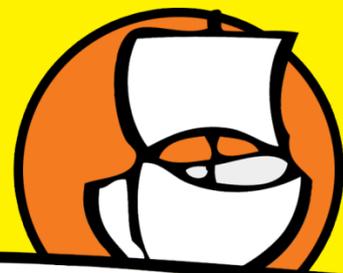


Penpol School

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



Dear Parents and Carers,

Thursday 14th May 2020

As you know, schools in England have been asked to prepare for the **reopening of schools to more pupils**, prioritising those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, from a potential June 1st start date – the week after half term.

Although opening a school at this point will not be without challenge, it is important to balance the short-term risks of pupils, staff and families potentially catching or transmitting the coronavirus against the long-term harm of pupils being away from school for a considerable amount of time. We are committed to opening in way in which risks are mitigated as far as possible.

As a school of 410 pupils with plenty of narrow spaces and limited shared areas, we have determined that it would be safest to gradually increase our numbers of pupils, starting with those in Year 6. Our older pupils are far more ready to follow respiratory hygiene and social distancing rules than those in Reception and Year 1. Opening in this way will allow us to gather more evidence about how the safety guidance works best in our context before safely welcoming our youngest pupils back.

Therefore, **if** the government's data maintains that June 1st is appropriate, we expect to open to Year 6 pupils on this date and to pupils in Year 1 and Reception as soon as safely possible afterwards. It is important to remember that this date and our plans may need to change at short notice if, for example, advised accordingly by the government.

I know that many of you are feeling anxious about sending your child back to school at this time. I would like to assure you that we will take all precautions possible (we will share these with you more thoroughly early next week) but we do respect your judgement as your child's guardian. The government have advised that no parents/carers will be fined for non-attendance during this period and our team will continue to support online learning to mirror that which is taking place in class.

At this early planning stage, we are very keen to hear your views and any questions you may have. This will help us to produce a Frequently Asked Questions document specific to our school. Please send your thoughts and questions to me at head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk

It will also be of enormous help for our planning if you could please let me know if you intend to make use of a place for your child in Year 6, Year 1 or Reception when we are able to offer it. Again, please contact me at head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk by Tuesday 19th May if possible. If you are planning to use the provision, I would respectfully ask that all members of your household please continue to adhere to social distancing guidance stringently from this point onwards. Children attending school will be encountering individuals from a number of other households each day.

Thank you all for your support, patience and understanding whilst we very gradually move back towards opening our doors to all pupils. I speak for the whole team when I say we absolutely cannot wait for the moment when every pupil is back at school. In the meantime, your engagement from afar is incredible and our community grows ever stronger by the day.

Very best wishes,

Chris Chislett
Headteacher

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