

Frequently asked questions:

Does my child have to come back to school?

Yes - Government guidance states:

'In March when the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak was increasing, we made clear no parent would be penalised or sanctioned for their child's non-attendance at school.

Now the circumstances have changed and it is vital for all children to return to school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on children's education, wellbeing and wider development.

Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence;
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct'.

If you have any concerns regarding your child returning to school then please contact the school office and ask to speak with Mrs Hann our Pastoral Care Manager.

What does my child need to bring to school?

It is still recommended that pupils limit the amount of equipment they bring into school each day to essentials such as lunch boxes, hats, coats and books. No other items should be brought in from home, including PE kits, toys, pencil cases and birthday treats. Each child and member of staff will have their own stationary pack provided that will be kept in school. Cloakrooms will only be used in EYFS. Coats will be put on the back of each child's chair and their water bottle will be stored on their desk. Home lunch boxes will be stored within the classroom.

Children will not change clothing for PE. Children are asked to come to school wearing sensible trainers so that they can be physically active throughout the day.

Mobile phones are not encouraged. Children that walk to/from school independently and whose parents want them to have a mobile phone, must turn off their phone, place it in the designated space in the classroom with their class teacher on arrival who will ensure it is stored safely until the end of the school day.



Will children be required to wear school uniform?

All children will be expected to wear school uniform. Children will not need their PE kit as they will not be changing in school for the foreseeable future. In order for all children to be physically active regularly, we do ask that your children wear sensible trainers to school every day. To minimise risk it is encouraged that all clothing is washed regularly.

How will the school manage lunchtimes safely?

For the foreseeable future, children will eat their school meal or their home packed lunch together in their classroom, with the exception of reception, who will eat their lunch in the hall, socially distanced. Children will eat with their class group and have a play time with their year group. We have a rota in place to ensure that year group bubbles do not play together on the same playground.

Please refer to the new Chartwells menu located in the September 2020 – returning to school tab on our school website. School meals will be served in a biodegradable, disposable take away box. If your child is in Reception, Year 1 or 2 they will be entitled to a Government Universal Free School Meal. You do not need to order their lunch each day, their teacher will support them to make their choice each morning. All our families who are eligible for Free School Meals, (FSM) are also entitled to a free school meal. If your child is in Years 3 – 6 and is not entitled to free school meals then you can order a school meal through ParentPay.

Will my child receive a fruit snack at break time?

During school closure and the partial opening from 1st June, the government temporarily stopped supplying schools with a free fruit snack for key stage one pupils (Year R – Year 2). From September, this will resume and all key stage one pupils will be offered a fruit snack at break time. Please note, this government initiative is for key stage one pupils only. Key stage two pupils (Year 3 – Year 6) will need to bring in a healthy snack from home, for example, a piece of fruit.

Will the school be running after school clubs?

For the foreseeable future we will not be running after school clubs to ensure that we minimise unnecessary mixing. Charlie's Wraparound childcare will be running but we can only support a limited number of children. You will need to contact the school office if you require childcare but please understand that your child will not be guaranteed a place. Thank you to all parents that have completed our wraparound survey. Separate information regarding Charlie's Wraparound Childcare can be found in the September 2020 – returning to school tab on our school website.

How will the school manage to minimise contact with individuals who are unwell with Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms?

Adults and pupils must not come to school if they or someone in their household has Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or has tested positive in the last 7 days.

TEL 01726 73911 • e-mail: secretary@mount-charlessch.org

WEBSITE: www.mount-charlessch.org

MORVEN ROAD ST AUSTELL CORNWALL PL25 4PP

Part of Cornwall Education Learning Trust, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales at Unit 18, St Austell Business Park, Treverbyn Road, Carclaze, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4FD. Number 07565242. An exempt charity.





Covid-19 symptoms are a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia).

If a child or member of staff in school becomes unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, they will be segregated immediately and parents will be contacted to collect their child as soon as possible. **Please ensure that the school office have your up to date contact details and ensure that you check your phone regularly.**

If staff, children or members of their families display Covid-19 symptoms they will need to be ready and willing to:

- [book a test](#) if they are displaying symptoms. Staff and pupils must not come into the school if they have symptoms, and must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. All children can be tested, including children under 5, but children aged 11 and under will need to be helped by their parents/carers if using a home testing kit
- provide details of anyone they have been in close contact with if they were to test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test & Trace
- [self-isolate](#) if they have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Anyone who displays symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) can and should get a test. Tests can be booked online through the NHS [testing and tracing for coronavirus website](#), or ordered by telephone via NHS 119 for those without access to the internet. Essential workers, which includes anyone involved in education or childcare, have priority access to testing.

Schools will ask parents and staff to inform them immediately of the results of a test:

- if someone tests negative, they feel well and no longer have symptoms similar to coronavirus (COVID-19), they can stop self-isolating. They could still have another virus, such as a cold or flu – in which case it is still best to avoid contact with other people until they are better. Other members of their household can stop self-isolating.
- if someone tests positive, they should follow the '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)' and must continue to self-isolate for at least 7 days from the onset of their symptoms and then return to school only if they do not have symptoms other than a cough or loss of sense of smell/taste. This is because a cough or anosmia can last for several weeks once the infection has gone. The 7-day period starts from the day when they first became ill. If they still have a high temperature, they should keep self-isolating until their temperature returns to normal. Other members of their household should continue self-isolating for the full 14 days.

