



St Buryan Academy Primary School
Believe, Achieve, Aspire

Welcome back to St Buryan Academy – March 2021

This time next week our children will be back in the school building! We are really looking forward to welcoming all of our children back on Monday 8th March. We hope this will be the last lockdown and it is important that we all continue to all do our bit to ensure that the school community is safe; so please share and reinforce the following guidance with your children.

Between us all we have done our utmost to ensure that the effects of this lockdown are minimal and not as great as they were during the first one.

It is important to ignore some of the less positive messages some media outlets have sent out over the last few months concerning schools. I can assure you that all of the staff at St Buryan Academy, as have all school staff over the country, have been working as hard and as much - and more so in many cases - as they normally would. The other thing worth mentioning is the 'catch-up' agenda. The most important 'catching-up' that needs to be done is between the children and their friends. Of course there will be some learning gaps, which will be identified and addressed, but the last couple of months has also given the children the opportunity to have some fantastic learning experiences that they may not have otherwise had, and I believe that this would've helped them greatly.

Much of the new guidance has not changed, so we will be operating as we were before Christmas in many aspects. I have outlined any previous and new guidance below.

Class Organisation and Bubbles

We will continue with our Nursery/Key Stage 1 Bubble and Key Stage 2 Bubble as we had been doing previously.

We are grouping our Nursery children with KS1 as we feel our numbers in children and staff allow this. We also feel that having our nursery children within this bubble will aid their transition into the main school in the summer term.

Children will be within their bubbles for their break and lunch times, they are also important for our drop-off and collection times.

In the event of there being a positive test within a bubble, then see the guidance below.

Drop-off and collection

We recognise that drop-off and collection times are a vital part of the school day for many reasons. We have worked hard to ensure that drop-offs are safe for all as well as welcoming. We will continue with staggered start times and finish times and we are grateful on your co-operation with this.

Key Stage 2 children should arrive at school at 8.45am and should go straight to their classrooms, entering through the playground gate.

Key Stage 1 children should arrive at 8.55am and will go onto the playground at this time, where they will be supervised.

Parents will not be allowed on the playground and should not go past the clearly marked yellow line in the drop-off area.

At the end of the day, children will be taken out to this area to be dismissed. **The finish time for Key Stage 1 is 3.10pm and for Key Stage 2 is 3.15pm.**

Should you have children in both Key Stages we ask that you wait by the bench between times.

Please ensure that you arrive on time and that you are not staying after the designated drop-off or collection time.

Teachers will be at the gate and will be available in the morning or afternoon should you need to notify them of anything, but we do ask that if you need to speak to a member of staff concerning anything, that you ring or email ahead so that we can arrange a meeting. This should be done through Mrs Care, our parent liaison officer.

The bottom gate will remain locked, so we will only be using the main entrance for access.

Any meetings with staff will be held over the phone or through email and we ask that you contact them through the correct means.

Please ensure that you are socially distancing during our drop-off and collection times; you are welcome to wear a mask if you would like to. We do ask that you do not block the road and that you do not allow your children to climb on the bench, walls or gates.

Children should only be collected by somebody of their household or by someone in their childcare bubble. Please let us know if somebody other than their usual adult will be collecting them. Please make sure that there is only one adult per family dropping-off and collecting your child(ren).

Curriculum and Timetable

We will be returning to our usual curriculum but for the weeks leading up to the Easter Holidays we will have a whole school topic called: **What is our Why?**

In this topic we will think back to the video assembly about the boy from Sierra Leon who built a radio station from rubbish and think about what we'd like to change about the world. We will learn about relatable, inspirational people and reinvigorate our desire for learning. As well as this we will be continuing with our core subjects and teachers will quickly address any areas that need developing from lockdown. We will also be committed to continuing with our outdoor curriculum and will not be confined to our classrooms. Each class will carry out a project in the development of our school. Key Stage 1 will be creating a magical woodland area by our apparatus, Nanjizal will be creating an outdoor 'chill/safe-zone area' and Porthcurno will continue developing our garden space.

Our kitchen will be open for school dinners, menus will be on the newsletter every Friday.

