



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

What a wonderful week we have all had! It has been so lovely seeing the children skipping and walking with a bounce in their steps into class each day and we hope that you have felt positive and relieved of any worry about your children returning to school.

I would like to thank you all for following our requests for keeping to your staggered drop-off and collection times. Please continue to keep strictly to your given times at the beginning and end of each day as it really has helped ensure a safe and calm return for all children and has certainly eased congestion around the school site.

Now that we are settling so well into life back at school, I felt it was necessary to share some more information with you all.

### **Reading:**

Reading is the key which unlocks so much other learning. It gives confidence to a learner and fosters greater independence in self-managing their academic development. A confident reader is a confident learner.

Due to the current limitations created by the need for adults to distance themselves from children as much as possible in school, coupled with the cleaning and suitable hygiene requirements, reading with children in school is significantly more challenging than in previous times. It is taking much longer to listen to children read in class and so I ask that you consider the importance of regular home reading and how you can support your child with this.

Even in 'normal times', home reading is vitally important to supplement the work done in school but in these circumstances, it is imperative in supporting our children to pick up the pace of learning following a break in their formal education.

Therefore, I ask that you establish regular home reading with your child/ren. As before, we will be expecting each child to read a minimum of five times a week. This can be to an adult, sharing with an adult or to themselves for older or more confident readers. Please spend a short time talking about what they have read, whenever possible.

You may wish to include reading as part of a set routine, or take advantage of your surroundings by encouraging your child to read signs and notices when you are out and about. Little and often, reading in the 'real world' will greatly support your child's reading confidence and development.

To help, I have attached 7 top tips for home reading based on extensive research into the best ways you can provide support at home. This comes from the highly respected Education Endowment Foundation which conducts research into the most effective approaches within education.

To enable children to take home books to read, we have established a safe routine for book collection and distribution. Each Friday, starting today, children will take home a week's supply of books. On Fridays, they will be able to put their completed books in a box in their classroom. These books will be stored for a minimum of 72 hours before being put back into general circulation. Please only send in books on a Friday.

Teachers are supporting children to select the correct level books to last a week. If you find your child is flying through books please do encourage them to re-read them. For younger children especially, the first read usually involves lots of decoding of words, the second aids fluency and the third read supports reading for enjoyment. Repetition can be very supportive.

Please speak with your child's teacher if there are any problems to overcome.

#### **Breakfast Club:**

Mrs Ley has already begun breakfast club this term, but as yet we have had very little uptake. In order for us to establish the viability of maintaining this club in the longer term, I ask anyone considering using it to let us know as soon as possible. We ask that you book your child in for each day in advance, so we can ensure it is suitably staffed, and the levels of resources and food are available. If your child is booked into breakfast club but is not going to attend on any given day, please inform us in advance whenever possible. You can contact the office to book your child's place either by telephone or by email ([secretary@breage.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@breage.cornwall.sch.uk)).

For safety, the children attending the club will wash/sanitise their hands on arrival and will stay in their bubble group remaining separate from other bubbles during the session.

#### **Snacks:**

We will be working with Healthy Schools Cornwall as part of improving our health and wellbeing provision, and school snacks are an easy way for you to support us with this.

As we all know, it is really important for children to have a healthy snack during the long morning to help keep their energy up and support engagement in their learning. The right foods support cognitive development, focus and attention, as well as general good health.

For children in Key Stage 1 (Rec, Yr1 and Yr2), the School Fruit & Vegetable Scheme (SFVS) entitles every child in England to a piece of fruit or vegetable each school day. For example this week, we have had portion size bags of raisins, apples and bananas. Fruit is

often seasonal but if your child has a preference of a healthy alternative please pop that in their bag.

In KS2 we ask that children are provided with a healthy snack rather than biscuits and crisps. Fruit or veg sticks are an easy option and included below is a link that takes you to the Change 4 Life website ideas page. These can be adapted for easy snack options at break time.

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts/healthier-snacks-for-kids/100-calorie-snacks/>

### **Pupil Premium:**

Given that some people's circumstances may have changed during lockdown and during the summer, I would like to remind you all of the Pupil Premium funding that can support us as a school to meet the needs of families which may be finding times very hard. Below is an extract taken from Government information for parents.

*Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible for free school meals if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:*

- *Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.*
- *Income Support*
- *Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance*
- *Income-related Employment and Support Allowance*
  
- *Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999*
- *The guarantee element of Pension Credit*
- *Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)*
- *Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190*

*Registering for free meals could also raise an extra £1,320 for your child's primary school/£900 for your child's secondary school, to fund valuable support like extra tuition, additional teaching staff or after school activities.*

If you believe you may be eligible for pupil premium funding, please contact the office. Your information is confidential and will only be used to process the pupil premium application. Alternatively, there is a link on the school website (important info, useful links) which takes you directly to Cornwall Council's "apply for free school meals application". This is the quickest and preferred method of applying for free school meals/pupil premium.

### **School Office:**

If you have telephoned school this week, you will have noticed we have a new telephone system in place. When you phone, the call is answered immediately and you will need to press "1" for Breage School, after which you can press "3" to leave a message to report an absence otherwise you will be connected to the school office. Should Roz or Jenny be

away from the office or on another call please leave a message and you will receive a call back.

**Chartwells School Meals:**



Two polls have been added to our school Facebook page (as stories, which you should be able to access through your newsfeed); please follow the school Facebook page so that you receive our notifications and take a moment to vote and have your say. Your opinion is valued by us. Since school reopened in June we have offered Chartwells packed lunches only and would like to know if parents and children would like to see the return of hot school meals (including a packed lunch option as before). Hot school meals will be boxed up takeaway style and delivered to each classroom at lunchtime. The other poll is to ask if you would be happy to have Universal Infant Free School Meals made compulsory in school (Yr R, 1 & 2). This is implemented in many primary schools in order to maximise uptake and ensure children fully benefit from this Government funded scheme. If you do not follow Facebook please let Jenny or Roz know and they will ensure you receive any information by another method.

Again I would like to thank you all for your support in these very challenging and 'different' times and I look forward to working with you all, for the benefit of the children.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend. The sun is due to shine!

Best wishes,



Mr Dan Hadley  
Head Teacher