

Truro School Covid Steering Group Bulletin No.2 (18 Sept 2020)

This week the committee reflected on feedback from staff, pupils and parents alike. We discussed at length the current reality that access to and speed of testing for Covid-19 is taking considerably longer than expected and ran through a variety of school-based scenarios in order to remain agile for what may come in the future. The school has still not recorded any positive tests for Covid-19 from pupils or staff.

A key outcome of our discussion was a commitment to generating the support flyer that all parents have been sent today. This flyer provides not just the NHS advice on responding to symptoms associated with Covid-19, but also guidance on the communication lines with the school. In complex times, we want to do all we can to help our families respond with us.

Next week, we will be sharing with pupils and parents details of the remote learning support programmes that our staff have been ensuring they can deliver, now that the first fortnight of term and the wider new routines are more familiar. We are fortunate to be able to draw on our successful experience of lockdown last term to consider the best approaches to hybrid learning (where some pupils are still on site and others not).

Provision will vary between Prep and Senior School, and potentially between age ranges, but we are all committed to ensuring that interactive contact between children and staff remains a feature of any self-isolation experience. We will support wellbeing as well as progress.

Updates from Week 3 (Mon 14 – Friday 18 Sept)

The following are aspects of our routines that have been updated or re-emphasised since last week and as part of our ongoing review and evaluation of our Covid-safe measures:

1. **Hands, Face, Space.** Please continue to reinforce the importance of hand washing and face coverings as advised, and 2m physical distancing whenever possible.
2. **Masks and physical distancing.** With the exception of lessons and whilst eating lunch, the Senior School does expect face coverings to be worn in all spaces where a clear 2m physical distance is not being maintained. At the Prep, and in line with government guidance, masks remain optional.
3. **Pupil Flyer.** Senior School pupils have all been issued with their own copies of our Covid-Safe handbook. They should consult this when unsure over measures to follow.
4. **Pick up and Drop off.** We are pleased with the smoothness of this at both Prep and Senior Schools and thank parents for their adaptation to this and patience when there are hold-ups.
5. **Welcome Events.** It has been a pleasure to host and engage with you in these, thus far.

6. **Food and Water.** There are now water stops located across all Senior School zones and we have increased food portion sizes. We will continue to monitor these aspects of school life.
7. **Tuck Shop.** We will open the Tuck Shop for Senior pupils from Monday. Year groups will be able to access it on separate days (Monday will be 5th Years!) Payment is encouraged by card or apple pay, although cash will still be accepted. Details will be given to all pupils next week.
8. **Co-curriculum.** Our co-curriculum, including Wednesday Afternoon Activities, is up and running and pupil engagement at both prep and Senior Schools is rising. This is excellent news and just what Truro School wants to encourage.
9. **Visitors to Site.** We continue to operate an appointment only approach to visitors, and ask anyone to please contact the School in advance if you need to visit so we can plan accordingly.
10. **Outside of school.** We are aware that on site we operate stricter safety measures than perhaps in the wider community. We are also aware that the choices and actions of pupils outside of school have the potential to impact on the safety of the community in school, and we talk about this with them in tutorials. I respectfully ask parents to do all you can to minimise the risks to our school family from the choices and actions of your children in their own time as far as you are able to.

Reflection from the Head

I am proud of your children and our staff for their adaptation to the new routines and the renewed life of a school in action. Both Miss Patterson and I were privileged to hear the choristers sing in the Cathedral on Sunday – the first live choral singing there for six months. This week and last, we have also been delighted to host virtual information events and are grateful for parental engagement and support for these. We have also been able to permit, following parent seminars, a small number of sports squads to train. As we all expected and hoped, Covid-19 is not preventing this strong and happy school from offering the breadth of education that we all cherish.

In my first assembly of term a fortnight ago, I spoke to the children about the literal meaning of the word 'education' as a 'leading out', which felt appropriate as we all emerged from lockdown into school life once more. This morning, I spoke about the importance of curiosity as an antidote to apathy, a driver of learning, and a way to find kindness, beauty and love where it may not immediately seem present. My hope is that this habit of mind can therefore be a useful antidote to some aspects of living with the pandemic as a result.

Mr A Johnson