



Devoran Lane Devoran Truro Cornwall TR3 6PA
Tel: 01872 863223

26 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that this letter finds you all safe and well? What a difference a few days of sunshine makes! We are busy preparing for our children's return on the 8 March and we are really looking forward to having all our children back in school once again. Our focus on our return will be in supporting our children with rebuilding connections and relationships with one another as well as with the staff as we appreciate that throughout lockdown and without physical contact with friends and teachers, these are areas that will have been harder to maintain. We have a very clear plan in place to support our children with a long term aim of ensuring that every child feels safe, valued and listened to on our return to school.

You will no doubt have heard a lot of discussion and speculation about education over the past few weeks. Two phrases that keep coming up are 'lost learning' and 'catch-up'. These are not phrases that we will be using as a school. We feel strongly that the learning has very much continued for all our children throughout this lockdown period and that every child's journey will look a bit different. Our highly-skilled team will know exactly what to do next in order to support each and every child within their care. We will be using the language of 'recovery' when talking to our children as we all take the time that is needed to process and reflect on what we have all just experienced whilst also finding our way to move forward and continue on our learning journey at Devoran School. No child will be left behind and we will be reassuring our children every step of the way that we know what to do next to move their learning on.

We will take time to re-establish boundaries and remind children of our three values; Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Below are the key bits of information that you will need in order to prepare for your child's imminent return to school. We wanted to give you this information as soon as possible so that you have time to ask any questions that may arise.

I would really encourage you to complete the questionnaire at the end of this letter – this will really help us to inform and personalise our planning for the first weeks back.

Preparations for 8 March 2021

Dropping off and collection times

In order to reduce the number of adults on site at any one time, we will continue to stagger the drop off and collection times for our children. In the interest of fairness, we are switching the order to ensure that no-one feels that they are being penalised by having a surname further down the alphabet. The reasons for doing this alphabetically (in reverse) is to allow siblings to come in at the same time as one another.

The drop off and collection times will be as follows:

| First initial of student's surname | Drop off time | Collection time |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| S - Z | 08:45 | 15:00 |

Headteacher: Miss Victoria Lock
Email: secretary1@devoran.cornwall.sch.uk
www.devoranschool.co.uk

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| K - R | 08:55 | 15:10 |
| F - J | 09:05 | 15:20 |
| A - E | 09:15 | 15:30 |

We appreciate that this may cause some difficulties should you need to get your other children to other settings / get to work, but we are putting these measures in place for your and our own safety in order to reduce the number of adults on site at any one time. Should these times still not be agreeable with you and you are unable to find alternative arrangements, the wraparound care service will be available for you to book.

You will continue to drop your child off at the green gate and your child will go through the gate on their own leading up to their classroom. Foundation Stage will continue to go around to the back of the school as in the Autumn Term. We will have adults from year groups ready to greet the children on their way up to the class.

We would actively encourage parents to **wear masks** when dropping off or collecting their child from school if parents are able to do so.

Wraparound Care

We will continue to run our own wraparound care. It will take the following format:

| | Start time | Finish time | Cost |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-------|
| Breakfast Club (including breakfast) | 07:45 | Start of school | £4 |
| After School Club (including snack) | End of school | 16:30 | £4 |
| | End of school | 17:30 | £7.50 |
| | End of school | 18:00 | £9.00 |

Bubbles

The children will return to school in their year group bubble. The classes will not have any physical interaction with other classes during their time in school.

Playtimes

Play areas will be zoned and equipment will be split between classes to ensure that the children are entertained and that we are reinforcing positive play at all times. We are fortunate to have a number of outside spaces in our school and we will make the most of them as much as we can.

Lunches

The school dinners will be delivered to the classrooms where the children will eat. Packed lunches will also be eaten in the classrooms. School dinners can be ordered on ParentPay in the normal way.

Please remember that we are a nut and seed-free school. It is paramount that food items are checked and that children do not bring in tuck or lunchbox items that contain nuts or seeds.

Uniform

Children will be required to wear school uniform. The only exception to this will be on your child's PE days when they will come into school in their school PE kit (including black tracksuit bottoms / jumper if they are cold). We will share your child's PE days with you by the end of next week.

The link to the uniform list on our website can be found here:

<http://www.devoran.cornwall.sch.uk/web/uniform/301618>

Please note that children should not be wearing boots, trainers or open-toed shoes for school shoes.

