



Monday 18th May 2020

The re-opening of schools from June 1st

Dear all

In this letter I plan to outline our re-opening of St Buryan Academy to our pupils, following the Government's decision to re-open schools in a phased return from June 1st 2020.

Currently, the opening of school is dependent on the Government's '5 Tests' being met, we have proceeded with the necessary risk assessments and plan to re-open, but please be aware that this is subject to change depending on any further Government advice; if there is any change we will notify you all at the earliest possible moment.

I take great pride in St Buryan being a safe and happy place for all. Although school will initially be a different place in many ways, I am confident that the phased return plan we have devised will ensure that school remains a safe and happy place. The safety of children, parents and staff is paramount and has been at the forefront of any decision I have had to make alongside my team during this uncertain time. Importantly, happiness lies at the heart of everything for me. In order for our school to be a successful one, it is reliant on the whole school community to be happy. I cannot expect our wonderful teachers, teaching assistants, lunch staff and administrative staff to do their jobs to the best of their ability and how can we expect our amazing children at St Buryan Academy to thrive if they are not happy. My point being - and I want to emphasize this - that every decision made at this time has had the safety, happiness and well-being of everyone at the core.

I will initially outline the plan for our phased return before notifying you of the social distancing and safety measures we will be implementing. I will then ask for your feedback.

Re-opening Plan

As I have said, the Government announced that should their 5 Tests be met, then children in Years 6, 1 and Reception – as well as nursery – should return to schools from June 1st.

Until further notice, we will not be opening Chy Palores, our nursery. This decision was made as we do not feel that there has been enough support given by the Government on how to effectively socially distance in a nursery setting at this time, and as I stated, the safety of our children and staff is paramount. We will continuously assess this and reopen when we are confident that it is safe to do so.

- This week, commencing Monday 18th May, we will be open on Thursday and Friday for children of Key Workers.
- The following week, commencing Monday 25th May, the school will be shut completely for Half-Term. It is important that our staff have this break as despite not being in the school building, they have very much been working; as have you all have at home, so it will be a break from home-learning too!
- The week beginning June 1st we will be open for Key Worker children only. This will allow us to provide provision for the children of Key Workers as well as to prepare the school for re-opening under social distancing measures.
- The week beginning June 8th we will be open for our Key Worker children and Year 6 only.
- The week beginning June 15th we will be open for our Key Worker children, Year 6 and Year 1.
- The week beginning June 22nd we will be open for our Key Worker children, Year 6, Year 1 and Reception children.

- We await further guidance from the Government on when the rest of the school shall re-join.

I believe, that this phased return of a year group re-joining the school each week after June 1st is the safest and most efficient way forward for the school. It also allows us time to see the direction the pandemic is going in and constantly assess and review the position we find ourselves in.

Social distancing, health and safety

I will now outline the measures we are taking to ensure that we all practice social distancing effectively. This will rely on the positive relationships between the school, children and parents. We ask for your co-operation and understanding on all of these measures. Our social distancing measures are based around respect for one another and we ask that you have a conversation with your child(ren) before they return to school so that they are familiar with how the school may look and their actions when the re-join us.

School opening times

- School will be shut every Wednesday and Friday afternoons until further notice to enable us to carry out deep cleans of the building. Reception and Year 1 children will be collected at 1.15pm. Key Worker and Year 6 children will be collected at 1.30pm. **We ask that parents are not on school property before these times.**
- We will not be offering any wrap-around care (Breakfast Club and Activities R Us) until further notice.
- Key Worker children should arrive at school at 8.55am and may stay on the playground with a teacher.
- Year 6 children must go straight to class entering only through the side door which they use for break times. They should arrive at 9.00am.
- Year 1 and Reception children should arrive at 9.00am and may stay on the playground with their teacher. They will be using the conservatory (Reception) and Gwenver class (Year 1). They will be using the outside entrances/exits that go directly into these classrooms.
- Other than Wednesdays and Fridays, which I have mentioned above, the school finishing times will be as follows:
 - Key Worker children will finish at 3.15pm
 - Year 6 children will finish at 3.10pm
 - Reception and Year 1 children will finish at 3.00pm**Parents should not be on school property before this time and should leave the school grounds as soon as possible.**

Parenting Socially Distancing at collections and drop offs

- On drop offs and collections parents and carers must only be on site for the time that has been designated to their child. If needs be, they should wait in the car or at a suitable distance from the school gates.
- Only one parent or carer should be present per family/child for drop offs and collections.
- Parents should enter and exit through the main double gate entrance – not the single gates.
- There will be no access through the bottom gate on the field – this will remain locked.
- There will be clearly marked points in the area before the playground gates where parents should stand when collecting their child(ren).
- Parents are not permitted to go past the playground gate. There will be a clearly marked area that parents shall not cross. There will be no access to the playground for parents.
- There will be no access to the school building for parents unless previously agreed. Should you need to inform of us anything then please ring in advance.

