

Truro School COVID Steering Group Bulletin No.3 (25 Sept 2020)

Truro School has enjoyed another busy and full week of learning, and energy inside and beyond the classroom, including sports, music (including individual lessons), and wider creative work. It is clear, too, that the wider national and regional context regarding COVID-19 has become more challenging. Whilst we remain, as yet, unaffected by any positive tests for COVID-19, we offer our fellowship to those who have, and we remain realistic about the likelihood of COVID-19 affecting our community in some way across the coming weeks or months. Our planning and response to this reality remains ongoing and dynamic, therefore.

Updates from Week 4 (Mon 21 – Friday 25 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. **Hygiene.** Please continue to reinforce the importance of hand washing.
2. **Physical distance.** Please continue to reinforce the importance of maintaining 2m distances whenever and wherever possible.
3. **Face coverings.** Please remind your children who are at the Senior School that face coverings are required in all contexts (indoors and outdoors) where 2m is not maintained and a lesson or coaching is not taking place. This includes movement between lessons outdoors and in all social spaces. At the Prep, and in line with government guidance, masks remain optional.
4. **Remote Learning.** Senior School pupils have all been advised by their tutors over how remote learning will be supported in the event of self-isolation. A summary document for them and you is being sent alongside this bulletin. In the Prep, Years 3-6 will have refresher sessions on the use of Teams in their computing lessons next week and their summary document will be shared next week.
5. **Visitors.** Our policy since the start of term has been that visits into school are by appointment only. In light of this week's government announcement and the heightened COVID risks, we are now asking that any meeting that can take place remotely by telephone or by videoconference should do so, please, to minimise non-essential access to the school site.
6. **Pick up and Drop off.** We remain pleased with the smoothness of this at both Prep and Senior Schools. In order to keep the system working in this way, and safely, may we remind you that parents should avoid using drop off or pick up times as opportunities to park up and gather in groups to socialise. Our apologies, and also thanks for your understanding here.
7. **Year Group facebook groups.** Please do continue to use these invaluable groups to share useful information and ideas to support each other. At a time when safety requires ongoing

adaptation it has perhaps never been more important for you to be able to contact other parents. However, we would ask that the forums remain a model for appropriate social media usage by ensuring that comments about specific staff are avoided or remain respectful, some of whom are also parents in these groups. If you or a fellow parent has a concern, you are encouraged to contact your child's Class Teacher or Form Tutor, or via the appropriate school channel.

8. **COVID App.** The government has now launched its COVID App for those aged 16 or older. Whilst it may make sense for each family to have the App, the school's position is that we will not request pupils to download it or use it as our school track and trace system. This is firstly because we already have in place bubbles and seating plans for that purpose. It is also because we do not want to request that pupils carry switched on mobiles around at all times on the school site, or risk track and trace being alerted as a consequence of phones having been left on and in bags not taken into lessons. Your children are welcome to download the app for themselves by choice, however. If they do, and it or your alerts at home advise a COVID-safe response, please let us know and we will respond accordingly.

9. **ISC Survey.** Please may we encourage Senior School parents to participate in a brief survey for the Independent School's Council. It is designed to help independent schools in general to better understand what parents experienced during the COVID-19 lockdown last term. If there is a sufficient level of response for you, we will be supplied with data specific to our school, which will be very helpful for our planning here. The link for this survey is below:

<https://dataportal.isc.co.uk/ParentSurvey/Welcome.aspx?SurveyID=292009>

Reflection from the Head

Thank you for all your ongoing support for the efforts of your children and our staff to run what continues to be a happy and productive school. Truro pupils have been singing, surfing, studying, and so much more, with customary passion and enthusiasm this week. We have been able to maintain and re-start core aspects of our co-curriculum including individual music lessons. Your feedback regarding our communications and the virtual events we have been running has also been very positive too, and encouraging for staff who I know are working tremendously hard for your children. Thank you. I am also pleased that we have now been able to run through our COVID safe responses based on false alarms in our boarding houses. In a week where we celebrated the 93rd anniversary of our beautiful Chapel, and its enduring purpose and value, we have become ever more ready to face future challenges with the kindness and purpose that characterises our community.

Mr A Johnson