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Coronavirus Update #15

12th June 2020

Dear Parents,

This week we have had between 84 and 106 children in school each day. They are enjoying being with their friends and teachers, and getting back to some kind of normality.

St Margaret's Academy

Transition Arrangements

As the end of this academic year approaches, we are in the process of organising various transition events.

Normally at this time of year we would be hosting a presentation evening for the parents of our new Reception children. With the delights of Covid-19 to work round, this time we are putting together a welcome film from staff which you will be able to find on our website from 22nd June. Individual packs with a bumper edition of letters and forms are available for collection from the school office from Monday 15th June. Our office staff are endeavouring to phone each family today to let them know the packs are ready for collection. If you are a new parent reading this or have siblings already at school, please feel free to pass this message on and come to school to collect your pack from Monday. When collecting packs parents will need to bring in their child's birth certificate as identification and for us to make a copy of. Mrs Russell and Miss Watkinson will also be hosting individual Zoom meetings for all 60 families instead of the usual home visits; details of this are in the packs.

At the other end of the school, Year 6s would normally be in the thick of rehearsals for an end of year show. This year, sadly there will be no big razzmatazz. Instead we'll be putting on a social distancing barbeque and games on the field for groups of up to 15 at a time. The teachers are also organising a leavers' film. Parents, please note that the last day of 'normal' learning in school for Year 6 Hazel Class will be Wednesday 17th June and the last day for Year 6 Hawthorn Class will be Friday 19th June. The barbeques and games will take place on Monday 22nd for Hazel and Tuesday 23rd for Hawthorn. Look out for a letter from Miss Wooldridge and Mr Marchant with more details. Year 6 vulnerable children and those of key workers will still be able to attend until the end of term and should continue to book

in as normal via the school gateway. Remote learning will continue as normal until the summer holiday.

Ending the year early for Year 6 as described above will give us the staffing capacity to provide some transition for all other years before the summer holiday. This will start from 24th June. Each child will be invited in to spend one day with up to 14 friends, their new teacher and new teaching assistants. I shall be writing to you again with the detail to this once we've got the plans in place.

Arrangements for the Current Reception and Year 1 Classes

School will continue to be open to our current Reception and Year 1 classes until the summer holidays, following the same arrangements that are currently in place. Here are the dates for the next few weeks to help with your planning.

	June								July											
	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10
Ash	√	✓	✓			✓	✓				√	√	✓			√	✓			
Elm				✓	✓			√	1	√				√	√			1	✓	✓
Pine	\	✓	√			\checkmark	\				\checkmark	\checkmark	✓_			>	√			
Beech				\checkmark	✓			\checkmark	\checkmark	√				\checkmark	\checkmark			\	✓	\checkmark

<u>Arrangements for the Key Worker / Vulnerable Pupil Groups</u>

All these children need to be booked in via the School Gateway.

Children in Reception and Year 1 will be able to join the other class on the dates above when their class is not in while numbers allow.

Children in Year 6 will be able to join the other class on the dates below when their class is not in.

	June								
Y6	15	16	17	18	19				
Hazel	✓	✓	√						
Hawthorn				✓	✓				

Children in all other years will be able to join one of the following groups. Numbers here will be capped at 15 for each group because of staffing and space limitations. Up to and including Friday 19th June, there will be 3 groups: Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4/5. From Monday 22nd June there will be 4 groups: Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5/6.

Home Learning

Miss Wooldridge, Mr Marchant and Mrs Turner are currently conducting a review of our home learning. We want to know what's worked well, what hasn't and what changes we might need. This is to help further improve our offer and to make sure we plan for the different scenarios we might face from September. For example, if all the children come back full time in the new academic year, we need to understand how we can best use remote learning to support school teaching. If they are only back part-time or not at all, we need to know how to provide your children with the best offer possible. A part of this review will be to get your feedback so please look out for a questionnaire that will be coming home soon.

