

20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

**'Every child who can safely be cared for at home should be'**

Dear Parents and Carers

This is the most challenging time I have experienced in over 20 years of teaching and as families we will be facing incredibly challenging times ahead. I know that everyone's first priority will be the protection of the ones they love. Apologies if what follows in this letter is of a very formal nature but this is a time of crisis and we have to work strategically to attempt to manage the crisis as best we can. The Government are very clear **that the fewer children in school, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and only the children who absolutely need to attend, should do so.** This is a very clear message from the Government.

Penair Head's Cluster schools have agreed to come together to give extra clarity and consistency around the critical worker list. The Government's definition of a 'critical worker' and a 'vulnerable child' is extensive and unless we prioritise, we may not be able to support the families and workers that require this help the most. We have used the Government's official guidance as well as the Government's official list of critical workers to put critical workers into a tiered system from Tier 1 to 4. Although this is an agreed tiered system, we will make a school by school decision based on our overall staffing capacity to identify how many tiers we can remain open to and this may change on a daily basis.

Current Government guidance regarding eligibility for the school care as of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 is that children with at least one parent or carer who are identified as critical workers by the Government can potentially send their children to school based childcare if required. **However, we must emphasise that the Government guidance also states that "many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be."** Cornwall Council and the National Association of Headteachers have advised us that provision will be prioritised where both parents/carers are key workers (unless a single family with 1 key worker).

This means that:

- **if you have 1 parent/carers as a key worker and 1 parent/carers who is not, your child should stay at home**
- **if you have 1 parent/carers as a key worker and are not yet required to undertake critical work, your child should stay at home until you are required to work**
- **regardless of your eligibility if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus they MUST stay at home in line with government guidance**
- **if you are eligible you will only be offered provision for the times when you are required to work**

Please also remember that if you have vulnerable adults or children in your household e.g pregnant; diabetic; asthmatic; over 70's you WILL be putting these people at risk if your child attends school.

We are currently only offering places to families in Tier 1 (see below) and this will be reviewed on a day to day basis and we will email all families if this changes. If we are unable to offer you provision for your child and you feel that it is vital you are offered provision, the local authority are coordinating a response and you should contact them explaining your situation. Please also note that this is an 'offer' and if you are able or wish to make other arrangements then this is your choice.

We are asking parents to call the school office, 01872 279539 by 6pm today to give us information about your situations and why you require school-based childcare. You will at this point state your critical worker status, the tier you fall into and the times and days next week you need childcare. If you are a critical worker, we will be asking you to give us contact details including full name and telephone number of your supervisor so we can confirm that your active role is a necessity in these challenging circumstances and your working patterns. We will then inform you by 5pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> with regards to your child attending next week.

Please note, the current guidance around self-isolation regarding symptoms of coronavirus including a temperature of over 37.8°C and/or a persistent cough are still in force.

**For children coming in to school as of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, the following measures/precautions must be taken:**

- Children must not come in if they have any of the symptoms of Coronavirus.
- Up to date contact details for family members must be available within school and emergency contact details should your child become poorly/exhibit symptoms of contracting coronavirus.
- If you become unwell with coronavirus symptoms, you must **immediately** contact school and arrange for collection of your child.
- Social distancing **must** be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection.
- School **must** be informed if you no longer fall within the critical worker list or you have been asked to self-isolate.
- Thorough hand washing to take place before entering the classroom.
- Parents/carers will not be allowed to come into the classroom but must drop their child at the door beyond reception (before you go into the classroom)
- Children do not need to wear school uniform but will need to bring a coat, a packed lunch and sufficient drink for their time in school.

Please remember we are doing all we can to keep everyone as safe and well as possible. All we do has the children and the community at the heart of it. We hope to be able to stay open for as long as possible but the situation could change on a daily basis depending upon our ability to staff our provision.

Stay safe, stay well and take care of each other.

With warmest wishes

Mrs T Preston

### St Erme with Trispen Primary School Critical Workers Tiered List

Tier 1 (in no particular order)	Tier 2 (in no particular order)	Tier 3 (in no particular order)	Tier 4 (in no particular order)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Doctors</li> <li>▪ Nurses</li> <li>▪ Midwives</li> <li>▪ Paramedics</li> <li>▪ Social Workers</li> <li>▪ Care workers</li> <li>▪ Machine workers producing medicines / medical personal protective equipment</li> <li>▪ Support and specialist staff as part of medical administrative support who <u>categoryically cannot</u> work from home</li> <li>▪ Nursery staff*</li> <li>▪ Teaching staff*</li> <li>▪ School staff and school catering staff who must remain active during the COVID-19 to deliver this approach*</li> <li>▪ Social workers</li> <li>▪ Food distributors</li> <li>▪ Food processors</li> <li>▪ Food delivery drivers</li> <li>▪ Police and support staff</li> <li>▪ Ministry of Defence civilians</li> <li>▪ Contractor and armed forces personnel who are critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic</li> <li>▪ Fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)</li> <li>▪ Workers responsible for the management of the deceased</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health &amp; social care supply chain workers</li> <li>▪ Support and specialist staff as part of medical administrative support who <u>could</u> work from home</li> <li>▪ Food sale</li> <li>▪ Those involved in the production, distribution, sale and delivery of hygienic or veterinary medicines</li> <li>▪ Oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewerage) workers</li> <li>▪ Waste disposal sector workers</li> <li>▪ National Crime Agency staff</li> <li>▪ Border security</li> <li>▪ Prison and probation staff</li> <li>▪ Other national security roles including those overseas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Those running the justice system</li> <li>▪ Air, water and road workers</li> <li>▪ Freight transport workers operating through COVID-19 responses</li> <li>▪ Telecommunications including call centre staff for 999 and 111 critical services)</li> <li>▪ Specialist education professionals who aren't school based</li> <li>▪ Civil nuclear and chemical workers</li> <li>▪ Network operation and field engineering workers</li> <li>▪ Payment providers</li> <li>▪ Charity workers providing support and relief in relation to COVID-19</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Religious staff</li> <li>▪ Journalists providing public service broadcasting</li> <li>▪ Broadcasters providing public service broadcasting</li> <li>▪ Local and national government administrators delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits including in government agencies and arms-length bodies.</li> <li>▪ Rail passenger workers</li> <li>▪ Essential financial services provision (including but not limited to banks, building societies, financial market infrastructure)</li> <li>▪ Information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response</li> <li>▪ Postal services and delivery workers</li> </ul>