

# St Nicolas CofE Primary School

[www.st-nicolas.cornwall.sch.uk](http://www.st-nicolas.cornwall.sch.uk)

Main Road, Dowderry, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 3LF

Tel: 01503 250565 Email: [dkinman@stbarnabamat.com](mailto:dkinman@stbarnabamat.com)

Head of School – Mr Jake Imrie

12th May 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to update you following the recent Government announcement.

Following this announcement on Sunday regarding relaxing the lockdown measures, we have been working as a Trust to establish the safest way to reopen our schools on 1st June 2020. In doing so we have followed all the latest government guidance.

- [Gov News](#)
- [Actions for education & child-care settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020](#)
- [Implementing protective measure in education and childcare settings](#)
- [Information for parents & carers](#)

## Which year groups can attend and when?

At present it is proposed that **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6** are likely to return to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020. This depends on the data gathered by the Government surrounding the virus and our in-school risk assessments and availability of our staff. It is likely that our schools will only operate during the normal school day. Before and after school provision cannot be offered at this time.

## I am a key worker - can my children still attend?

The children of key workers ([here's the list of key workers](#)) will still be offered provision on the days that you work if your child(ren) is unable to be safely cared for at home and this will continue from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, if schools partially re-open as planned.

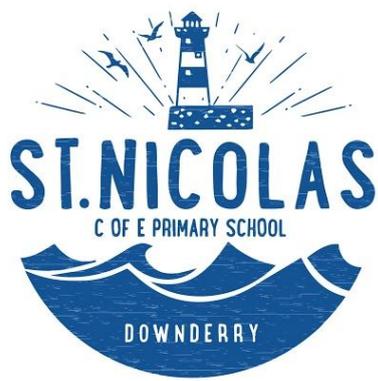
## I am planning on returning to work. Can my children attend school?

If you are a key worker ([the list of key workers is available here](#)) or your child is in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 then yes; your child(ren) can attend. If you are not a key worker or a parent of a child in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 then your child is to remain safely at home in line with Government guidance.

## What will social distancing look like?

We agree with the Government guidance that, unlike older children and adults, early years and primary aged children cannot be expected to remain two metres apart from each other and staff.

We know that social distancing with young children presents challenges and to help reduce the risk of the spread of infection, classes will work in smaller groups of not



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larger than 15. These groups will not mix within the day. Around school, movement will be kept to a minimum and we will move through school at given times in a way as to maintain social distancing.

The school day will be staggered meaning that smaller numbers of children are in one place at one time. More details of how this will look will follow.

## What will pick-up and drop-off look like?

These will have to be different and not necessarily as welcoming as we are used to or would like.

Firstly, parents will not be permitted into the building until further notice.

At drop-off, we will share designated times for each year group to arrive at and we will ask that one adult only accompanies children to school in line with Government guidance. If your child is in Year 6 and normally walks to school themselves, that's fine and to be encouraged.

At pick-up, again designated times will be given for each year group to be collected and at designated spaces. These measures are to reduce the amount of people congregating in spaces around the school building.

## What will happen at lunch time?

Provision of school dinners will remain the same as before. Lunch will be eaten in classrooms at the child's own space unless the weather is fine and in this case, we will eat outside observing social distancing and in the fresh air.

For those children who receive free school meals, a lunch will be provided by the school kitchen.

## Which adults will work with my child?

In order to facilitate small teaching groups, we will have to deploy our staff more widely and therefore your child may be with an adult other than their class teacher.

## What will learning look like?

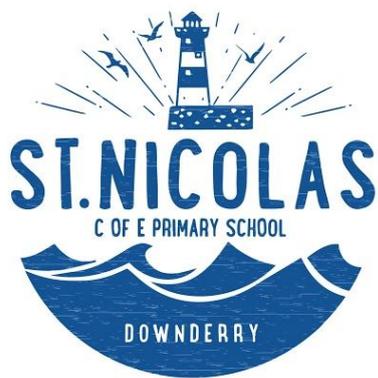
We will continue to set learning for all pupils whether attending school or learning from home using our home learning programme. Pupils attending school will be supported in completing their learning by designated adults. This will ensure all pupils have equal access to the curriculum.

## Will my child need to wear school uniform?

Yes. We believe that uniform gives a sense of identity and community and this is going to be important for our children as they return to school. It also means that the uniform can be removed when the pupils return home from school and then cleaned as necessary.

## Will children have PE lessons?

The taught curriculum for partial opening is going to look different to learning before closure. For the time being, we will not be changing into PE kit as this increases movement in the classroom areas. We are still going to be having outdoor exercise so



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we are relaxing our uniform policy temporarily and permitting children to wear trainers to school.

## Will my child need to bring anything else to school?

Your child will need to have more of their own things to reduce sharing and minimise the risk of spreading the virus. They will need:

- a water bottle
- a bag to keep their personal belongings in one place

*\*Please use this time to check that everything is clearly named with first and last*

## Will PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) be used in school?

The Government advice is that PPE is not required in school. However, we have PPE equipment on site for supervising adults to use in the event that a child is taken ill during the school day.

## How do I contact the school?

In order to oversee the drop-off and pick-up times, staff will be around outside if you have any questions but please respect social distancing and keep 2m apart.

Our office is closed to visitors for the time being so please either call or email.

## What will cleaning at the school look like?

Our school is having a thorough clean before we partially open and then will be cleaned throughout the day.

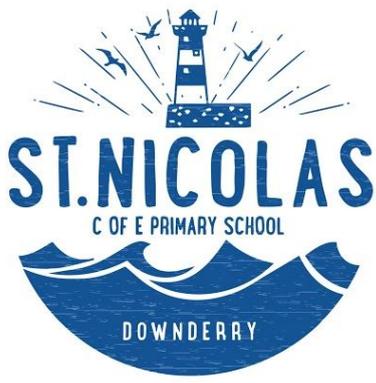
## What can I do to help my child before returning to school?

It's important that you talk to your child about what is happening and that the return to school is different.

They need to know that where they will be based (more information to follow), their classroom environment, their playtimes and games will look different. They need to know that they will not be able to play in the same way.

We know that you will appreciate our efforts in planning the safest way to implement what is being asked of us by the Government. We respect that there are some of you who will feel that the safest place for your child at the moment is still at home and you are able to support them in their learning. The Government has made it clear that parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

Our planning now continues in earnest and this is based on numerous factors such as available staff and risk assessments. To support us, it would be really helpful to us to have indicative numbers of pupils returning to school. Once we receive a final go ahead from the government, we are planning on the assumption that all of our pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will return unless you inform us otherwise.



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If you are not planning on sending your child back into school at this time, please inform your Head of School by email before the end of Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

We will be in touch again on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May when we will share more specific details of what the partial return will look like in our school.

Thank you once again for your continued support for our school. Please do not hesitate to contact us, anytime, should you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Jake Imrie

Head of School