- Should a parent need to meet a teacher they should book an appointment through our Parent Liaison Officer, Mrs Care. This can be done by emailing secretary@stburyanacademy.org or through phone on 01736 810480. The meeting with the teacher is likely to be over the phone.

Uniform and equipment

We are mindful that children may have grown and uniform may not be as accessible as it previous was for a variety of reasons. Therefore, we are happy for children to wear their own clothing providing that it is clean and appropriate. We would ask that they wear a school branded jumper, fleece or cardigan. We also request that children wear clean clothing each day. No jewellery whatsoever should be worn.

Children will not need PE kits but should wear clothing that is suitable for outdoor learning. All children must have named water bottles. We will not be providing cups at any point during the day. The children will have access to water throughout the day though.

Children should not bring any stationery or unnecessary equipment to school. The school will provide all that is needed. They may bring their Reading Record to school though.

All payments must be done through BACS (bank details available on request) or in a clearly labelled envelope which will be collected by your child's teacher. Please do this on Mondays or Fridays only.

Social distancing in the school building

There will be a number of social distancing measures in place in school. Some of which include:

- Staggered break-times
- 2 metre markings within school corridors
- Children will be using separate entrances and exits
- Anti-bac gel in all classrooms

Of course, we ask that you are aware of any symptoms of COVID:19 and should your child(ren) display any symptoms they must not come into school and should self-isolate for 14 days. If a child displays any symptoms at all we will contact you and they should be collected immediately and not return to school for 14 days.

We must also ensure that, where possible, social distancing is practiced between children and between children and adults.

These are just some of the measures we will be practicing in school, should you wish to have further details or information then please get in touch. I do suggest you read the Government Guidance on the re-opening of schools for parents and carers, the link to which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

We would appreciate it if you could discuss social distancing with your children and emphasise the importance of hand washing.

At this point I would be really grateful if you could notify us if your child(ren) would be attending.

Could you please do this through email responding with one of the following statements:

- My child will be attending from the planned date.
- My child will not be attending from the planned date but may return at a later date.
- I am currently undecided but will notify the school as soon as I know.

If your child is in years 2,3,4 or 5 we will again be following Government Guidelines and keep you up-to-date with any planned return for those year groups.

Key Worker Children

We will be offering provision for key worker children from the date above, 1st June. The school day for Key Workers is outlined above. If you are a Key Worker and require provision then please let us know what days you require. We are aware that more Key Workers may require provision but please be aware that the Government's definition of a Key Worker at this time stays the same as it was previously.

Please be aware that the information that we have been given from the Government just 9 working days before the expected opening, guidance and information is continuously coming through and being updated regularly. As a school we are not prepared to compromise anybody's safety and well-being; therefore the plan as outlined above is one that we are confident with and feel is the best solution for our children, staff and parents.

Should we re-open at that time, please be understanding that teachers may be uploading less work onto Google Classrooms as I must be mindful of their workload.

I must also stress and emphasise that this is provisional and will be based on any further guidance we may receive.

I'd just like to finish with thanking all of the staff at St Buryan Academy for their on-going hard work. I am incredibly proud of how they have reacted in this time. I am also extremely grateful for all of the support we have had from you all. We appreciate that this time has not been easy and we are thankful for any work that you may have done.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of our amazing children. The situation they have been thrown into is a difficult one for them to comprehend but the stories I have heard, pictures I have seen and their engagement with their learning in all sorts of ways has made me extremely proud. Ultimately, the children of St Buryan Academy makes our school the wonderful place it is and we must be mindful of their feelings at this time and be there for them.

We are always committed to moving forward and your feedback and views play an important part in that. We will send out parent questionnaires in the coming weeks, but I would be grateful if you could fill out this short survey, or simply email your answers to me if that is easier (this applies to Rec-Y6 only). Thank you

Stay Safe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Mr Josh McDonald

Home Learning Survey (for Rec-Y6 only)

Please circle a number depending on how strongly you agree with the statements. 1 being strongly disagree, 10 being strongly agree.

-I am happy with the learning the school has provided us.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

-My child has been engaged with the learning opportunities on offer.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

-The school has supported us well during this time.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

-Is there anything else you would've liked to have seen?

-What has been a success story from your children's work and home learning?

-Any additional comments?