Just a reminder that on our website under 'Home Learning' – 'Information for Parents' you can find a wide range of resources. Recently added is information from our Music Lead, Mrs Posey, who has shared with you premium free access to a fantastic music app. Try the <u>quick</u> link here.

Remember you can keep up with all the learning that's going on at home and in school via the newsletters from each phase. Quick link here to the Y5 and 6 ones.

Digital Safety During Covid-19

On our website you can find a new document released by the Torbay Safeguarding team that provides you with excellent up to date advice for staying safe on the internet. I've added it to the *Supporting Families* tab under *Well-being in Action* or you can click here for quick link.

Message from the RNLI – Beach Safety this Summer

This summer, lifeguards can't be on every beach, meaning a heightened water safety risk to beach goers. It is anticipated that once restrictions further ease and the summer weather is here, people will head to the beaches and coastline to enjoy the sun, sea and time with friends and family. In a normal year, the RNLI helps thousands of people who end up getting into difficulty in or close to the water when doing these types of activities.

Here are some useful links:

- education resource pack
- Water Safety from Home resources
- Beach Safety Campaign

The full information letter from the RNLI can be found on our website under 'Well-being in Action' – 'Supporting Families' or by clicking here.

You may have heard about the 'R' rate for the south west going above 1 last week (1.02). To offer you some reassurance, Torbay is doing very well as these figures for last week tell us:

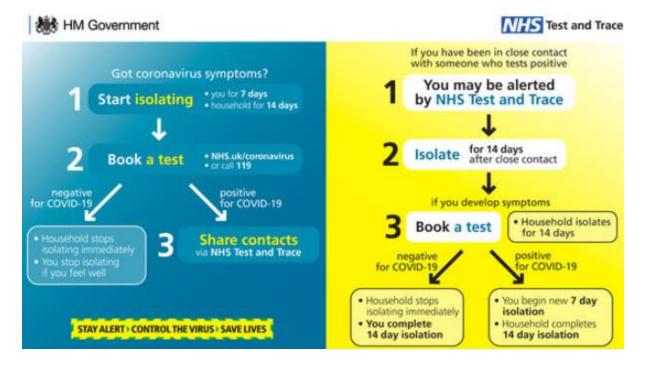
- Only 1 confirmed case in Torbay Hospital
- Zero people in ICU
- Zero cases in care homes
- Zero positive tests in Torbay last week
- Torbay scores zero for all 5 PHE pillars which is excellent news

In reference to last week's message about domestic violence, **remember if you need a safe space** you can ask someone at the pharmacy section of Boots or please do speak to myself, Mrs Pike or another member of staff at school. Always phone the police on 999 if you or your family are in immediate danger.

Test and Trace

For the latest information on test and trace, follow the link:

https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/nhs-test-and-trace-if-youre-contacted-after-testing-positive-for-coronavirus/



Covid-19 – *Stay Alert*

The key message is to **stay alert** which means you must stay at home as much as possible, work from home if you can, limit contact with other people, keep at least 2 metres apart from others if you go out and wash your hands regularly.

The message about symptoms has changed slightly to include a loss of taste or smell as well as having a new and continuous cough or a high temperature. In this case stay at home for 7 days if you live alone, stay at home for 14 days if you live with others, including all household members. Only use NHS 111 if your symptoms get worse or are no better after isolation. Guidance on what to do while staying at home if you have suspected coronavirus can be found here by clicking this link to the NHS website.

The most up to date guidance for parents can still be accessed via this link and it includes lots of questions and answers that you might find useful:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers

Department for Education helpline for parents - phone: 0800 046 8687, Email: DfE.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk, opening hours: 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday and Sunday)

Updates on COVID-19 can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

For games and resources about good hygiene and bugs, try the e-bug website which is being run in conjunction with Public Health England. <u>Click here</u>.

Updated handwashing advice, including video, can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

Very best wishes to you and your families,

Tim Hughes (Headteacher)

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