

St Hilary School

Monday 1st March 2021

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the full re-opening of St Hilary School after Lockdown 3.0. With the sun trying its best to continue shining and the government roadmap out of Covid restrictions outlined, I hope that everyone is beginning to feel more positive about the year ahead.

After a very successful period of remote education at St Hilary – thank you for all of your hard work and continued support with this – I am so pleased to be writing to provide the details of the long-awaited reopening of the school. We cannot wait to have everyone back in and starting to get back to something like ‘normal’ school-life; we have greatly missed all of our wonderful St Hilary children.

Attached to this letter is our **‘March 2021 – Back to School Plan’**, which summarises the relevant details of the school’s planning; it is very similar to the Autumn Term plan sent at the start of the academic year. The school’s important preparatory work and risk assessing enables us to re-open in full accordance with the Government guidance – which for Primary Schools remains largely the same as before Christmas (with the one notable addition of twice weekly Lateral Flow Testing for the Staff – NOT THE CHILDREN). It also enables us to feel as confident as possible that we are best placed to protect the health, safety and well-being of all children, staff and members of the school community, while we fully re-open the school.

Despite this, it is understandable that children and families may well have some anxieties about a return to school. Our aim is to do everything that we can to help alleviate any such nerves, especially for the children as they return after such a long absence. Therefore, we ask that if there are any personal factors you feel important to our planning for your child, please inform your child’s teacher via their school email or if you would prefer telephone the school office. This communication is essential if we are to plan appropriate support and advice on a school and individual basis. All responses will be treated with confidentiality and only shared when necessary for planning, including with staff working within class bubbles to enable them to help and support appropriately.

St Hilary School and Leading Edge Academies Partnership have worked hard formulating these return to school plans for Monday 8th March. We have tried to keep them as simple as possible and as consistent as possible with our Autumn Term arrangements. As you read the following plans, please do keep in mind that they are all subject to change: our planning is dependent on the developments of COVID-19 and the Government’s reaction to it. If you have any questions regarding the plan feel free to email me on head@st-hilary.cornwall.sch.uk or call the school office.

I would like to finish with a request for your help. While it is understandable that there are anxieties and nerves about a return to school, it is compulsory for all children in all year groups. To help make this transition as smooth as possible, please ensure that when you are talking about the return to school with your children you remain entirely positive, after all we all know that our children feed off our emotions. Can I also suggest that this final week of remote education provides good time to re-establish any school day routines and timings that may have slipped in Lockdown, in advance of the real thing next week – otherwise these may come as a bit of a shock to everyone’s system! With your positivity and support and the usual St Hilary team spirit, we will all offer our children the best possible educational and social opportunities the current climate allows!

All the best

Rob Hamshar

Interim Headteacher St Hilary School
head@st-hilary.cornwall.sch.uk
01736 763324

March 2021 – Back to School Plan:

Grouping the children:

- The school is split into zoned Bubbles of pupils and, where possible, plans will avoid any crossover.
- Within Bubbles, we will encourage the children to physically distance whenever possible. However, previous experience tells us that this is - at best - very difficult to maintain and the Government acknowledges this fact for primary school aged children.
 - o Apart from in Reception / Year 1, the children will still largely be sitting in rows facing the front of the class and avoiding face to face working.
- The children will be asked to physically distance from their teachers; however, the teachers will use their professional judgement regarding physically distancing if children require support, are upset, distressed or in need of reassurance: we will always do our best to meet your child's emotional needs, providing plenty of reassurance, warmth and care for the children.

Communication:

- Unfortunately, the school building is still not open for parents, but please don't feel that you cannot communicate with us, we are always at the end of the phone 01736 763324 or email.
- While parents and guardians are able to come onto the school playgrounds for drop off and collection, it is essential that physical distancing guidance is followed at all times, to help with this:
 - o Please do not arrive early and allow your children to play on the school premises
 - o Please maintain 2m distance from all other families
 - o Please do not gather around the gates – move right into the playground
 - o Please make a speedy exit straight after drop-off and collection

Attendance:

- Attendance of all pupils is an expectation.
- Parents and guardians need to contact the school to inform us of any absences
- As per normal, we will also be contacting families if their children are not at school.

Drop off and collection:

- To avoid congestion at gates and in the corridors, the start and finish times for year groups remain staggered
- Whatever your drop off and collection times, we ask that you strictly adhere to the following:
 - o drop off children within the time frames outlined below.
 - if your child is walking to school alone, please ensure they set off at a sensible time to arrive in their designated time slot
 - o On arrival, children go straight to their specified school entrance – to avoid unnecessary crossover between different year groups they cannot wait on the playground or play with friends.
 - o At the end of the day, children must be collected from their designated playground – please avoid arriving on the playground early and once you have collected your child make a timely exit!
 - o If you have more than one child at school, you are able to collect them at the same time: at the beginning of the older child's pick-up time (eg Yr 3 children will be picked up with Yr 6 siblings at 3.15).

