



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Families

The end of another busy week! The children have been starting to really immerse themselves in their new topics and there continues to be a lovely, happy buzz around the school. For children in the EYFS/KS1 bubble, RWI lessons have started this week and Miss Steer started back with us on Thursday, supporting PE throughout the school.

We are still making small tweaks to the routines we have in place to keep everyone safe and we would like to thank you for your patience as we do this. We are trying our hardest to make school as 'normal' as possible for the children, but sometimes even small things take a bit of thought as to how we can safely make them happen, so please bear with us on this.

I am sure that many of you will have seen that many schools in Devon and Plymouth have already had to start closing bubbles. We have been lucky enough to not face this yet, however we have been busy behind the scenes planning for the event of a bubble or even a whole school closure. We will share these plans with you as soon as we have finalised them.

I have included a few updates, reminders and news below which I hope you find useful and informative. Whilst our face to face meetings are somewhat limited at the moment, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that you can always email the academy office or the class email addresses if you have information you need to share with myself or teachers, or if you have any questions or queries. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Have a fabulous weekend.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'L. Garside'.

Miss Garside  
Executive Head



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## Parent Survey

Below is a link to a survey asking you about the access that your child has to online learning at home. This is to enable us to plan for another lockdown in a way which will enable all children to access learning. Please ensure that you complete this survey by Thursday 24th September - Thank you!

<https://forms.gle/arDZ3ETvcq4RM49D6>

## Covid Symptoms

The government advice to schools is very clear that if children or staff have any of the following symptoms; a temperature, a persistent cough or a loss of taste or smell then that person and their entire household should isolate themselves for 14 days or until there is a negative test result. **Please be aware that if your child is sent home or you keep them off with any of these symptoms, we cannot accept them back into school until either after the 10 day period or until you have a negative test result.** This is even if they get better after a day or two. We understand the pressure that this puts on families but in current circumstances it is essential that we follow guidelines to keep our community safe.

The latest guidance stipulates:

***All schools must follow this process and ensure all staff and families are aware of it.***

***If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), which sets out that they should self-isolate for at least 10 days and should [arrange to have a test](#) to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19).***

***If they have tested positive whilst not experiencing symptoms but develop symptoms during the isolation period, they should restart the 10-day isolation period from the day they develop symptoms.***

***Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.***

### Illnesses

If your child is unwell with any other symptoms then it is up to you to decide if they are well enough to attend school. Normal cold symptoms such as a runny nose and sneezing are not Covid-19 symptoms and as long as they are feeling well enough, children are able to attend school where we will ensure that good hand and tissue hygiene will be enforced. However, if you decide to keep your child off school due to illness please ensure you call the academy office by 8.50am to inform us (you can leave a message on the answer phone). This must be done on each day of their illness and to ensure the message is picked up promptly we ask that you do not email or use parental engagement to inform us of illness. The academy phone number is 01548 560494.

## Drop Off and Pick Up

Thank you to everyone who has made these procedures very smooth this week. Just a couple of reminders; we would be grateful if KS2 parents continue to follow the one-way system of entering through the side gate by the academy office and exiting via the bottom playground gate. Children



will not be dismissed to parents who come to the bottom playground gate as this causes a blockage to our system and also inhibits social distancing for those people wishing to exit the school grounds.

KS1 parents, please remember to queue along the fence to the EYFS playground. This ensures that the entrance to the side gate is kept free for KS2 parents to filter straight through onto the playground.

We would also like to remind parents and families to remember to practise social distancing whilst queuing for their children and particularly if you are talking to staff. From Monday, staff will be wearing visors when welcoming or dismissing children to parents.

### **Drop Off and Collection Times**

Some parents have asked for a reminder of these times and they are as follows:

Children with surnames beginning A-M: 8.30am/3.20pm

Children with surnames beginning N-Z: 8.40am/3.30pm

It is important that you arrive during your allocated time, we have had a number of children arriving late over the past few days and this has a knock-on effect. Can we particularly ask parents to arrive on time for collection at the end of the day. Teachers have been late to several after school meetings already this term as children have not been collected on time, some as late as 3.45!

### **Healthy Snacks**

We are happy for you to send your child in with a snack for break time, but please ensure that it is a healthy snack and does not contain nuts. All of our EYFS and KS1 children receive a free piece of fruit at morning break and our EYFS children also receive free milk too.

### **Nuts**

All Saints' Thurlestone is a **nut free school** as we have several children who are allergic to nuts. We kindly request that you do not send your child in with anything that contains nuts in their packed lunch box or snack.

### **Birthday Treats**

Some children have asked if they are able to bring treats in to share with their classmates on their birthdays. At the moment, the only way this will be possible is if they are handed in to school three days prior to their birthday. This will allow them to be quarantined for 72 hours before other children take them home.

To try and make birthdays special for children, this year we have decided that on their birthday, children will be able to wear 'mufti' as a special treat. If their birthday is on the weekend, they can wear mufti on either the Friday or Monday surrounding the weekend. If your child has already had their birthday this academic year (since September 1st), they can choose a day next week to wear mufti as a catch up treat! Children with birthdays in the school holidays can wear mufti on the last or first day of term surrounding the holidays. Hopefully this treat will help to make birthdays special in these strange times!



### **Music Lessons**

As systems and processes become embedded and smooth we are able to start to consider how we can safely introduce the 'added extras' which enhance our school life. We are pleased to share that music lessons have started on a Tuesday and Friday in the school hall. The space in the hall will allow for safe social distancing. Children participating in the lessons will need to use hand sanitiser on arrival and before leaving the lesson and the music teacher will be responsible for sanitising any shared instruments. Monday lessons will be starting again soon, we are just awaiting confirmation of a date

### **Individual School Photos**

On Monday 21st September, Tempest will be in school to take the children's individual school photographs. This will of course be organised in a safe manner with all children hand sanitising and cleaning taking place between classes. Due to the current restrictions we are unable to offer sibling/family photographs this year.