

10th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the start of the academic year. This will be like no other! For many of your children, there has been no physical education, in a school, since March; a small number of pupils experienced a return in June and pupils of key workers, and a small number of others, have attended throughout the pandemic. Pupils reuniting in bubbles means a return to friends, new teachers and school routines- some new and many familiar. We appreciate that it will be a huge challenge for all those involved; for staff, for yourselves and your children. I'm sure you've noticed that procedures and practices have changed. The school's plans have been shared with parents to detail how those returning to school can be kept as safe as possible.

During the lockdown period, we asked you to complete a survey to gain an insight into your child's engagement in e-learning and their wellbeing. We have gathered the following outcomes to share with you:

- 149 parents responded to the survey
- Although most said the children did not feel worried, anxious or stressed about COVID-19, 20% of respondents said that they were quite worried or extremely worried. It is, therefore, likely that at least 100 children across the Trust feel extremely worried, anxious or stressed about COVID-19.
- 5% of the respondents had experienced bereavement during this time.
- Children displaying signs of anxiety were low.
- Approximately half of children found it difficult without face to face contact with their friends.
- The use of social media between children was reported as low.
- About 66% of those who responded engaged with home learning.
- It was pleasing to see that 84% engaged in joint activities as a family.
- Most found it a difficult period to manage.
- Approximately half of respondents reported that they were worried about a full return to school, however, 15% said they are extremely worried.

With the above in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that every school has completed a Full School Opening Plan and associated risk assessments, compliant with the latest government guidance. Across the Trust, we have shared experiences thus far, consulting with staff,

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parents and colleagues in other schools across Cornwall. These efforts have been taken to ensure that robust procedures are in place to eliminate the possible risks to children, staff and parents.

I'm pleased to report that the initial feedback from your Head of School suggests that, overall, the children have returned with enthusiasm and settled well in their new classes. There have, inevitably, been a few teething issues with the drop-off and pick-up arrangements, but these are being closely monitored and adjustments made where necessary.

Every effort is being made to encourage the children to make personal decisions that protect themselves and others; this approach will be maintained by schools until the guidance from the government changes. We recognise that this is a challenge for all children, especially our younger pupils. Staff are carefully monitoring social distancing and modelling how to maintain a safe distance from one another. We would appreciate the support of parents in modelling this, especially in the school playground and outside the school grounds. There have been reports, in some of our settings, of parents gathering in large groups, just outside the school premises; this is something that we want to avoid at all costs. The guidance released yesterday states that no more than 6 people should gather together; this applies to adults congregating at the school gates too. We would most appreciate your support in modelling positive social distancing practices.

Thank you for your continued support and your patience whilst we find our way to the 'new normal'. We look forward to continuing our work and partnership with you.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stuart".

Stuart Renshaw
Chief Executive Officer

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