Penpol School 2 St George's Road, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4AH



Dear All,

School Closure

As you will likely have heard in the news yesterday, the government have now instructed **all schools to close** to the majority of pupils from the end of this week in order to slow the spread of the coronavirus. There is not currently a return date given as this will depend upon how things progress in battling the virus.

A limited childcare service will remain on offer to those members of the community who provide invaluable services in such times of crisis such as frontline NHS staff, police and delivery drivers. It will also be offered to vulnerable pupils such as those with an Education Health Care Plan or where families are working closely with social services. If any of these categories apply to you and you would like to make use of this service at school, please contact me on head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk or at the school office as soon as possible so that we can plan appropriate provision.

Support

We recognise that this closure will put great pressure on many of you at home. Our team are going to be working as hard as always to support your child's learning from afar. Jacob Woolcock has built a fantastic new section of the website to serve as a learning hub for each pupil. This can be reached here: https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/remote-learning/ Through this, children in each year group will be able to access regular challenges, watch online assemblies and find ways to communicate with their teacher. Some features are live now and the rest will launch on Monday.

We will continue to support families on low incomes who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium through this crisis. We are working on a solution here and will update you shortly.

Throughout the period of closure, you will be able to contact our office team at secretary@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk, me at head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk and Tiffany Pope at tpope@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can help in any way. We also remain on alert to respond to any safeguarding concerns. If you are worried about the safety of a child, please get in touch immediately using my email above.

Other Changes

Amongst his announcements yesterday, Gavin Williamson explained that there will be no SATs assessments for Year 6 or Year 2 this year. Whilst this may seem disappointing to our pupils who have worked so hard, it is worth taking a moment to be exceptionally proud of all they have achieved so far. Well done every one of you!

Unfortunately, I will not be onsite at Penpol these next few days. Members of my household have started to show potential symptoms of the coronavirus. They are doing well at present with mild symptoms. However, in keeping with current government advice, we are self-isolating together as a family for the next fourteen days. During this time, I will be working from home and in full communication with Tiffany Pope and the rest of the team at Penpol. I am truly sorry not to be in school but know it is in very safe hands.

Forward Together

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible team at Penpol. Every single staff member has pulled together in recent weeks to adapt and respond wherever needed. Whilst this next phase will present its challenges, you can be reassured that the Penpol team are on hand to offer support and guidance wherever it is needed.

Thank you also to our unwaveringly supportive parents and carers and to our incredible pupils. The Penpol community is a wonderful thing and, although things will look a little different for a while, our community will only grow stronger. Together, we will overcome the challenges and look forward to the brighter and calmer times around the corner.

Very best wishes,

Chris Chislett

Headteacher

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