

Truro School COVID Steering Group Bulletin No.4 (2 Oct 2020)

The school has had another excellent week including no positive COVID-19 tests from any pupils or staff. We are not complacent, however. Our leadership teams have run table top exercises to test our likely response procedures in the event of a positive case being confirmed within our community. Were this to happen, there would be a swift, sensitive, and clear communications process to the families affected, staff, and then the wider school community afterwards. The privacy of individuals concerned would be supported however possible, and we would be guided by the advice of the NHS and the DfE. Our staff have started to roll out refresher training for colleagues and pupils alike in regard to remote learning too.

Updates from Week 5 (Mon 28 Sept – Friday 2 Oct)

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 and physical distancing.** Please continue to reinforce the importance of hand washing. Please continue to reinforce the importance of maintaining 2m distances whenever and wherever possible.
2. **Face coverings.** On the Senior site, these remain 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, in all social spaces, and on trips and visits off site. There has been some increase in pupils forgetting to bring their own masks to school. We will continue to supply replacements to ensure safety, but we will also start a process of billing pupils who routinely use school stock as a result of forgetting their own. At the Prep, and in line with government guidance, masks remain optional for children.
3. **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 was sent with last week's bulletin. The equivalent Prep document from Miss Patterson has been sent to Prep parents today.
4. **Charity Collections.** The school remains committed to charity and community engagement. Next week there is a collection for 'All We Can', a charity linked to our Methodist foundation. Details have been supplied to the pupils, including for an own clothes day. In order to support this and future similar events safely and to avoid the transfer risks of coins being passed between pupils and/or adults, the collection will be via a voluntary donation of £2 added to the termly bill, which parents can opt out of when the bill is received, if they wish. We are delighted that we can still go ahead with the physical collection of food for the Truro Foodbank as planned, and that we can maintain our charitable mission, building on partnerships like the one we had with the HIVE project over lockdown and the summer.

5. **Homework.** After a first phase of term in which care was taken to ensure all pupils were up to speed with studies, and plans are in place to support where gaps had been created by lockdown, we are delighted now to be up and running with normal homework timetables, including enrichment opportunities where possible.
6. **The Co-curriculum and Trips.** We continue to risk assess each co-curricular opportunity and proposed trip as part of our commitment both to safety and also to the maximising of opportunities for all.
7. **Site Access – 0800 and 1600.** Please can we remind you that pupils are not expected to be on site before 0800 or after 1600 (unless involved in a supervised activity or club). This expectation is for their safety as our teams complete the necessary cleaning routines on the site. Thank you.
8. **Visitors.** Our policy remains that any meeting between adults that can take place remotely by telephone or by videoconference should do so, please, to minimise non-essential access to the school site. We remain committed to face to face interaction with children to support them, of course.
9. **ISC Survey.** Thank you to all who have participated in the ISC Coronavirus Parent Survey to date. Please may I remind Senior School Parents who wish to participate to do so before the closing date of **Monday 12 October**. If there is a sufficient level of response from you, Truro School will be supplied with data specific to our school, which would be helpful for us. The link for this survey is here: [ISC Survey](#)

Reflection from the Head

Our measured approach to opening as much of our broad and diverse educational offering to all pupils as we can continues. We maintain our full teaching timetable, increasing Wednesday Afternoon Activities programme, sporting, co-curricular and creative energy, and day trips of educational or other value. My thanks go to you and your children for all your ongoing support which continues to ensure we remain a happy and productive school. This week I was touched to see everything from our Dungeons and Dragons Club, to Debating, Drama, and the Chaplain off to coach football. In my whole school assembly this morning I commend the community for its spirit of collaboration. We continue to work together across all our ages and roles to ensure that this is a place of welcome, of warmth, and of learning.

Mr A Johnson