to Liane Whiteley, who worked with many of our families and children. Liane will officially be leaving school on Thursday 16th April. As many of you know Liane is a trained counsellor and is leaving us for a new post coordinating counsellors across the South West. I know she has been a huge support for many of our children and their wider families and will be very much missed by all of our school family. I am sure you will join me in saying thank you for all she has done over the years and wishing her all the very best in her new role.

Free School Meals (Pupil Premium children only)

As you all know we are using the government voucher scheme with effect from this week onwards. All eligible parents/carers, will receive an email with a code to use at a range of supermarkets to the value of £15 per week. This will come directly from Edenred, the company running the scheme of the government and not from school.

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. Teachers will also be sending out further guidance regarding work this week. I must reiterate this does not need to be formal – children of this age can learn in many different ways. Yes, some work needs to be more focused than others but please do not try to emulate the school day, it would be far too much for the age of our children. It would also be likely to create tension that I am sure you don't need in the house at this time.

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

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 a copy 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

01736 796628

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