We appreciate that children will have continued to grow throughout this recent lockdown. For this reason, we will give families a grace-period until after the Easter Holidays to ensure that children are fully wearing the correct uniform. This will give everyone time to replenish any items needed. The PTCA also have a bank of

second-hand uniform if anyone should need it. Please contact them via their Facebook page should you require any items.

Hair

Hair that is longer than shoulder length should be tied up. Subtle hairbands are permitted and should be matching to the school colours of black and gold / yellow.

Please note that hairstyles that fall in-front of your child's face can be incredibly distracting when writing / learning. If this is the case, please ensure your child has a hairband to keep it out of their eyes.

Hygiene

Children will wash their hands once they have entered school as well as on exit. They will also be washing hands at regular intervals during the day. Hand wash and hand sanitiser is available in every classroom. If your child is sensitive to hand wash, we are happy for them to bring in their own named hand wash / hand cream that can remain by the sink in the classrooms.

PPE will be worn by staff only for providing intimate care and to support children who are ill.

Toilets

Each class bubble will be assigned toilets to use and these will be cleaned regularly.

Contact with the School

We have heavily reduced the number of adults on site and it may be that someone in the office speaks to you through the hatch as opposed to inviting you in through the main door. As always, you can get messages to the class teachers via Mrs Andrews in the office (secretary1@devoranschool.co.uk) and if you wish to speak to the class teacher, Mrs Andrews can organise this for you at a time convenient for both parties. We would appreciate your support in only having **one adult** dropping off or collecting your child at this time.

Returning reading books / exercise books

We would like all reading books to be returned to school on the 8 March. We would also like the children to bring in their exercise books and learning packs so that we can use these and continue from where the children have got to in their learning journey.

Attendance

The government have let schools know that we will be required to monitor the attendance of children in the usual way from March 8 and that attendance is mandatory. If you have concerns about your child's return to school, **please contact the school now** so that we can support you and your child in preparation for their return on the 8 March. We will work closely with parents to support children who may well be displaying signs of anxiety at this time.

Illness

All absence should continue to be rung through to our absence line the morning that your child is not going to be in school. During this time we want to take additional precautions to ensure the safety of all our children and staff. It is for this reason that we are suggesting that if your child needs medicine such as Calpol in the morning because they are feeling unwell, they should not attend school. Your child must not return to school for 48 hours from their last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

Socialising outside of school

We do appreciate that many people may think that as the children are in the same bubble in school, this then enables socialising to take place outside of school. We politely ask that you **continue to follow government guidelines** and that you don't put the school in an awkward position by arranging play dates after school. The [Evidence Summary](#) written on 22 February states "Case rates within education settings have been shown to reflect those in the local community, and risks are reduced further in such a controlled environment by having appropriate mitigations and systems of control in place." Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Return to school – Wellbeing survey

Please click on the following [link](#) to complete a short survey for your child's return to school. If you have more than one child, please complete the survey separately for each child. This will really help the staff to gather a little bit of information in anticipation of your child's return to school. If you would rather email me separately with any concerns you have, I will be checking my email and can pass on any information required.

We will be sharing updated risk assessments, symptoms flow charts and information about Test and Trace over the next week. As always, please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns:

victorialock@devoranschool.co.uk

We really look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Best wishes



Miss Lock

Preparing Your Child For the First Day Back in School

As schools begin to open to more children, parents and children may well be feeling anxious. Here's some ideas of how best to prepare.

Be Calm.

Your child will take their lead from you and be reassured if you are steady and matter of fact.



Be Curious.

These are strange times and their imagination may run away with them. Listen, and try not to dismiss or minimise their fears but validate how they are feeling – "it's completely fine to feel like that at the moment" or "I can really understand why you would feel like that"



Be Positive.

Remind them of all the ways they have learnt to keep themselves safe: washing their hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into their elbow, not hugging others and staying in their own space.



Be Thankful.

Help your child think of things they are looking forward to: being with their friends, seeing their teacher, favourite activities but be mindful some of these may not be available for them



Be Supportive

Younger children particularly may struggle with separation anxiety and may become tearful, clingy or act out. Reassure them that you will miss them too and think of them through out the day. It might be helpful to draw a little heart on their wrist and one on yours too. You can call it the hug button and when they find they are missing you they can press the heart and know that you will be doing the same at home. Sometimes having a little object to remind them of you through the day helps but please check this out with your school first.



Be Prepared.

Support your child to be aware of changes that may have happened to their classroom environment since they were there last and rehearse any new routines that school may have shared. Rehearse and practice your 'goodbye' routine and create a 'hello' greeting for the end of the day for them to look forward to.

