

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent,

We are delighted to be welcoming back all of our children to school today. I wanted to write to you to welcome you all back formally and clarify some points to support you all.

Our whole team has been working hard to prepare for the new term and before the Summer holidays we sent you several documents with all of the information you need. This was a letter, a parent risk assessment, as well as a video we posted on our website. We have re sent to you the letter with all of the information you need and the video is still on our website: <https://ellacombe-lap.co.uk/parents/coronavirus/>

One of the key points to note is the correct time to drop off and collect your child from school, as we are using staggered drop off and collection times to ensure we can all socially distance.

- **It is really important that you arrive at these times to avoid congestion.** Please do not also congregate outside school before this time.
- We have planned these times so that older children are dropped off first and collected last. If you have several children to drop off, this means your older children can walk on up Garden Lane whilst you wait, socially distanced for the correct times for your other children.
- We would encourage parents of children in Y5/6 to drop their child at start of Garden Lane. Staff will be in high vis vests and supervising children all the way along Garden Lane so that they know which gate to go in.
- At home time, we would encourage parents of Y5/6 parents to also allow their children to walk down Garden Lane on their own (they exit at the other end) to reduce the number of people needing to be in the lane. If you would like your child to be dismissed on their own at the end of the day, to walk down Garden Lane, please drop us a message or a note. This is to ensure the teachers know which children need to go with their parents and which can go on their own.
- Please remember **ONLY 1 ADULT from each family to drop off and pick up please.** Again this reduces the number of adults in Garden lane and in the area surrounding school.

### School Bags

At the moment, we are asking parents not to bring bags to school. Children may bring a packed lunch, water bottle and their coat. If your child is in Y3-6 and has a particular book that they have been reading for Accelerated Reader, they may bring that in to take the quiz. Teachers will be sending home reading books for classes next week. We know how keen children are to bring book bags to school and how smart they look but we ask that at the moment, they stay at home. If your child is in Nursery or Reception- please see the info in the main letter regarding bags for change of clothes/ nappies.



**Ellacombe C of E Academy**  
Ellacombe Church Road, Torquay  
Devon, TQ1 1TG  
**T:** 01803 293040 **E:** ellacombe@lapsw.org  
**W:** ellacombe-lap.co.uk



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### **Water Bottles**

We would encourage children to bring a water bottle to school. Due to hygiene reasons, water fountains are not in use at the moment but teachers will be able to refill water bottles during the day for the children. Please put your child's name on these.

### **PE Kits**

All PE will be outside at the moment and we will be asking that children come to school dressed in their PE kits to avoid having to do lots of changing. This will start the week beginning Monday 14th September and the class newsletters next week will tell you which day that your child should come in PE kit. It is still warm at the moment but if they wish to wear jogging bottoms instead of shorts, this is fine. Please remember black or navy blue shorts/ joggers and plain white T- shirts/ Polo shirts.

### **Home Learning**

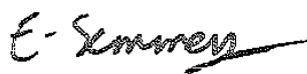
At the start of this term, to continue to reduce the amount of books going home and needing to come back into school, we will be sending home learning printed as a small pack. This will focus on helping all the children to get back into the practice of using a pencil and their handwriting. This will be sent home, with your child's class newsletter on Fridays, but we ask that they do not bring this back into school. We would encourage you to look at this with your child so they feel confident and proud of their handwriting. We will review this process after 2 weeks.

### **Staying safe**

Please remember that if your child or any members of the household have any symptoms of COVID, you need to book a test, your child should not come to school whilst you await the result, but you do need to contact us to let us know why they are absent please.

Finally, here is a link to the Parent Guide from the Government with lots of other information around staying safe in school. [Parent information from the Government on returning to school.](#)

Yours sincerely



Mrs E Semmens