

Thursday 27th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the start of our new term draws near, we are all very much looking forward to welcoming all pupils back to school.

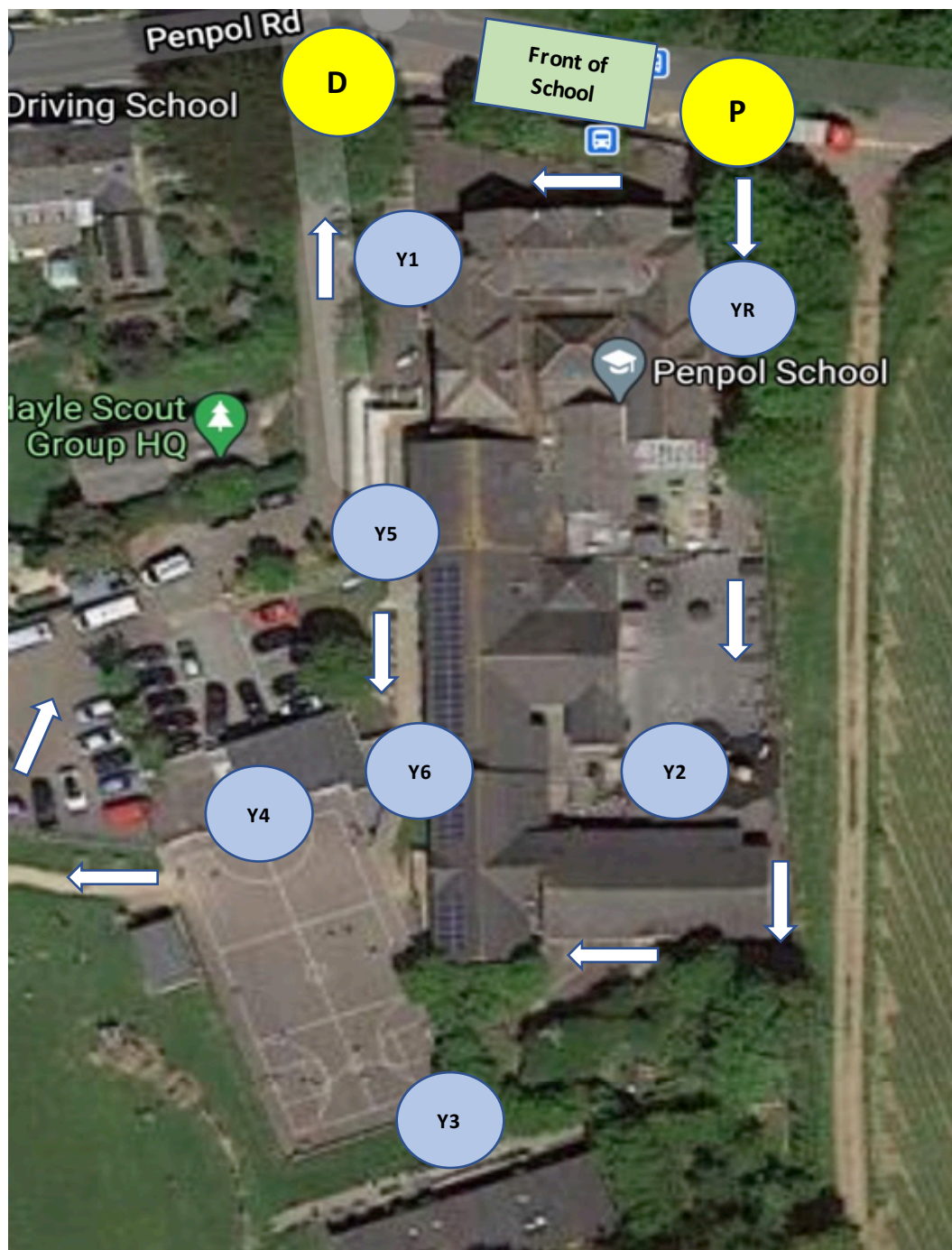
Please find below some key information about our start to the new term. You may also want to check our previously sent newsletters which are available on the website here: <https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/letters-home>.

Dates, Timings, Drop Off and Collection

- Children in Years 1-6 will return on Monday 7th September. Our new Reception pupils begin their phased start on Tuesday 8th September.
- **Start** times will be staggered, with children in Year 3 and 4 accessing via the driveway entrance. Other children will access via the usual pedestrian entrance.
- **Collection** times will be staggered and a one-way system will operate across the site for all parents – entering by the pedestrian gate and leaving by the driveway entrance, with the exception of Year 5 who will be collected from the front of the school building.
- There will be flexibility with drop and collection times for parents of siblings, allowing you to keep moving whilst on site. **Please avoid congregating with other parents and carers at all times. Please maintain social distancing and pass others on the left when on site.**
- Please ensure that your children stay together and with you at all times as you may need to walk slowly to maintain safe distancing.
- If your child is old enough and feeling ready to go into the school site itself without your supervision, this is encouraged in order to reduce footfall on site.
- As always, we will be on hand around site to help steer you in the right direction if you are unsure.
- **Our new Reception children** will continue with their planned phased introduction to school. More information can be found here: <https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/2020/07/03/new-intake-visits-for-pupils-starting-in-september/>. These children will now depart at 1:05pm on 16th September and 2pm on 17th September. The below table will then apply Friday 18th September.

