

22.5.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are and your families are doing well during these exceptionally challenging times. I am writing to you to update you on our plans to reopen the school from the 8th June.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the team who have been able to support our Educare provision over the last 8 weeks. As a school, it was essential that we provided this service for our local key workers and I am grateful for the team who have administered, lead and delivered Educare and created such a warm, purposeful, calm and fun environment.

Secondly, I would like to thank all our parents and carers, who despite so many challenges in your lives over the last few months, have found the time to give your children the educational and emotional support that they need at this time. Empowerment is one of our core values and I hope that your children have impressed you with their levels of self-motivation and resilience over the weeks. However they cannot achieve and feel a sense of achievement without your support. Despite schools partially re-opening in June, home learning is the 'new normal' until the end of the school year and I hope that you are able to continue to support your children at home with their learning, emotional development and reading.

As I stated in my Q&A letter earlier in the week, Buckfastleigh will reopen for Educare on Monday 1st June. The week after, we are planning to reopen for children in Year 1 and Year 6. I have been working with leaders in the Trust and in school to complete the risk assessments that will enable the school to meet the safety requirements in the government's guidance. I will then work with the Buckfastleigh team after half term to ensure that policies and procedures are fine-tuned and ready to be implemented from 8th June. During that week, you can expect to get more information from us about school reopening.

The following bullet points outline what a day in school would be like for children in Year 1 and Year 6 from the 8th June:

- Staggered arrival at the start of the day to ensure social distancing.
- Discuss systems and routines with the children.
- Children in their classrooms with one child to a desk. The desks will be spaced out around the classroom to maximise social distancing.
- Core learning will happen during the morning. The children will consolidate key learning from the spring term and learn the outstanding objectives from the summer term.
- Break times will be regular through the day. We will use different play areas to keep groups separate but want to encourage the children to be active and out in the fresh air.
- Lunch time – school meals will be available for those that want them. Lunch will be in the classroom or outside to begin with.

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- Afternoon – foundation subjects, including socially distanced PE, wellbeing lessons and lots of outdoor learning. This will be linked to the home learning themes that all year groups are doing.
- Well-being will be a key focus in the work that our staff are doing with the children.
- Movement around the school will be carefully managed to support social distancing recommendations.
- Staggered end of the day.
- Home learning will support the remainder of the week.

I appreciate that you may have many questions that you would like to ask regarding schools reopening. Please email your questions to admin@buckfastleigh.devon.sch.uk. During the week after half term, I will be sending out a short survey to Year 1 and 6 families to gather key information prior to the children starting again. There will also be further letters which will give all parents more details about what is happening.

Thanks again for your support with home learning. I look forward to seeing you after half term.

Stay safe and have a great half term,

Eddie Brown

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