Southerly Point
Co-operative
Multi-Academy Trust

<u>PROVISIONAL</u>: PLANS FOR EXTENDING SCHOOL BASED PROVISION

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to my recent letter, I wanted to update you on our provisional plans for the next steps in terms of widening our offer for more children to be able to return to school.

The government are asking us to extend our offer because our interim arrangements cannot continue indefinitely for two reasons: 1) prolonged absence from school is concerning academically, socially and - for some children - from a welfare and safety perspective; and 2) the long-term impact of a deep recession, particularly on the poorest families, will be very damaging.

If a child loses out on the basics of education, this can have an impact on that child across their whole lives – their economic prosperity and long-term health. Children benefit hugely from being at school. Therefore, we need to take steps towards opening schools more widely. However, safety is our key concern as we try to find the best way forward.

The government recognises that maintaining full social distancing in schools is not possible. Their approach for limiting risk lies in the following steps:

- *Controlling the transmission of the disease*: minimising contact with children and adults who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.
- *Management and control through personal hygiene*: cleaning hands more often than usual – wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.
- *Ensuring good respiratory hygiene*: promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- *Enhanced cleaning regimes*: cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach.
- *Minimising contact and mixing*: altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times).

For now, we are simply making *plans* for how we might open schools more widely *from* 1st June. Currently there is <u>no fixed date</u> for a return. The Government will review the position on 28th May; this will be followed by a Trustees' decision meeting. We will then confirm with you the arrangements for your school which may still change from the outline plans shared.

Provisional Planning: Primary Schools:

Before half term, your headteacher will contact you to let you know the details for your school. Every school's provision will be slightly different depending on how many staff and rooms they have available. There will be different groups returning at different stages. Drop off and pick up times will be staggered too.

For the next phase, we will adopt the use of 'bubble groups' - a small consistent group of pupils, with consistent staffing, and consistent rooming, in order to limit the number of contacts any individual has during the day. Pupils will not be able to mix with anyone outside of their small group even at playtimes and lunchtimes.

Children cannot effectively social distance. We will do our utmost to try to encourage this but with all children, regardless of age, it is virtually impossible! We cannot guarantee that your child will be able to socially distance at all times. By reducing numbers in a group and amending our classroom practice as much as we can, we can try to minimize contact but it cannot be perfect as I am sure you will understand.

In order to keep group sizes small, it may be that your child will have a different teacher or a teaching assistant in their bubble group. However, the teacher will set the work and take the lead for the learning. The curriculum will be very different as group or paired activities can no longer take place, equipment cannot be shared and children will not be able to move so freely around the classroom or school. The classroom will also look different as we strip back resources to keep things as clean as possible.

Our staff will not be able to give your children a hug when they return, or talk with their class as a whole group. Neither will assemblies, sports days, end of year 6 celebrations be able to take place as usual. Children may see staff wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if they have to deal with any illness or sickness. It will be helpful if you can talk to your child about this in advance to help ease their return to school.

At some point over the coming weeks, we hope to be able to introduce some transition activities for Year 6 as part of the provision.

Lunches will be available in school but will be in the form of a packed lunch; Yr1 and YR will have their lunch as part of the Universal Free School meals; Y6 will be required to pay for lunch in the normal way unless they are entitled to Free School Meals. Please send payment in with your child in a named envelope the correct payment (£2.30 per day) or preferably pay via the parent pay service.

You can help us:

- Make sure home packed lunches are easy for your child to unwrap
- Provide your child with their own water bottle
- Make sure your child's uniform has clothes they can manage themselves - e.g elasticated trousers rather than zips and buttons
- On sunny days, apply sun cream to your child before they come to school
- Talk your child through the changes they can expect

You will be our first line of defence: it is critical that if anyone in your family displays any symptoms (high temperature; new persistent cough, loss of taste and smell) you keep your child away from school.

Do not take any chances - if you are suspicious anyone in your household might be ill, keep your child away. If you do not, you risk infecting the bubble group and the member of staff. We will have spread our staff thinly and so if they are ill, it is likely that we will have to close the provision for the bubble group.

Like some of you, some of our staff are in the vulnerable category or are shielding others so the numbers of staff available for school based work is lower than usual at a time when we need to have more staff to facilitate small group ratios.

Our practice will be based on what we have achieved in the school/ hub provision during Phase One of the lockdown. All the health and safety measures in place will continue: e.g cleaning regimes; regular handwashing; medical isolation room etc.

The Behaviour Policy is being reviewed and will include the right to exclude a child who wilfully breaks the safety measures put in place. This is based on the need to protect other children and adults.

The provision at each individual school will vary based on the numbers of available staff and spaces to accommodate the number of groups we need. In a few schools, this may mean that a year group may need to be accommodated off site; or if we do not have staff, a year group may not be able to return. We will endeavour to provide a place for everyone in the target year groups where we can.

