



Caring, Sharing, Preparing for Life

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School Closure and home learning

Dear Parents,

As you will be aware the education secretary Gavin Williamson announced yesterday evening the schools in England would be closing as of Monday 23rd March indefinitely.

We are currently working closely with Truro and Penwith Academy Trust to meet requirements for key workers and vulnerable pupils and will update those effected as soon as possible. In the meantime if you feel you would fall into one of these groups and would require access to any service offered then please make contact with the school office. We will communicate further with these families in the coming days.

You will also be aware that all examinations in May and June have been cancelled. This will mean: no SATs for years 6 and 2; no phonics check for year 1 and no times table check for year 4. We have not yet been advised what alternative arrangements will be in place, but will communicate them as soon as possible.

You will still be able to contact the school for any reason from Monday. However, we can't guarantee that the phone will be answered. In this event please contact us via email to secretary@st-erth.cornwall.sch.uk or head@st-erth.cornwall.sch.uk and staff will contact you by phone subsequently should this be required.

The rest of this letter sets out the school's arrangements for home learning during the period of closure. It is clearly not a sustainable approach to drop printed work at each household for the foreseeable future, therefore we will be sharing home learning tasks digitally going forward. This will require some set up in the next 2 days, however it will provide children and parents with direct means of communication with their class teacher and a high quality home learning package.

To achieve this we will be using your child's Seesaw account. Most of you are already familiar with this platform, which was set up earlier this year and will have parent accounts. We now need to rapidly set up student accounts through which teachers will be able to set tasks for pupils and communicate with parents. This can include worksheets which can be edited in the app and returned to the class teacher. It may be tasks that involve parents taking a photo or filming the result and posting it back securely to the class teacher.

Attached to this letter are instructions on how to set up your child's account. Should you not have a parent account yet then this must be set up first and these instructions have also been attached. This should only take 10 minutes or so with an internet connection and can be done on any device. A flow diagram has been attached to support you with this. Should you encounter any difficulties then a surgery for this will be held in the school hall on Friday morning for staff to support. Please attend if you have had any difficulty and we will do all we can to get you set up. Should there be a high demand for this we will stagger entry to avoid a large gathering.

Staff will begin sending work from Monday 23rd. This may be daily or every few days. Staff will of course be mindful that the home environment is very different to school and will adapt their expectations to suit.

At the foot of this letter we have also provided a list of websites and resources that parents can access. Many subscription websites with high quality teaching resources and schemes of work have made their products available for free over the next few months. We strongly suggest that parents use these to support home learning and supplement what teachers will be sending home. We also ask parents to be mindful of expectations they put upon communication with teachers during this time. We will of course answer any queries about work set and respond to the work pupils upload, however doing just this for up to 30 pupils will be quite an undertaking.

Finally, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries during this time. Please call the school office and use the above email addresses from Monday onwards.

As we are responding to an unprecedented situation there may well be further important communications in the coming days.

Yours Sincerely,

Bill Coleman

Websites to supplement home learning

www.twinkl.co.uk

This website has been made available for free. It is full of high quality resources and teaching aids adapted to all stages of the primary curriculum. There are also very useful PowerPoint documents to aid teaching. Highly recommended, although the ability to print documents will be very useful.

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

This website is highly recommended to keep up with home reading and has again been made available for free. We use their books in school for our reading schemes and they are available here as ebooks. You will be able to progress through your child's reading stage. They also have resources to support phonics and much more so well worth an explore.

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

A site packed with interactive phonics games, phonics planning, assessment ideas and many teaching ideas and resources to help children to learn to hear phonemes, recognise graphemes and develop the blending and segmenting skills that are vital for learning to read and spell.

<https://nrich.maths.org/>

The Nrich Maths Project Cambridge, England. Mathematics resources for children, parents and teachers to enrich learning. Problems, children's solutions, interactivities, games, articles. A fantastic website with lovely maths investigations and fun activities. Often used in class.

Seesaw Flow diagram

Steps must be completed in order

