



# GERRANS CP SCHOOL

Tregassick Road Truro, Cornwall TR2 5ED  
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**Headteacher: Julie Elvy**

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07<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Thursday of what seems to all of us in different ways a very long and exhausting week! But the sun is shining and children in school and on line appear cheerful and continue to brighten our days.

I appreciate many of you are feeling the challenge of remote learning, yet again. I am hoping this letter to you addresses the balance between the expectations of the DfE and the reality of family life.

The DfE are expecting schools to provide learning which engages pupils and moves their learning forward. At the primary stage they recommend this is for 3 hours a day. I would like to reassure you that 'one size does not fit all'. Whilst 3 hours is appropriate for KS2 and many Y2 pupils, it is a long time for EYFS and Y1.

The three hours does not have to be continuous and can be broken into chunks as concentration allows. It also should not all be spent at a screen and some will be activity based or discussion with an adult or family member.

I also appreciate that many of you are trying to juggle multiple children and working from home as well. Here are a few ideas which can help. If you have ideas which work in your family and you think others could benefit from you are welcome to send them to us and we can share them on our school website so other families can benefit too.

- Try to keep to a routine - Usual getting up time, breakfast time and importantly going to bed time so that you have 'child free time'.
- Don't feel guilty giving your child time during the day to occupy themselves whilst you work from home, balanced with spending quality time with them learning together.
- Make the most of outside together as much as possible. Use this as an opportunity to enjoy our beautiful surroundings.
- Use other available distant family members via Zoom or Facetime for stories or learning spellings etc if possible
- As much learning can happen through a discussion on a walk as sitting in front of a screen.
- Limit screen time.





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- Board games are good for maintaining social skills, turn taking and conflict resolution.
- Remind the children to use the skills and strategies they have been equipped with in school. Especially KS2 using correct punctuation and basic spelling, even when registering on Google Classroom. The children need to take some responsible as active learners in this just as they would be expected to within a classroom setting.

Within school children are learning within one bubble across two learning areas. Staff will be in school on a rota basis, there will always be one class teacher and two members of support staff. There will be no one in the school office, but the telephone will be answered within the learning area .

There will be a member of staff responsible for registration of all pupils on a daily basis. In school registration will follow normal procedures. Please telephone if your child is absent.

Children learning at home will be asked to make communication with the key stage member of staff by 9.30am. If no response by 10am, the member of staff will phone parents to inquire about the child's wellbeing. A member of staff will be in touch with Nursery Parents via telephone each day if children are learning at home.

These daily registrations are part of our safeguarding practises during this Lockdown.

Learning will be provided by class teachers. Children learning at home are asked to complete and return a weekly feedback sheet by 12 o'clock every Friday. Each pupil will then receive individualised private feedback about their learning. Lessons will not be 'live'. As you can imagine teaching mixed year groups effectively 'live' on line would not be beneficial or possible, however, we hope to be inviting pupils to join a Google Classroom video call once a week so they can all see one another and the class teacher and discuss their learning. Details of this will follow.





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A member of staff is also allocated each day between 9 and 3 to monitor Google Classroom and answer any queries, support learning and give direct feedback.

Reading materials may be something, over time you have trouble accessing. Below are some websites where you can access some free online reading resources with your child.

- [www.read.gov/books](http://www.read.gov/books)
- oxford [owl.co.uk](http://owl.co.uk)
- [booktrust.org.uk](http://booktrust.org.uk)
- open [library.org](http://library.org) ( children's section - there is an adult section too!)

Although this is our second lockdown, the concept is still very unique, we are all here to support you and one another. Please don't hesitate to contact staff via school telephone, email, or Google Classroom between the hours of 9 and 3.

As in last Lockdown, please email us any photos of children learning, playing or just enjoying being outside which we can share on our school Facebook and website.

Lastly, I would like to publicly thank all the Staff at Gerrans and the support of the Roseland MAT as a whole, for their incredible hard work, good humour and flexibility this week adapting learning for our community.

Take Care

Yours Sincerely

**Julie Elvy**  
Headteacher