Please see the map below showing the pedestrian gate **(P)** and driveway entrance **(D)**, along with entrances to the buildings for each year group.

Year Group	Drop Off			Collection			
	Time	Enter	Exit	Time M/T/Th/F	Time Wednesday	Enter	Exit
Reception	8:50am	P	P	3:00pm	1:05pm	P	D
Year 1	8:45am	P	P	3:05pm	1:10pm	P	D
Year 2	8:55am	P	P	3:10pm	1:15pm	P	D
Year 3	8:45am	D	D	3:00pm	1:05pm	P	D
Year 4	8:55am	D	D	3:05pm	1:10pm	P	D
Year 5	8:55am	P	D	3:15pm	1:15pm	P	P
Year 6	8:45am	P	D	3:15pm	1:15pm	P	D



First Day Arrangements

In order to ensure a smooth transition following our partial school closure, each child will be taught by their previous class teacher on the first day. They will, however, be based in their **new classroom** in order to limit the potential for cross-contamination.

Recovery Curriculum

The focus for the first few weeks and beyond will be to support children to reintegrate into the school environment in a positive, supportive and fun way and to recover from the events of recent months. We know that every child will face new and unique challenges as a result of their experiences and our team are ready to offer the support that they need.

Safety Measures

We are following the government's guidance regarding our reopening and have completed a thorough risk assessment which is available for you to read at the link below. This will be updated over time as and when we receive any further advice. <https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/2020/05/31/risk-assessment-for-school-reopening-june-2020/>

We agree with the government that children attending school is vital and that the risks of not doing so are far greater. If you have any questions or concerns that are not covered here, please do get in touch so that we can discuss them together.

Wednesday Afternoons and Wraparound Care

As you will know, we will not yet be ready to offer our breakfast or after school clubs to pupils. We will also be closing earlier on Wednesday afternoons to allow for a deeper clean and to facilitate teacher planning time without our staff members mixing across bubbles. More information can be found here: <https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/2020/07/15/september-update/>

Thank you for your patience here - these decisions have not been taken lightly. With such a large number of individuals returning to the school site and as we establish new systems, maintaining the integrity of our 'bubbles' will be absolutely vital. We hope to be ready to reopen for the full day on Wednesdays and offer breakfast and after school care later on in the term when these systems are fully embedded. In the meantime, if you are worried about the impact of the temporary closure on Wednesday afternoons upon your family and have not yet contacted me, please do so.

Park and Stride

Cornwall Council have launched a 'Park and Stride' initiative. Please avoid driving to school wherever possible. Where it is vital for you to drive, **please park a short distance away from the site** and walk the remainder of the journey. This will allow us to keep the site safer for all at this time. I have contacted the local authority for clarity about any temporary lifting of restrictions in nearby car parks and will update you as soon as possible.

School Uniform

Before the summer, we temporarily relaxed our school uniform policy for the first few weeks of term. More information about this and how to buy uniform for your child from our new suppliers is available here:

<https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/2020/08/14/new-school-uniform-arrangements-august-2020/>

School Lunches

Aspens will be providing a slightly reduced menu to pupils to allow for lunches to be eaten in classrooms in Years 2-6. Children in Reception and Year 1 will be eating in the hall which will be fully cleaned in between uses. **If you would like your child to have a school lunch, please order now using the Aspens ordering system.** Our new Reception families will receive details about to do this on Tuesday 8th September.

Children's Questions

We want your child to be as excited as we are about returning to school and know that they may well have lots of questions of their own. Next week, Mrs Pope and I will record a short virtual assembly responding to children's frequently asked questions. Please do discuss this with your child and send any questions they may have to me at head@penpol.cornwall.sch.uk by Monday 31st August.

Internet Concerns

A number of parents have contacted me about misleading posts shared on social media which suggest that, if your child was to show potential symptoms of COVID-19, they could be taken for a test without your consent. Please be assured that this is absolutely not the case, as you will see in our risk assessment linked above. If you are worried about anything you read online, please do get in touch.

How You Can Help

In order to help us to keep children, staff and families safe in the weeks ahead, we ask you to follow these simple guidelines:

- **Please do follow social distancing guidance at all times when on site and when outside of school.**
- **Please inform us immediately if your child or any member of your household is showing potential symptoms of COVID-19: a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss of (or change in) your normal sense of taste or smell.**
- **In the event of a household member showing such symptoms, please self-isolate and arrange for a test as soon as possible, informing us at school of the outcome of the test.**
- **Please avoid entering the school building without an appointment wherever possible.**
- **Please revisit with your child the importance of regular and thorough hand washing and of excellent respiratory hygiene.**

Thank you all for your support and for the time taken in reading this letter. We very much look forward to seeing you all soon. As always, if you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch. My email address is below.

Best wishes,

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