Uniform

We appreciate that over the past few months, and especially after the year we had, that some circumstances may have changed. Children will have obviously grown and uniform may not be as accessible as it previously was. Therefore, we will be taking a slightly more relaxed approach to uniform for the rest of the term. Children will be welcome to wear trainers and dark coloured tracksuit/jogging bottoms up until Easter. They must wear a school top and fleece/cardigan/jumper – not an Isles of Scilly hoody. If your child wishes to wear our usual uniform they may do so. We will be doing plenty of outdoor learning so children must be prepared and have suitable clothing for outside within school, they must always have their coat and a clean water bottle – all school uniform must be named; we do not want children losing uniform or taking home the wrong jumper because it has not been named, especially at this time. Uniform does not have to be washed everyday as before, but it should be clean and tidy.

After the Easter Holidays we will be returning to our full Summer Term Uniform Policy, which is available on the school website. We expect all children to be wearing the correct uniform from this point.

Wrap around care and clubs

Breakfast Club will continue from the 8th March at a cost of £1.50 from 8am-8.45am. Please contact secretary@stburyanacademy.org for a booking form and payment details. We will not be serving food at the moment. If your child arrives before 8.30am then you may accompany them to the hall door but not enter the building, if they arrive after 8.30am then they will be expected to walk to Breakfast Club themselves, there will be plenty of staff on-site.

There will be no teacher-led or Activities Club for the moment. We will be reviewing this and will send out a survey upon our full re-opening to gauge the demand for after-school provision. If you are in need of after-school provision immediately, please contact the school so that we can sign-post you to our nearest providers.

Testing and Positive Cases

Currently, school staff are tested for COVID 19 twice a week. Unlike secondary schools, primary children will not have to test, although Rapid Lateral Flow Testing will be available for households, childcare or support bubbles of school staff and pupils; this means that you are able to have a test at home twice weekly. For more details on how to register and to get the tests please see: www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff

Should your child or a member of your household display any of the recognised symptoms that person should book a test and the child should not return to school until that person has tested negative. If a child or member of staff tests positive, all those who have deemed close contacts will be notified and told to self-isolate which may result in classes or bubbles being closed.

Should any children need to self-isolate or shield at any point, then please notify us immediately so we can take the appropriate action. Remote Learning through Google Classrooms will be provided at this time.

If we believe any child is displaying symptoms whilst they are at school then we will notify you and expect them to be collected immediately so that they can be tested.

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Some family circumstances have changed over the past twelve months. If you would like to check if you may be eligible for free school meals then please see this link for more information: [School Meals - Cornwall Council](#)

This is open to Early Years and Key Stage 1 children too; even though these children currently receive Universal Free School Meals, you may still be eligible. If you are it will result in the school gaining extra funding to support our children.

Other bits and pieces

In school we will be operating as normally as possible. Bubbles will distance from other bubbles and social distancing will be encouraged between children, but we are realists and nurturing too.

The school corridors will have social distancing reminders and awareness of personal space will be promoted; different bubbles will not be accessing the same corridors at the same times.

Staff will be wearing masks when social distancing is not possible or when they are working more closely with children.

Break times and lunch times will be staggered so that bubbles have more space to eat in and areas to play in.

We invite children in Key Stage 2 to bring their own fruit for snack time; Key Stage 1 will still have their snack provided through funding.

Of course, within Early Years and Primary settings, complete social distancing is not always practical or appropriate; however, we ask that you reinforce at home the expectations that there should not be any touch between children. There will of course be times when they are sat or playing next to each other and that social distancing may not be possible, but we want to ensure that any physical touch is kept to an absolute minimum so we ask that you frequently remind your children of this in the build up to the return to school and whilst we return.

We will be allowing children to wash their hands at regular and suitable intervals, we ask that they have clean hands and faces when they come into school too.

It is not necessary for children to wear masks, but if you would like your child to then please let me know in advance.

We appreciate that school may look a little bit different to begin with. However, we are all extremely confident that we will continue to deliver a safe and happy school environment. If you think it would be beneficial for your child, you can view our 360 Virtual Tour so that they can view the interior of the school building before their return: [St Buryan Academy - St Buryan Academy \(vr-360-tour.com\)](https://www.stburyanacademy.com/vr-360-tour)

Lastly, it has been a tough year – and we are not out of the woods yet, so it is important that we do our part in protecting the wider community.

We are extremely grateful for your co-operation and understanding throughout the year, and particularly since January. I appreciate that it hasn't always been easy and that some days have been a struggle – I think that is true of us all. What is important is that everybody continues to be supportive, co-operative and keeps on trying their best!

We look forward to seeing you all in a week's time. If you have any further questions then please email me on: head@stburyanacademy.org and I will aim to answer them as soon as possible.

Stay safe

Mr McDonald and all at St Buryan Academy