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Every Child, Inspiring Learning, Every Day

ST IVES SCHOOL

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Thank you for your patience regarding further details about schools closures. We have received additional guidance from the Government during the night, and I am writing to confirm arrangements during the period of school closure from Monday 23rd March.

As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. And the most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked us to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

We are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

Parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below. Many parents working in these sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. And every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Woodhouse BSc

Head of School: Mr J Butterworth MEd



If your work is critical to the COVID-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

Health and social care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key public services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public safety and national security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

Please ensure that if you are a key worker and will need your child to attend school, that you have registered this with us by emailing enquiries@st-ives.cornwall.sch.uk **It is essential that we receive this information by midday today at the latest.** We are also making initial plans about provision for vulnerable and key worker children over the Easter holiday and again, confirmation of whether you need this provision for your child would be very helpful.

Truro and Penwith Academy Trust is closing all schools on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th March so that we can plan suitable provision. I know this may be difficult for some families, however it is essential at this time to ensure we can provide for students appropriately in the longer term. Provision for vulnerable children and for the children of key workers will therefore be available from Wednesday 25th March and the school site will be open from 8.15am until 5.30pm to support parents who need to work longer hours.

Children who are in care will be required to attend school on a compulsory basis, and the school will contact all our carers individually to discuss your child's needs. We will also contact parents whose children who are vulnerable and have an Educational Health Care Plan to ensure we know how we need to support your child's education during the period of school closure.

For all other children, the school will, with regret, be closed and we will continue to provide online learning resources via Show My Homework. If you experience any difficulties in accessing learning for your child, please email jhall@st-ives.cornwall.sch.uk for advice and support. Our form tutors will be in regular contact with their tutees to monitor their welfare while we are closed. We anticipate that children may feel more isolated and, in addition to academic learning, we will provide resources that support emotional wellbeing as well. Please ensure that children are well supported and supervised when they are online. We do not recommend the use of open learning communities where parents cannot verify who the adults are who are communicating with children. If parents have any concerns linked to online behaviours, please contact your child's year leader for advice.

Further information about arrangements for Year 11 students to be awarded with their qualifications has been promised to schools today. I will contact you again when we have more details. In the meantime, Year 11 students should continue to work online, or attend school to ensure they are up to date with their courses and lessons.

We are also continuing to liaise with our catering company to make arrangements for meals for children eligible for free school meals. I will provide more information about arrangements next week.

I would like to finish by using this opportunity to thank the dedicated staff team at St Ives School as well as our parents for their support and partnership at a very challenging time for our families, community and country. Our staff team will continue to be on site throughout the school closure period to provide advice and support about students' learning and care. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of our staff team if you have questions or need advice. Our priorities remain the education and welfare of our students.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Butterworth
Head of School