Year	Drop-off time and location	Pick-up time and location
Reception and Year 1	8.50 / 9.00 – Lower Playground	3.00 / 3.10 – Lower Playground
Year 2	9.00 / 9.10 – Lower Playground	3.15 / 3.25 - Lower Playground
Year 3	8.50 / 9.00 – Upper Playground	3.00 / 3.10 – Upper Playground
Year 4	8.50 / 9.00 – Upper Playground	3.00 / 3.10 – Upper Playground
Year 5	9.00 / 9.10 – Upper Playground	3.15 / 3.25 – Upper Playground
Year 6	9.00 / 9.10 – Upper Playground	3.15 / 3.25 – Upper Playground

Cleaning:

- the school will be thoroughly cleaned before the children's return
- rigorous cleaning routines will be maintained.
 - o in addition to after school cleaning the children's workspaces will be cleaned at lunchtime to ensure they eat in a clean space and then after they have eaten to ensure the highest hygiene standards for the afternoon.

Hand washing/sanitizing and respiratory hygiene:

- The school will regularly reiterate the correct handwashing process – the 20 second wash routine is key.
- The children will use adult supervised hand sanitizing stations, both on their arrival and as they leave at the end of the day.
- Regular handwashing throughout the day will be maintained.
- Children will be re-familiarised with 'Catch-It, Bin-it, Kill-it!' for coughs and sneezes and each class will have a separate foot peddle bin for disposing of tissues.
- Children will also be re-taught to cough into the crook of their arm and to wash their hands after they cough or sneeze.

To assist with these vital hygiene routines, we ask that you revisit all of these procedures with your children before they return on Monday. Rules for Health in their Planners

Wrap Around Provision - Breakfast club/Funzone:

- Our chargeable, before and after school provision will re-start from Monday 8th March.
- The booking system has been reopened – please make sure this is booked in advance and that if you need to cancel the school is made aware of this fact in advance – all of this is critical when planning appropriate staffing.
- Breakfast club:
 - o 7.45-8.00am drop off - £3.60
 - o 8.00-8.30am drop off - £3.00
 - o 8.30am onwards drop off - £1 (no breakfast included)
- Funzone – until 5.30pm, £3.60 per hour / part of an hour

After School Clubs:

- Unfortunately, while Government restrictions remain, we will not be running after school clubs, this will minimise the mixing of children in different year groups and to ensure we can staff the wrap around provision adequately. This will remain under constant review, as we are very keen to give the children the complete St Hilary experience, as soon it is safe to do so.

Uniform:

- Children will need to wear their school uniform.
- On their designated PE days children must come to school in St Hilary PE kit – **starting from March 8th – DAY 1**
 - o Red St Hilary T-shirt and plain black shorts
 - o Dark, plain tracksuit bottoms/leggings
 - o Trainers (preferable to plimsolls as we will be outside)
 - o Either a school jumper/cardigan, plain red jumper or our black St Hilary sports jacket (if you have one, not essential that you purchase!)
 - o Spare footwear in bags in case trainers become wet/muddy!

PE KIT DAYS	
Monday	Years 5 and 6
Tuesday	Reception and Year 1
Wednesday	Year 3
Thursday	Year 2
Friday	Year 4

- While shoe shops remain inaccessible, if your child's school shoes no longer fit, please let your child's teacher know and try to ensure that your child's footwear is as close to black plain shoes as possible. We then ask that you organise footwear in line with the uniform expectations of the school as soon as is possible.

Lunches:

- School dinners will be available, there will be a slightly simplified menu, but all children requiring a lunch will be catered for.
- Year group lunch times will be staggered
- All year groups will eat in their classrooms apart from Reception and Year 1 who will eat in the hall.
- For children eating in class, the school dinners will be provided in take-away style boxes.
- School dinner should be booked and paid for through the ParentPay app (£2.40 per day, unless your child is entitled to a free-school meal).

Equipment:

To school	Not to school
A packed lunch if not having the hot meal option	Pencil cases - writing or drawing equipment
A filled, named, water bottle	Toys
An optimistic sunhat and sun-cream!	Unnecessary equipment
Their lovely smiles!	PE kit – they wear this on their PE day!

Masks:

- primary aged children and staff in Primary Schools are not expected to wear masks in school,
 - o we ask that no children wear masks in school or bring them into school with them – if they are being worn to school please make sure they are left with the adult dropping off.
- If there is the need for adults to meet in the school reception – staff or parents – all are asked to wear masks.
- If government guidance on this changes, we will inform you of any adjustments to the school's plan.

Library:

- The library will be used, but in a more regimented manner. This may mean the children will not be able to change their books as frequently as previously.

Music:

- Peripetetic music lessons will be taking place – in smaller group sizes and without sharing instruments.
- If your child has instrument lessons, their teacher or Mrs Eddy will contact you with the start-up timetable.

Covid Symptoms and Testing:

- Primary children only need to be tested if they show symptoms of COVID 19.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

- Children should not be sent to school if they are unwell. Any child who presents with symptoms will be sent home.
- If you, your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms of COVID 19 you should ALL self-isolate for a period of 10 days.
- Staff are entitled to twice weekly lateral flow tests provided by the school.
- If a member of staff tests positive for COVID 19 we will follow Public Health England advice and communicate with parents accordingly.

Other controls:

- There will be additional controls in place, such as staggered playtimes, all designed with the safety of your children in mind.