

**Bishop Bronescombe C of E School**  
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Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Letter to parents of Nursery, Reception and Year 1 pupils regarding the proposed wider reopening of schools from 1<sup>st</sup> June, dependant on the Government's 5 Key Tests being met**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, many thanks to all of you who completed the survey regarding the wider reopening of schools for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from the 1<sup>st</sup> June, if the government's 5 key tests are met. Your responses were very helpful in helping us to develop a plan for the implementation of this government directive, if confirmation of the tests being met is apparent at that time. We are aiming to be as transparent as possible regarding the school's plans so that you, as parents and carers, can make an informed decision regarding the attendance of your child at school.

As I am sure you are aware from the immense media coverage around schools reopening, when schools reopen, children will return in small groups of no more than 15 children. This makes it impossible for all eligible children to return to their own classroom with their own teacher. In this letter, I aim to set out information regarding your child's grouping as well as the school's plan for ensuring the environment children return to is as safe as possible at this time. This letter is also accompanied by a frequently asked questions document that aims to answer questions posed by parents and carers completing the survey. The school has developed its plan in line with the following government documentation:

- *Department for Education Planning Guidance for Schools*
- *Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings*

Before I document the plan I feel it is important to stress that, as a school, we agree with the government guidance that states that:

*"Unlike older children and adults, early years and primary age children cannot be expected to remain 2 metres apart from each other and staff."*

So whilst our plan is to try and encourage social distancing as far as possible, **we cannot guarantee that children will be 2 metres apart from other children** and adults at all times and we wish to make that explicitly clear to parents and carers.

Our risk assessments identify the risks and mitigating actions for all members of our school community. We therefore must ask for your support in adhering to our risk assessments and planned actions.

**Celtic Cross Education**

Company Number: 08269215

Registered Office: Unit 15, Victoria Trading Estate, Victoria Business Park, Roche, St. Austell, Cornwall PL26 8LX

[www.celticcross.education](http://www.celticcross.education) [enquiries@celticcross.education](mailto:enquiries@celticcross.education)

Children who are attending school will:

- Be dropped at school by only 1 parent or carer
- Arrive and be collected at their group's allocated time only
- Enter the school site via the identified entry point (Reception and Year 1 - gate next to Nursery garden. Nursery children - either Nursery gate or the Reception class door)
- Exit following the one-way system via Boldventure Gate.
- Be split into groups of no more than 15 children
- Operate as a 'bubble' in school with the other children and adults in their group only
- Only use one room inside the building during the day, including to eat their lunch
- Bring in a packed lunch – we are in discussions with our caterer to provide universal free school meal packed lunches. This is, as yet, unconfirmed. If you are having difficulty providing a packed lunch, please advise us as soon as possible.
- Only use the external classroom door to enter and exit the building
- Have staggered break and lunchtimes so they do not come into contact with other groups of children/adults
- Regularly wash their hands including on entering and exiting the classroom, before and after eating and after coughing or sneezing and at other regular points in the day
- Sit on their own at a desk which is positioned as far apart from other children and adults as possible - this will be the same desk each day. For Nursery and Reception this may not be appropriate.
- Have their own stationery (provided by school)
- Bring their own water bottle (named)
- Wear school uniform, which has been washed daily
- Only use outside spaces at specific times, when other groups are not using them
- Have access to limited equipment that is only used by children in the same group and cleaned after each use
- Be taken to an isolation room if they display symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day

Should the government decide that children can return to school from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, we will initially bring back the children on different days to establish clear processes in a controlled manner. Your child will be able to attend school every day after the date of their introductory return date, detailed below. **Please note there will be no wraparound care provided.** In addition, provision will end 2 hours earlier on Fridays. This will allow teachers to plan lessons for the following week and allow support staff to clean and prepare resources for the following week.

Initially, the children will return to school for the first time on different days.

**Key worker and vulnerable children - Monday 1st June**

**Nursery - Tuesday 2nd June**

**Reception - Wednesday 3rd June**

**Year 1 - Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Children will be split into groups and placed as follows:

Year group	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Nursery children	Nursery Class	Reception Class (Rainbows)	N/A	N/A
Reception	Little Doves Classroom	Little Fish Classroom	Little Lambs Classroom	N/A
Year 1	Peacocks Classroom	Pelicans Classroom	Phoenix Classroom	N/A
Vulnerable and Key worker children (y2-6)	Hope	Faith	Angels	Hall

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We will provide more information on the specific grouping information to your child later this week.

I hope that this letter, and the frequently asked questions that accompanies it, provides you with the information you require to make an informed decision regarding your child's attendance, which is not compulsory. Schools and parents are not being held to account for non-attendance and no penalties will apply for absence. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to email these to [bbsupport@celticcross.education](mailto:bbsupport@celticcross.education) and I will endeavour to answer them.

I do now require you to confirm whether or not your child will take up their place in school from 1<sup>st</sup> June if the government's 5 tests have been met. I will need to know this information by 12pm on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May. Please complete the booking form on :

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dY85Aa4vAk6ZJoMu7AMgNq8I1R4AU89Ns8WlzQQ31ilUNkwoUoRDTogDV1IzWUVYSoY3WJlLTolLSS4u>

I know that this is a difficult decision and not one you will make lightly. Although attendance is not compulsory, the school does have to report attendance to the DfE each day and so we need to know which children we are expecting. I know some families are currently unsure about whether their child should attend, if your answer is no at this point, this can be changed as the situation develops as long as you inform us prior to your child attending school. The above grouping information will remain relevant as we have allocated places in small groups to all eligible children.

I want to thank all the school staff for their commitment to the school at this challenging time. They have shown amazing resilience and commitment to the school during this period. They have continued to provide provision for vulnerable and key worker children since the school closed, including through the Easter and May half term period despite what they personally believe to be the right course of action for schools to take. I am extremely grateful for their support in allowing me to implement the government's guidance to schools.

I also want to thank parents for their unwavering support for the school; this has been very much appreciated. Personally, I take the safety of the children and staff in my care extremely seriously and this is why I have tried to make the school plan as clear and transparent as possible. I wish to reiterate that you are under no pressure from the school to take up your place and I fully understand the concerns you have and realise they are not directed at the school but at the situation itself. Your child's attendance is not a decision that I can take for you. The staff and I have planned to ensure the government's requirements can be implemented if the 5 tests are met. You must assess the risk factors and the steps the school has taken to try and mitigate against them as best as we can whilst working with small children. It is for you to decide what you feel is the best course of action for your child.

Remember please inform us of your decision by 12pm on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May via <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dY85Aa4vAk6ZJoMu7AMgNq8I1R4AU89Ns8WlzQQ31ilUNkwoUoRDTogDV1IzWUVYSoY3WJlLTolLSS4u>

I thank you for your continued support.

Debbie Carmichael  
Head of School

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