



Grade-Ruan C of E School
Ruan Minor
Helston
Cornwall
TR12 7JN
Tel: 01326 290613

Headteacher: Louise Jones

e-mail: head@grade-ruan.cornwall.sch.uk
website: www.grade-ruan.cornwall.sch.uk

12th January, 2021

Dear Parents,

Well done for getting through the first full week of school- there have been so many changes since the first day back!

Thank you all so much for the huge effort you have put in to the home learning so far. I have been impressed with the high number of children who have engaged in the online lessons already despite some initial technical difficulties; I know the teachers have loved seeing the children at the Google meets. If you haven't managed to log on successfully yet, don't worry, help is at hand- the teachers are busy trying to make the process of meeting and completing work as stress-free as possible for you and your child so thank you for your patience. If you have any issues with logging on please message your teacher. I am sure as the weeks go by we will all be experts!

If you do not have a Wifi Broadband system at home, and this is affecting your ability to engage in Google Classrooms, please contact school, as we may be able to support you with accessing extra data.

Many thanks for your support and patience last week as we began our lockdown provision for those children attending school. It has been a challenge to provide in-school provision for the growing numbers requested as well as prioritising the safety of everyone. We are facing a significantly higher demand for places than we experienced in the first lockdown last summer. We take pride in the fact that previous experience has shown how well we have been able to do this but we are very concerned that circumstances this time are more serious and believe the Government's strong message to stay at home in order to prevent our amazing NHS here in Cornwall from being overwhelmed, is an important one.

It is important to stress that although the government criteria for a place at school is one parent being a critical worker, please consider whether your child could stay at home with the other parent/carer. There is no criteria yet from the government for when a school is at capacity, we are controlling this through our own risk assessment - but clearly, the message for this lockdown is stay at home whenever possible:

'Every person in the UK should avoid "any single unnecessary contact" with anyone else because it could lead to a vulnerable person's death' (Prof. Whitty)

'You should keep your child at home if you can.'

We welcome vulnerable pupils (school will talk to you about this if it applies to you) as well as pupils where parents are working in critical jobs and we are happy to work around your working hours and have your child in for the days you are at work.

If we continue to face upward pressure on places, we will use the county's prioritisation list: health workers including paramedics, police, fire service, social care, education and navy personnel. I hope that this will not be necessary if people only book a place when they really need it.

Hence, in order to keep numbers as low as possible and ensure the safety of all staff, children, their families and the wider community, provision for children of **critical workers** is whilst the parent is expected to be in the workplace working (or if health workers are on shift work and need to sleep) and you require childcare. I am sure you will agree that our teaching staff have really stepped up to meet the statutory requirements and are providing high quality remote education.

In terms of our bubble groups, we are prioritising a teacher from each key stage each week to be in school. All teachers will also be providing remote learning for all children in their class whether they are at school or at home; they will also be responding to and giving feedback during the day. Our support staff will be in the classroom with the children in each key stage bubble. Many of our staff are living with vulnerable family members or are juggling home-schooling with their own children as well as helping you and your family, so we ask you to let us know your working hours by each Thursday to allow us to finalise timetables for the following week.

I will endeavour to keep everyone updated as frequently and as necessary as possible in order to keep you informed with how things in school are progressing. You will see updates and messages on Dojo or Google Classrooms too.

I hope many concerns and worries will resolve over the coming days - especially as we gain a clearer picture of the level of need, staff availability and adapt to any further changes in the guidelines.

All of our staff so appreciate the overwhelming support we have received from parents. Yet again, we are facing challenging circumstances, but we have learnt so much together from the first lockdown and this will help us to get through as a team supporting our wonderful children.

Yours sincerely



Louise Jones
Executive Headteacher