We will take swift action if we become aware that someone who has attended has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). We will contact the local health protection team. This team will also contact schools directly if they become aware that someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) attended the school – as identified by NHS Test and Trace.

- The health protection team will carry out a rapid risk assessment to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.
- The health protection team will work with school in this situation to guide us through the actions we need to take.

TEL 01726 73911 • e-mail: secretary@mount-charlessch.org

WEBSITE: www.mount-charlessch.org

MORVEN ROAD ST AUSTELL CORNWALL PL25 4PP



Part of Cornwall Education Learning Trust, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales at Unit 18, St Austell Business Park, Treverbyn Road, Carclaze, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4FD. Number 07565242. An exempt charity.

How will the school support my child's learning from home if they need to self isolate?

If your child is self isolating and is awaiting the results of a test, as long as they are well enough to do so, they should follow the directions from their class teacher using our online platforms (eSchools and Dojo) to ensure that their learning continues in line with that of their peers in school. Parents should be aware that daily home learning will not be written by their child's class teacher. Instead, pupils and parents will be directed to relevant lessons and units of work available to them through the government recommended virtual school, Oak National Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/>.

In addition to this, parents and pupils will have access to curriculum overviews on the Mount Charles School website as usual along with relevant 'knowledge organisers' to accompany the year group topic/theme. Pupils will be expected to upload their learning via eSchools and/or Dojo which will be looked at and responded to by teachers when their teaching schedule allows (between 8:00 - 8:20am OR between 3:10 - 5:00pm).

Where pupils are unable to access their learning online, parents should contact the school to inform them of this so that a paper-based alternative can be provided. Regular weekly homework tasks specific to your child such as differentiated spelling lists, maths fluency and home-reading must continue as normal. Above all else, if learning at home, reading should remain a priority.

As was the case during lock down, the school will keep in regular contact with pupils learning from home and if contact cannot be made, a member of the safeguarding team will visit the home to offer additional support.

How will school staff ensure that my child cleans their hands thoroughly more often than usual?

Staff will promote good hygiene routines using NHS Government materials regularly throughout the day.

All classrooms have hand washing facilities, hand sanitiser and anti-bacterial wipes. There are mobile sinks located outside every classroom and in every playground to ease congestion.

How will school staff ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach?

Staff will promote good hygiene routines using NHS Government materials regularly throughout the day.

All rooms will have a supply of facial tissues and separate covered bins available to ensure safe disposal.

Public Health England does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. We are not anticipating children to arrive at school wearing a face mask. Parents must contact the school if they want to discuss their child wearing a face mask.

How will school staff ensure enhanced cleaning throughout the day?

Good classroom hygiene will be maintained by all school staff throughout the day using sanitising agents. Cleaning staff will work throughout the day to ensure regular cleaning of toilets and touch points.

Each year group including wraparound will have their own outdoor play equipment that will be cleaned regularly.



How will staff ensure that they minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible?

How we will group children

Children will work in year group bubbles. The year group bubbles will not mix during the school day. We will be offering full National Curriculum coverage across the week to all year groups.

Children will predominantly work in their class groups for the majority of classroom time, but will mix into wider groups across the year group at times for specialist teaching.

We will have one consistent bubble of wraparound care throughout the week. Priority will be given to key workers and parents requiring the most sessions.

All teachers and other staff can operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable.

Measures within the classroom

We have made small adaptations to classrooms to support distancing where possible. These include seating pupils side by side and facing forwards, rather than face to face or side on, and the removal of unnecessary furniture from classrooms to ensure adequate space for safe movement around the classroom.

Measures elsewhere

Assemblies will take place within year group bubbles.

School meals and home packed lunches will be eaten in the classroom, with the exception of reception, to avoid the shared use of the hall.

Movement around the school will take place utilising outside thoroughfares as much as possible. We will reduce corridor use to visiting the toilet in KS2. Children in reception and KS1 have integral toilets between their classrooms.

Each year group bubble will have their own break / lunch play in a designated space to ensure that we minimise mixing.

Measures for arriving at and leaving school

Family groups will arrive with their youngest sibling. Each class or year group has been given a designated, staggered arrival/departure time and gate (see site plan). We will utilise four separate access gates. Curriculum time has not been reduced.

Other considerations

TEL 01726 73911 • e-mail: secretary@mount-charlessch.org

WEBSITE: www.mount-charlessch.org

MORVEN ROAD ST AUSTELL CORNWALL PL25 4PP

Part of Cornwall Education Learning Trust, a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales at Unit 18, St Austell Business Park, Treverbyn Road, Carclaze, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4FD. Number 07565242. An exempt charity.





Visitors, such as contractors, to the school site will only be permitted by prior arrangement. Where visits can happen outside of school hours, they should. Visitors will be required to clean their hands on arrival and will receive a safety briefing from the receptionist.

Will school staff wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) where necessary?

The majority of staff in education settings will not require PPE beyond what they would normally need for their work.

Where a child becomes ill with coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms while at school, a child has routine intimate care needs or whilst performing first aid, staff supporting children will be able to wear gloves, an apron and a mask. Stocks of PPE are available in every room.

As we receive further guidance we will continue to keep this document updated. We are fully focused on keeping everyone as safe as possible and completely understand the anxieties that parents may be feeling at this time. We are here to support you in every way that we can.

I am sure that there are questions unanswered here and there may be questions that are specific to your situation. If you have any concerns or queries please email: enquiries@mount-charlessch.org