

## **Cusgarne Primary School**

Head of School: Mr T Barnard

Acting Head of School: Mrs Julia Murray

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents

## RE: Full re-opening of school from Monday 8th March 2021

Following the Government's announcement that schools will re-open to pupils next Monday, I am writing to update you with the arrangements we have in place.

I would like to start by thanking you all for continued support during this lockdown, be it through home learning or coming into school. The children have been amazing and we now look forward to seeing them all again.

Our school day will largely mirror the arrangements we had in place for the Autumn Term. We are following the various government guidance documents and have used these to create a detailed plan for all children to return next week. From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, the Government has said that school attendance is mandatory and so we will be following the regulations that apply to full school attendance.

**School opening times**: School drop off will continue to be 8.30am for all children; and collection time will be 2.45pm. As before, the KS1 children need to use the top gate, and KS2 children will use the lower gate. It is vitally important that parents observe social distance at all times, and you must wear a face covering (unless you are medically exempt). We ask that only one adult per family accompany their child to the school gates.

We understand that it will be tempting to catch up with people you haven't seen for a while, but we must all follow the rules to protect our families and the wider community. If you are using the lower gates, you will notice there are markers on the pavement indicating waiting points.

**Classes**: The children will continue to be taught in the classes as they were in September.

**Lunch:** School dinners will be available as normal. During lunchtimes, children from KS1 will eat together in the Hall. Children in KS2 will stay in their own classroom to eat their lunch. We will review this after Easter.

**Playtimes:** We will be operating as 2 bubbles: KS1 as one bubble and KS2 as our second bubble. The children in the bubbles will be kept separate during playtimes, and there will be no mixing of classes within the school building.

**Breakfast Club:** Breakfast Club will be available to children of key workers only. This arrangement will be in place up until Easter when we will review the situation and look for the wider opening of this club. We will have separate facilities for the children for each bubble but please book your child's place in advance.

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**Plymouth Argyle and music lessons:** We are looking to recommence with these lessons after Easter and will keep you up to date with these plans.

**Hygiene:** Within the school, everyone will adhere to a robust hand hygiene routine, which will include regular hand washing and hand sanitizing. Good ventilation will be promoted throughout the school. All staff will be promoting a "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it" approach. We have sanitising stations around the school and in each class.

**Track and Trace:** As before, the school is actively engaged with the NHS's Track and Trace protocols. Should any parent, child or staff member display any symptoms of COVID-19, we would strongly encourage them to book a test. Tests can be booked through the NHS's testing and tracing website. Parents should inform the school of test results immediately and we will advise you about isolation periods and, if appropriate, home learning should your child have to isolate.

Testing for staff is available twice weekly via home testing kits.

**School uniform:** Children are required to wear normal school uniform. We are mindful that some children may well have grown and require new items of clothing or even school shoes. Please talk to us if this applies to you and we can discuss a more lenient approach until shops re-open.

Your child will need to make sure they bring in their water bottle and bookbag daily. Please do not bring in large rucksacks and pencil cases from home. We want to limit the number of items coming between school and home.

The class teachers will let you know the day your child needs to bring in their PE kit.

As a school, we are all looking forward to welcoming our pupils back. There will be a settling in period and as a staff, we will be working hard to ensure the children feel secure and happy. We know that there will be gaps in their education and will prioritise the most important missed content in the first instance.

Although the school office will be closed for contact in person, please do email or phone us with your queries.

Yours sincerely

J. Murray

Mrs J Murray Acting Head of School

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