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Mr M Lloyd – Headteacher

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Reopening of Goonhavern Primary School to all pupils.

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome all children back to school on 8th March 2021. We've had approximately 70 pupils attending each week which means there are nearly 150 children we have not seen since before Christmas. We cannot wait to see you all!

Over the last couple of months, we have been closely monitoring the number of Coronavirus cases in Cornwall and we have been reassured to see a significant decrease in these numbers. At the time of writing, there are fewer than 29 cases per 100,000 in the county. We will continue to work hard to ensure that we play our part in keeping our community safe and we have outlined how we are doing this through our 'systems of control' below. There is also a further section below that should address any questions you may have about things like school meals and before and after school club.

When children return to school on March 8th, we will continue to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum which includes the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing'. We think it's important to allow time for children to reconnect with each other and their teachers (particularly in the first week back) and we will be planning activities to encourage this. Over time, we will be informally assessing what children have learnt over the last half term and, where necessary, we will reteach core learning to ensure children are ready to progress onto new material.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the time and dedication you have shown to supporting your children to continue to learn through remote education. We know this is not always easy!

Government guidance states that, from March 8th, school attendance is mandatory. If you have any concerns about your child/children returning or you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Very best wishes,

Mark Lloyd
Headteacher

Five Ways to Wellbeing



Systems of Control

This section details the control measures that are in place to reduce the risks of transmission.

Symptoms

In order to reduce the possible spread of coronavirus, it is essential that people who are ill stay at home. The NHS list the main symptoms as:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you or anyone in your household or support bubble has any of these symptoms, you must not attend school and you should arrange for a coronavirus test. You should also contact school to inform us as soon as practically possible. You will be advised to self-isolate for at least 10 days from the day after the onset of symptoms OR from the date the test was taken if there were no symptoms.

Face coverings

Children in primary schools are not required to wear face coverings. Staff will wear face coverings in communal areas of the school and at pick up and drop off times. Parents should also wear face coverings at these times unless they are exempt.

Handwashing

All staff and children must wash their hands on arrival and frequently throughout the day. 70% alcohol hand gel is located around the school and can be used when soap and water are not easily accessible - for example when outside. Younger children will be given additional support to wash their hands.

Children and staff need to wash their hands:

- Before leaving home
- On arrival at school
- After using the toilet
- After breaks and sporting activities
- Before food preparation
- Before eating any food, including snacks

- Before leaving school
- When they change rooms

Children will also be encouraged not to touch their mouth, eyes and nose.

Respiratory hygiene

All staff and children must practise good respiratory hygiene by using 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it'. Tissues will be readily available in all rooms to support this.

Enhanced Cleaning Arrangements

We are continuing with our enhanced cleaning arrangements. One of our cleaning team is onsite during the school day to clean communal areas such as toilets and to disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as light switches and door handles.

Bubbles

To minimise the possible spread of infection, we will be reducing the contacts between individuals by forming consistent groups of children, often referred to as 'bubbles'. Children will form a 'bubble' with the other children in their year group. All children will have access to their own allocated outdoor space that can be used throughout the day and for lunchtimes and playtimes. Playtime and lunchtimes will be staggered to further prevent bubbles from mixing.

Ventilation

Windows will be kept open throughout the school day to ensure adequate ventilation in each room. Children can continue to wear their Goonhavern School hoodies to keep warm. In addition, classrooms in the old part of the school have additional heaters to make sure the room temperature remains comfortable.

Staggered Opening and Closing

Our aim is to reduce the number of contacts between families at drop off and pick up times whilst still providing a full education entitlement for children. For this reason we will be slightly amending school start/finish times. Please drop your child off to their external classroom door between **8.40am and 9.00am**. Please then collect your child from their classroom between **3.00pm and 3.20pm**. Please do not arrive before 8.40am as we do not want parents to congregate outside the classrooms. In addition, we politely request that you make a conscious effort to leave the school grounds as soon as you drop your child(ren) off, again with the aim of reducing the number of contacts between families.

