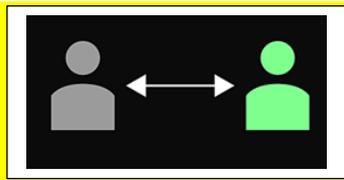




# Newsletter

Moor Lane, Torquay, TQ2 8NU tel.- 01803 327419

Friday 15th May 2020



**I hope that you and your families are continuing to stay well and keep safe.**

As I am sure you are aware, last weekend the Prime Minister announced that schools **may** be starting to open to more children from the Nursery, Reception, Y1 & Y6 (only) from the 1<sup>st</sup> May. This will be in addition to the key worker and vulnerable pupils already able to access childcare provision. Children in other year groups **may** then return for the last month of the summer term, if feasible.

Several new guidance documents have been released throughout the week and we have been working with the Local Authority to plan a way forward. It is essential that we ensure that both children, staff and our community remain safe.

Increasing the number of children in school raises a huge number of issues that need to be considered (social distancing / thorough & regular cleaning) and in turn will influence the organisation of school - it will not be like school has been before.

Children are likely to be split into small groups and remain in these throughout the day, with the same adults (not necessarily their class teacher) and no mixing of groups.

The government say that children are less likely to be severely affected by the virus and may show no symptoms. There is no mention of how children may act as 'transmitters' of the virus between themselves and adults and yet show no symptoms. Currently, as I understand, there is no scientific evidence to indicate children do not spread the virus.

I am aware not all parents will wish to send their children into school. If you choose to keep your child at home, there will be **no** attendance ramifications. This is parental choice. It will be our intention to continue to provide on and off - line home learning for the children not attending and the children in school will follow the same planned learning.

I appreciate that this may be a difficult decision to make and more information will follow as we move forward in our planning & preparation. Safety has to be our first priority.

We all look forward to when things have returned to normality with all the children back in school and we can actively work together.

**On line Safety:** Currently we are asking children to work much more on line. Please take time to have a look at these links to help ensure that they are keeping themselves safe:

**Keeping safe on line - A parent guide:**

<https://www.watcombeprimary.torbay.sch.uk/safeguarding/online-safety/>

**Learning about online safety at home:** This supports parents and children. The site has simple 15 minute activities to support children's understanding of online safety:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets>

**Be SMART: Online Safety Video Lessons for 6 - 9 year olds:** Childnet have released six new (10 - 15 mins) easy-to-follow videos for parents and children to work through together:

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/video-lessons>

**Challenge:** Did you set yourself a challenge this week? Well, my sourdough bread making was reasonably successful! Not quite what it looked like on



You Tube but not bad for a first attempt. Unfortunately, Mrs. Morris wasn't so impressed due to the mess - how does flour travel so far? This week's challenge is to improve on my first attempt and make less mess! (Or do it when Mrs. M is out!). What will you try this week? Drawing, cooking, playing an instrument?

**Checking in with you:** next week the class teams (teachers & TAs) will be checking in with you again. The call may come with 'no caller id' or from the school number. If you miss the call and would like the staff to call again - please **do not** call the school number but instead email your child's class teacher and let them know. They will then call back at another time. I hope this gives us a chance to touch base.

**From all @ Watcombe - best wishes, stay safe and we look forward to seeing you.**



## Holiday Dates

**Bank Holiday: 25/5/20**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Summer half term:**

25/5/20 – 29/5/20

**Last day: 17/7/20**

**First day back:**

Monday 7/9/20

## FSM

If you think your circumstances have changed and you may be eligible for **free school meals** please

visit:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/fsm/>



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