



ST STEPHENS COMMUNITY ACADEMY
Roydon Road, Launceston, Cornwall PL15 8HL
Tel: 01566 772170
E-mail: ststephens@andaras.org
www.ststephenscornwall.co.uk



Head Teacher: Maura Furber

**'Embracing Learning.
Inspiring Ambition.
Celebrating Individuality'**

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Wider Re-opening Update

As you may have heard on the news today Gavin Williamson, Minister of State for Education, announced that **the plan for all primary aged pupils in England to go back to school before the end of term is to be dropped by the government.** It had been hoped that they would all return to school before the summer break but it is no longer thought to be feasible and instead schools will be given "flexibility" over whether or not to admit more pupils.

I can confirm that as a Trust we have decided that this is not a practical possibility, due to the impossibility of staffing and providing space for pupils in small, socially distanced groups. This is in line with the national picture and advice received from the local authority and teaching unions. If the situation changes I will inform you immediately.

Currently, all our available staff are timetabled to look after a 'bubble' of either the year groups currently eligible or the key workers' children as well as planning, setting and responding to home learning for their classes. Admitting more age groups would mean compromising the Department for Education guidance and our own risk assessments on keeping children and staff safe. These are key to uphold in any phased return now and moving forward and I will not jeopardise any member of the team at St Stephens, children and adults alike, by not adhering to them.

We will continue to provide online learning and support and of course will continue to review and monitor our decisions and provision on a weekly basis. This may include offering more days for the children who are currently in school but again this very much depends on numbers going forward. I will endeavour to keep you updated as and when any changes may occur.

Key worker Group Update

At this present time, it is **NOT** our intention to remain open in any capacity during the summer holidays. We will again review this regularly and keep you informed of any further updates.

Many thanks for your continued support and kindness during these challenging times.

Maura Furber

Mrs Furber

Headteacher

