



Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been lovely to welcome the pupils back to all the Crofty schools at the beginning of this term.

As a group of schools we have worked hard together throughout the pandemic to find a sensible way of working which enables pupils, parents and staff to feel safe in our schools whilst never forgetting our primary purpose of educating young people.

The return to school at the beginning of September saw a significant change in the way that schools are being asked to work and organise themselves. For us in Cornwall, this has coincided with an unprecedented peak in cases locally making some of the changes feel counter intuitive or confusing.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some of the systems that all Crofty Schools have in place and to explain how those measures adapt in response to cases in individual schools.

### **Control measures**

Measures in place at all times include:

- Maintaining frequent and rigorous cleaning routines
- Teaching and maintaining high levels of personal hygiene: washing hands, "Catch it, bin it, kill it"
- Ventilating spaces within school well – keeping doors and windows open
- Being vigilant to any possible cases – staff asymptomatic testing, ensuring that people with symptoms isolate and get a test.

In our schools have chosen to implement further strategies including adults wearing face masks on school site, adults maintaining 2 metre distance and operating systems of 'reduced contact' in order to reduce the risk of transmission.

We are also in the process of installing UV filter devices in rooms which are difficult to ventilate as an added control measure.

### **What happens if there is a positive case in school?**

When the school receives confirmation of a positive case we:

- immediately notify the Department for Education and the local Public Health team
- review all measures in school, including tightening movement in and out of the impacted class
- we will send the parents of that class a letter to inform them of the fact and provide some guidance regarding possible action that parents may choose to take.

Public health guidelines state that we do not need to notify parents or take contingency action until positive cases in one class reach 5. We hope that you will be reassured by the fact that we are taking action, including informing you much earlier.

### **Track and Trace**

Before September schools played an active role in identifying close contacts. However, we are now required to work under the following guidance

"Close contacts in schools are now identified by NHS Test and Trace and education settings are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing." [Schools' COVID Operational Guidance](#)



The informal advice we have received from the local Public Health team is that in primary schools, children and adults within a classroom can be considered to be close contacts.

### **Testing**

We have been advised that lateral flow tests are not suitable for primary age children.

If your child has symptoms of COVID – a persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste/ smell please arrange for them to have a PCR test. You can do this by booking a test online <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by [calling 119](#).

If you are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive you can also request a PCR test.

### **Attendance**

If your child has symptoms, they should self isolate immediately and you should arrange for a PCR test. If the results of the test are negative your child can return to school as soon as they are well enough to do so. If the results are positive your child will need to isolate for 10 days and other members of the household should arrange for a PCR test. Please keep the school notified of the situation.

Where children are self isolating the school will support their continued education through setting work and providing feedback.

I hope that this will go some way to answering your questions. Further information can be found on the DfE site: [What Parents and Carers need to know DfE](#)

Best Wishes

Tamsin Lamb  
Director of Education