We encourage parents to reflect on what is right for their child and family, mindful that the government is encouraging children to return. If you make the decision not to send your child back to school please be reassured that this does not impact on your school place. The Government has made it clear that usual attendance protocols will not be in effect over the summer term. We will continue to provide online learning at home; if your child is not attending school, we will expect full engagement with the work provided by staff. However, please bear in mind that the teachers will be teaching in school as well as preparing and responding to the online learning. Please be patient if responses are not as timely as has been the case.

The provisional timetable for opening will not begin until Wednesday 3rd June at the earliest to allow time to make sure all staff have a consistent understanding of the arrangements, allow health and safety briefings and have time to prepare the school for the children's return.

To help us plan, please let us know if you intend to take up the offer for your child when the schools open further. (Nursery, Year R , Year 1 and Year 6) Please note that if your child is returning it is to full time school. It cannot be a drop in arrangement.

Please email - head@crowan.cornwall.sch.uk or contact your child's class teacher through Class Dojo.

Alternatively – leave an answer phone message on the school's telephone number: (01209) 831455.

Secondary Schools:

Year 10 and Year 12 are the target groups. However, it is not yet clear what the government intends this to look like and we await further guidance. Our provisional planning will be based around the principle of bubble groups, with consistent staffing and consistent rooming. There is no intention for this to be

schooling as 'normal' but rather to support the online learning provision with some face to face teacher support. As plans emerge, there will be further information from the headteachers at these schools. The health and safety provisions will be as per the primary school settings.

In conclusion:

The government will review the 5 Tests on 28th May, during Half Term. Thereafter, the Trustees will review the position and give the go ahead when they are satisfied that it is right to do so. We will update you via the school websites and usual school communication channels as soon as we are able.

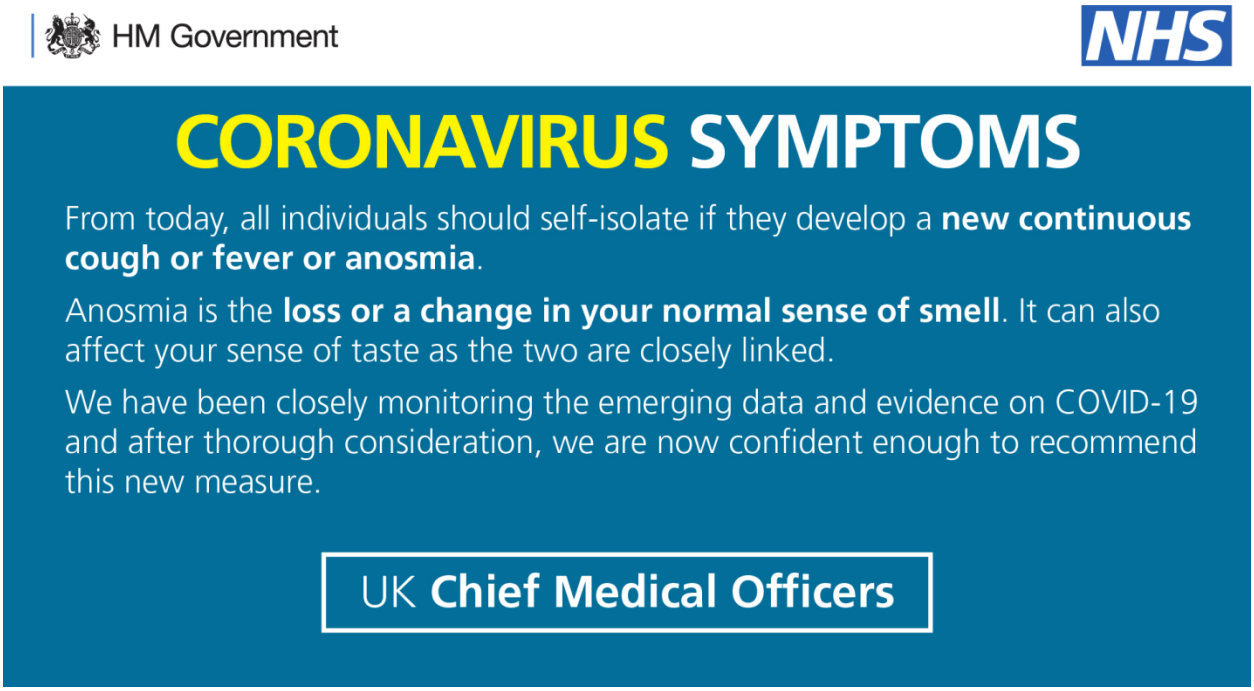
HALF TERM: We intend this week to be a holiday for children and staff. **Key worker and vulnerable children provision for ALL schools will be based at the Secondary Schools for half term and Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd June. Please let your head/hub leader know if you require a place**. This will enable the primary schools to be cleaned, for health and safety checks to be undertaken, and to be ready for any potential return.

As always, there is every shade of opinion on what we should be doing as schools. We are doing our best to manage a very challenging and unprecedented set of circumstances. Thank you for your ongoing patience and support. Together, supporting each other as best we can, we will continue to make our way through this challenging situation.

With all best wishes

Donna

Donna Bryant
Trust Executive Leader



Southerly Point Co-operative Multi-Academy Trust

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