



St. Barnabas
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
Creating Unique Possibilities

ST MARTIN'S Church of England PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lake Lane, Liskeard PL14 3DE

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1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have much to share with you regarding the return to full attendance on the 8th March. We will split communication into three shorter letters to prevent important news from being lost. We will send each letter separately.

Important information for the return to school falls under three categories:

- **learning,**
- health and safety and
- daily school management.

This letter is about all children returning to school **learning** next Monday. It explains how we will organise teaching to look after our children and have the right approach for their progress.

The **Department of Education has made it clear that all children must be back in school on the 8th of March.** The only exception to this is children who are clinically extremely vulnerable. If this is your child, you will have been sent a letter from your doctor.

Our recent survey shows that an overwhelming majority of our children are unhappy because of the virus. They miss family members, routine and their friends at school. They have also missed a lot of learning, and we have a plan to help them get back in their stride.

Our immediate focus is the children's wellbeing. We will be adapting our curriculum to ensure there are opportunities for being active and talking about recent experiences, making sure our children are ok through additional emotional, health and relationship education. Our curriculum will continue to be broad and balanced, but we will make slight adjustments. There are key learning drivers that support each stage of learning development, and we will concentrate on these so that, over time, our children can build a strong conceptual understanding.

You might have heard about changes to the length of the school day and the summer holiday. The government has not confirmed this. However, **it is crucial that children attend school on time, every day.** Every minute of every day counts. This is always important and especially so following this past year. We have made changes to our Attendance and Punctuality Policy; there is further information on the Attendance page of our

website: <https://st-martins.cornwall.sch.uk/about-us/attendance/>.

Teaching and learning are carefully structured, and missing the odd day here and there has a significant effect on our children - emotionally and academically. The two are linked. To help you manage your child's attendance, we will update you on your child's percentage each term and also if attendance is 96% or less.

Of course, **if they are unwell, they should stay home, and a 95% attendance rate allows for ten days a year.** More than that and our children are disadvantaged, and that's not fair. There may be other reasons for children's reluctance to attend. If this is the case, let's work together to solve the issue. Education is linked to happiness and success, and our children deserve nothing less.

We are also attaching our attendance leaflet for further information.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to speak to your class teacher or contact me via email.

The last term has been a struggle for many, and our community has risen to home learning magnificently! On behalf of our children and staff, thank you for your continued support.

Shelley England

Headteacher