

REF: SAF/tlb

Monday 19th July, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update: notification of early school closure

Sadly, we have had 27 separate confirmed positive COVID cases called in from families today and also rising numbers of confirmed cases amongst the staff body which has meant 'doubling up' several classes today. We have had to send over 170 students home today, on top of the numbers of children already at home self-isolating due to the number of positive cases called in on Friday.

As we have already made arrangements to close at 12.20pm tomorrow, we have taken the decision to **CLOSE** the school from the end of the day this afternoon; tomorrow will therefore be the start of the school summer holiday. This decision has not been taken lightly but we believe it is in the best interests of the health and well-being of our staff and students. I apologise sincerely for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Contact tracing from 19th July 2021

A reminder that the government have said that education and early years settings will no longer be required to routinely undertake contact tracing.

Instead, NHS Test and Trace (NTAT) will work with the positive case to identify close contacts. Contacts in the setting will only be traced by NTAT if the positive case specifically identifies another individual from the setting as being a close contact. This will likely result in a smaller number of individuals who are close contacts than in the current system.

Those who are identified as a close contact by NTAT will be required to self-isolate and will be advised to take a PCR test. **If your child has a positive PCR test, please continue to notify the school as we will need to report it to Public Health.** School-assisted contact tracing may be needed in certain circumstances, such as where there are higher number of cases or there have been severe cases requiring hospitalisation.

We are still awaiting further guidance on exactly how this will work in practice. As an interim measure Cornwall Council **advises** the following:

- **If a child is symptomatic with fever, new continuous cough and/or change in sense of taste or smell:** the symptomatic person should self-isolate at home with their household and arrange for a confirmatory PCR test. If positive, continue to isolate for 10 days from onset of symptoms.

- **If a child tests positive by LFD test:** the case should immediately self-isolate with the rest of their household, inform the setting, register the result online and arrange for a confirmatory PCR test within 48 hours. If the PCR test is negative the case and household contacts do not need to isolate, unless they are isolating for other reasons, or if they remain unwell. If the confirmatory PCR is positive, then the case and household contacts should continue to isolate.

It remains that positive cases of COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate together with their close contacts, who will be identified by NHS Test and Trace. We will keep our systems of control in place to limit the spread of COVID-19, despite it no longer being compulsory from 19 July 2021.

Thank you for your understanding. Wishing you and your families a very happy summer. Take very good care of yourselves.

Yours sincerely,



Samantha Fairbairn
Executive Headteacher