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12th June, 2020

School News

A message from Mrs. Denham

On Tuesday this week, the following statement was made from the Secretary of State for Education on the wider opening of education and early years' settings:

"The Department for Education continues to follow the best scientific advice and that this cautious, phased return of education and childcare settings is the most sensible course of action to take. While we are not able to welcome all primary children back for a full month before the summer, we are working with the sector on the next steps to allow schools that have the capacity to bring back more children in smaller class sizes to do so before the summer holidays. We will provide further details in the coming days."

School have not yet received any further information as to what this will look like, but it seems very likely that school will not be reopening as normal until at least September 2020. We have been very pleased with how the gradual reopening of school for certain age groups has gone and really praise the children and their families for their support and kindness. School staff have been amazing providing a happy and safe place for children to be during such a very difficult time. Obviously, we cannot take all the children back into each class as we have a maximum number of children and adults allowed into each class/ team. Once the pupil number reaches capacity (using the Government's present guidance) in each team, we will not be able to take any more children into that team. We also have to consider available staffing levels. We will of course, keep you informed as and when we know - I promise you schools only receive the Government's information when it is announced in the statements. I heard Tuesday's announcement in the car on the way to work!

Routes and Routines for Arrival and Departure

We encourage all families, where possible, to walk to school.

Please could the adult dropping off and picking up ensure they do so as quickly as possible, we ask that only one adult per child. School is desperately trying to ensure that we follow all COVID19 guidance which includes everyone socially distancing. We have many children, parents and staff who are very anxious and very worried about COVID 19. Some parents have had to send their children back into school as they are key workers but are very concerned about doing so. Seeing groups of more than 6 people chatting together or many children running around outside of school playing together and touching each other, can make people feel even more anxious. At school, the children are managing brilliantly and have kept 2m distance and have kept to the guidance amazingly well. We are very proud of them. Thank you for your support during this very difficult time."

The drop off and collection times are as follows:

Reception and Yr. 1 children will arrive at 9.00 am and collected at 2:30 pm.

Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 will arrive at 8:50 am and collected at 2:45 pm.

Please do not arrive earlier than the allocated time and in the mornings only bring in the essentials – water bottle, coat and lunch box.

If it is a sunny day, children will need to apply 24hour sun cream before coming to school and will need to bring in a hat. Sun cream should not be brought into school. We ask that **NO** other items from home, e.g. toys, PE bags, rucksacks and pencil cases etc. are brought into school and no resources will be sent home.

Break and Lunch Times

Break times and lunches will be staggered each day for each class group and each group will have a designated place to play during break and lunch times. They will all have their own equipment that will be cleaned after use. Children will be expected to remain socially distant from both peers and adults during play and break times.

Lunch will be eaten in class groups. Children will either have a packed lunch or a school lunch which will be brought to them at their seat.

School dinners will remain the same cost of £2.30. and paid direct to St Michaels via a BACS payment. Please see menu attached.

Packed Lunches and Water Bottles

If children are bringing in packed lunches, please send these into school in a plastic bag or plastic lunch box (no cloth ones).

Please can ALL children bring in a named water bottle. These should be brought in on a Monday and will be sent home on a Friday.

Uniform

We would like children to wear their summer school uniform if possible, or as close as possible to this if they have outgrown their clothes, e.g. black shorts and a plain white or blue t-shirt.

We would like children to be dressed for physical activity and so come to school in trainers or shoes which are sensible for PE as this will avoid children changing their clothes in school. We do NOT need a PE kit sent into school

We ask that all children have fresh clothes on a daily basis.

Finally, I wish you all a lovely weekend and hope the sun shines a little more. Thank you to all the parents who have contacted school over this last week – it's been lovely to speak to you. Thank you also to all the families who remain at home and whom are working hard on the online learning on seesaw. Well done. Keep up the good work.

Thank you
Sue Denham
Executive Headteacher

Summer Term

The last day of the Summer term will be Friday 17th July, 2020.

Holywell is a NO NUT Zone.

News from the PTA



Thank you for helping us raise funds through easyfundraising. Please remember to use this link when you shop online

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofholywellschool/?invite=qxe9k8&referral-campaign>

We are looking into making a fundraising calendar, please follow the link for more details and to express your interest

<https://forms.gle/QvttFWcfzn1BpeA2A>

Op Shop

If you have or require any good quality, secondhand school uniform please contact Hazel Malin on 07974 208835

Thank you for your support.

Parent Pay.

If you have not yet logged on and you have mislaid your username and password, please email Mrs. Palmer. Thank you.

You will have received an email from Ventrus stating that we are not accepting cash payments. In the next week we plan to get all the uniform orders on to Parent Pay so as you can purchase multiple numbers of the same item.

Items on Parent Pay

Uniform – When you purchase items on parent pay please remember to email elaine.palmer@ventrus.org.uk stating the item and size/s you require.

Independent Survey.

We have attached information regarding an independent survey which you may be interested in.

Links you may be interested in?

The Plough Theatre – Great Torrington

<https://www.theploughartscentre.org.uk/whats-on/diary>

Romarsport

A letter was sent home attached to the newsletter today from this company if you would like to find out more this is there website and the parent booking link.

www.romarsports.com link for parents to book is <https://www.romarsports.com/Holiday-Camps>

Happy Maps

www.happymaps.co.uk

New website for parents on children's mental health problems now launched. Funded by Health Education England, HappyMaps is designed to help parents find useful resources on behaviour and mental health for their children – from babies to young adults. It is hoped that this will be really useful for parents whose children don't meet the specialist referral thresholds or are perhaps on the waiting list. There is good general information (national) and also local information on counselling, charities, local CAMHS and parenting groups for the South West. Take a look at the website.

Outdoors Group

<https://www.outdoorsgroup.co.uk/forestschoollactivities/>

Riverdart.co.uk – event 30th March

<http://riverdart.co.uk/news-and-events>

Easter Holiday Club – Tawstock Court

<https://sciencedipity.co.uk/school-holiday-science-club/>

On-line Safety

Online safety is an ever expanding area and you can find further valuable information on the CEOP website 'Think you know' has produced some useful conversation starters and advice to help you talk to your child about staying safe online.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

The NSPCC website

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventingabuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety>

Some good sources of information and advice for parents:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>

The Professionals Online Safety Helpline is available Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm

Call 0344 381 4772 or email enquires@saferinternet.org.uk

<https://parentinfo.org/>

Parent Info is a free web service providing information to parents and carers.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/ShareAware>

Advice from the NSPCC: on social networks, app and games.

<https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers>

A non-profit organization; working with others to help make the internet a great and safe place for children.

West Buckland School Activity Day

<https://www.westbuckland.com/prospective-parents>

Early Help for Mental Health

<http://eh4mh.co.uk>

Early Help

<http://devon.cc/earlyhelp>

Courses for Parents and Children

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--bideford/family-and-education--classes/>

The above events are constantly being updated and there are many new courses available which may be of interest.

Devon Library Services (including Barnstaple)

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/events>

Royal Albert Memorial Museum - (Exeter)

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKKECC/bulletins/20a0199>

Barnstaple Library

<http://devonlibraries.org.uk>