



5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to see so many of the children back in school. We have had about half the children come in for Year One, slightly fewer children in Year Six and a real mix in Nursery depending on the day! The group of children whose parents are key workers continues to grow. Thank you if you have already booked a place for your child; this really helps us to organise staffing and keep the children and staff safe. The deadline for booking for the two weeks commencing 15th June is today (Friday 5th June), by 3pm. To book, please use the google form which all parents have been sent or use the link on the school website. *You can only use this for if you have already registered with us as a key worker.*

We are really looking forward to welcoming Reception children in next week. All parents should have been sent an email to tell them which classroom to come to in the morning. We will be out on the playground before and after school to answer questions and point you in the right direction!

Years 2, 3, 4 and 5

I know that many parents who have children in these year groups are very anxious about when they will return to school; I know this is very challenging for you. The government has not given any guidance about this and it is very unlikely to change over the next few weeks. We will continue to provide online learning and teachers will continue to call children at home to keep in touch. Please email the school if you have any questions.

Packed Lunches

From next week, we will be able to provide packed lunches for children in Reception and Year One when they are in as part of the universal infant meals programme. We will also provide packed lunches for all the children in any year group who qualify for means-tested free school meals. There is no need to order and you can of course, still send them in with their own packed lunch.

Government Guidelines

As we are having more children in school from a range of year groups, it is crucially important that parents follow the government recommendations on social distancing. This is particularly important to keep all staff and children as safe as possible and to minimise risk. If we become aware that children are staying in a range of houses and socialising widely with various groups we will reserve the right to request that they self-isolate for 14 days before coming in to school.

Front Gate

Please could parents make sure that they close the front gate when they leave the school. Thank you.

Office

We have very limited office staff at the moment and Mrs Welsh has been answering the phones, so please be patient if we take a while to answer.

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This is a great free course that parents and carers can access online. Parenting must be the hardest (and most fantastic) job in the world! We all get a lot right, but there are times when things go wrong. If you feel this could help, going online could be a great way to start getting some support...so much easier than walking in to a room full of strangers!

Summer Holidays

We have had several enquiries this week about opening over the summer holidays and I know parents have wanted to know so that they can organise childcare, which is perfectly understandable.

We have no plans to open over the summer. Staff have worked through the Easter break and through the majority of half term providing schooling from 7.45 until 5pm for key worker children and there is likely to be significant preparation for September; therefore, the teachers will need a break so that they are ready for the autumn term.

I appreciate that the situation is fluid and that planning a fortnight ahead seems long term at the moment, but I thought it might help to know the current position.

Devon Family Advice Line

ECI will be launching a new phone advice line for parents and carers across Devon on Monday 1 June. The number for the new service is 01392 949059 and it will be manned from 10 – 2pm Monday to Friday. People will be able to leave a message outside of these hours, or when the operators are all busy.

It will offer advice on a specific issue around their children and their family relationships, including any communication issues or conflict they are having with their partners or co-parents of their children. It is not meant to be a replacement for more targeted work, but just a way to offer people a place to be heard and a few tips on how to deal with a particular situation or to signpost them to an organisation, which may be able to help them.

Going back to school social story:

This is a good resource to watch if your child is worried about returning to school.
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=JUda5y8PAUE>

Year 6

Mrs Biddle has sent an email to year 6 on purple mash to say the company Stitch2print will be delivering the hoodies next week to the x13 children who have already purchased one online.

The final deadline is July 3rd - as long as they make an order by then, they will receive their hoodie before the end of term.