



Friday 12th June

Dear Parents/Carers,

Government Updates

As you will have seen in the news this week, the government are no longer planning for all primary year groups to return to school this term. I know that this will come as a huge disappointment to many of you and to your children. This period of school closure is unprecedented and has placed extraordinary pressure on yourselves as parents and carers. It is important to remember that, however you have been coping as a family, you have achieved a remarkable feat in keeping your children safe and well during such testing times. We cannot wait for the day when we can all learn together at Penpol once more. Until that day, we are here for you in any way we can be of help.

You may also have seen that the government has pledged an extensive 'summer catch-up' plan. We are not yet clear what this may involve but Downing Street confirmed yesterday that schools themselves will not be open during the summer holidays. We look forward to learning more about this plan in the coming days and to sharing information with you all.

Home Learning

Thank you all for your support and engagement with our remote learning programme so far. **If you have been finding it difficult to access this learning or to engage your child with it, please do not hesitate to get in touch**, either with your child's class teacher or with me using the email address below. We understand that every family is different and are keen to diversify our provision as much as is needed to ensure that no child is left behind.

Phased Reopening to Younger Children

In line with government policy, we continue to work towards reopening a provision for pupils in **Year 1** and **Reception**. With 120 children across these year groups alone and with limited indoor space, bringing the balance of risk to an acceptable level has been an enormous challenge for our team. The government safety advice is rooted in ensuring excellent respiratory hygiene and supporting social distancing where possible and we know that each of these are problematic for our youngest pupils. Therefore, we will be limiting our 'bubbles' of younger pupils to a maximum number of seven. In order to avoid our safety measures taking a disproportionate toll on these pupils' wellbeing, our provision will be limited to mornings only in the first instance. This provision will start in the week beginning 29th June, with each bubble attending for two mornings per week initially.

Young children are less likely to suffer serious complications if they do contract Covid-19. However, there is currently less evidence around the likelihood of passing the virus to family members, staff or other members of the community. Therefore, we fully respect your right to choose whether or not to include your child in this optional provision and will continue to support with home learning in the way which best suits your child.

- **If you are planning to include your child in this or any provision at school, it is absolutely essential that social distancing guidelines are adhered to by each member of your household at all times, including when on the school site please.**
- **If you would like your child to attend the provision in Reception or Year 1, please email me at head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk by next Thursday 18th June.**

- **Children cannot be placed in more than one 'bubble'**. For example, keyworker's children in Year 1 or Reception who require more than the two mornings available will sadly not be able to access their class provision.
- Our risk assessment can be found here: <https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/2020/05/31/risk-assessment-for-school-reopening-june-2020>

Provision for Keyworkers and Vulnerable Pupils

Due to an increase in families returning to key-working roles, this provision has expanded significantly. From the week beginning 15th June, children in this provision will be based in one of two bubbles. Siblings will be grouped into the same bubble. Please only use this provision where it is needed and by agreement at least one week in advance. We will be relocating this provision to another area of the school from the week beginning 22nd June – please keep an eye out for updates.

Transitions

The end of the academic year marks an important transition point for every pupil. As a team, we are working hard to ensure that transitions this year are as smooth and supportive as possible:

- We are working with colleagues in each of the secondary schools to ensure that our Year 6 pupils enjoy the best possible start to the next leg of their educational journey.
- We are committing to celebrating the achievements of our Year 6 pupils together at Penpol in a fitting way, with this now likely to take place next academic year.
- We have agreed that we will not mix any class groupings ahead of the new academic year so that children can look forward to returning to as much familiarity as possible when school does reopen.
- We will ensure that children have the opportunity to spend some time with their current teacher wherever possible in the new academic year.
- Our Year 1 team are currently training in the delivery of an effective 'continuous provision' and play-based learning to ensure that our current Reception pupils enjoy the smooth transition they deserve.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff team at Penpol. Throughout these testing times, I have been in awe at the passion, creativity and resolve of my colleagues and am immensely proud to work alongside them.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Best wishes,

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