Unfortunately, parents are not able to enter the classrooms or school unless there are exceptional circumstances that have been agreed by the headteacher.

Toilets

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will all have their own allocated toilets. Adults in these classes will support children to ensure they have washed their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.

Children in Key Stage 2 will be sharing toilets. They will continue to use the 'vacant/in use' door signs so that only one child is in the toilet at any one time. Children will be reminded each time they go to the toilet to wash their hands thoroughly. An additional hand sanitizing station has been added outside the junior toilets.

What does my child need to bring to school?

Children only need to bring the essentials into school each day. These include: packed lunch, drinks bottle, school bag, reading book, coat, hat etc. **Children are not permitted to bring other items from home into school. In particular, parents should ensure children do not bring in toys.**

Asymptomatic Testing

Staff members will continue to test using Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) twice weekly to test for coronavirus. Children will not be tested with LFDs.

Other Information

What happens if a child or staff member becomes unwell at school?

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with any of the symptoms above, they must be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus infection'. Other members of their household (including any sibling) should also self-isolate.

School Meals

School meals will continue as usual. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have use of the hall (this will be staggered). Children in Key Stage 2 will be able to order takeaway-style lunches that can be eaten outside or in classrooms.

Test and Trace

All visitors will be required to sign in at the school office. Contact details will be obtained at this point so that school can actively engage with NHS Test and Trace. All contact details for pupils, parents and staff are already held centrally in the school office.

Extra-curricular Clubs

We aim to have extra-curricular clubs up and running in the summer term. We recognise the importance of these clubs and we are keen to re-engage pupils in at least one club with their peers.

Communication

If you would like to speak to a member of staff, please email secretary@goonhavern.cornwall.sch.uk and we will happily arrange a telephone appointment with the most appropriate member of staff. Some face-to-face meetings can take place but these are limited and will be at the headteacher's discretion.

Music Lessons and French Lessons

Rocksteady and peripatetic music lessons are able to continue from March 8th onwards. If you have any questions about music lessons in school, please contact Miss Gurney directly. French lessons will continue for pupils who were already taking them. Sharron Potter will be in touch with you directly to arrange these.

Social Distancing

As we are all aware, social distancing in a primary school or preschool environment is very challenging, especially for younger children, however, we will be encouraging children from Year 2 upwards to be aware of social distancing and make an effort to socially distance from staff where this is possible.

Wraparound Care

Before and after school club will remain open to pupils. We ask that you only use the club if you really need to, for example if you require childcare to enable you to be able to work.

- We are temporarily capping the maximum number of children at 15.
- Priority will be given to families that book in advance.
- There is a one-way system. Please continue to drop children off at the library, entering through the link corridor as usual. Please then exit through the main school entrance.
- A handwashing station will be set up at the entrance - please ensure hands are sanitised upon entry.
- Please make a conscious effort to avoid staying in school any longer than necessary.

PE lessons

We recognise how important PE is for children's physical and mental wellbeing and PE lessons will continue as usual. Where possible, these will be outside.

Uniform

Children should be in full school uniform as usual when they return to school. Details of the uniform policy can be found on our website. If you have any issues with school uniform, please let your child's teacher know.

Children with a Special Educational Need

If your child has a special educational need and you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs van der Hoven who will be happy to support you.

INSET days

We have two INSET days remaining:

- April 1st 2021
- June 11th 2021

Educational Visits and School Camps

The current guidance advises against all educational visits at present. Back in September, we provisionally booked Porthpean Camp for Year 5 and 6 in the hope they would be able to attend in May 2021, however this now looks very unlikely. We are liaising with Cornwall Outdoors to see if there's a possibility that we could take a group of children in July 2021 and we will let you know nearer the time whether this is possible.

Parent Support

Jenny Matthews continues to be available to offer support for any families who may need help. The impact of the pandemic has been different for every family and we encourage you to reach out if you need any further support. Jenny can be contacted directly by email (jmatthews@goonhavern.cornwall.sch.uk).