

# Otterham C P School

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Dear Parents

As we reach, what we hope will be, the half way point of our second national lockdown, you have probably become aware of schools relatively locally (Bude, Launceston & Wadebridge) that have now had positive COVID cases identified within their setting. This has resulted in 'bubbles'/year groups being sent home to self-isolate and engage in remote learning.

Here at Otterham School we are continuously monitoring and updating our rigorous COVID Risk Assessment with the single aim of reducing the risk of transmission of the virus to others should it enter the school. Preventing the virus from coming in to the school is everyone's responsibility.

All staff here are very aware of maintaining a 2m distance between each other, maintaining excellent hand hygiene and wearing a face covering when felt necessary (usually walking past each other in the corridor by the photocopier). The school is also being kept well ventilated as there is strong evidence supporting the fact air-borne COVID particles are dispelled quickly with the flow of air through a room. At last, a positive element for having such an open, split site! On this note, it may be necessary for your child to wear a vest to school as an extra layer of warmth as although heating systems are in operation, rooms are cooler due to the need to ventilate. Regular cleaning of surfaces throughout the day are also taking place with suitable products and children are either washing hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser at regular intervals throughout the school day.

The bubble system is being strictly maintained so that should a case arrive within the school, it should be just the one bubble that is affected, although we are aware that siblings in different classes could complicate the issue. The present guidance is that if it is a sibling who has tested positive then two/three bubbles could be affected, but if a sibling is in a class where someone else has tested positive, only that one bubble needs to isolate.

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I would like to pay tribute to all of the adults working within the school as the way in which they have adapted their teaching practices so that they are working within the many guidelines has been amazing and throughout all of this the quality of teaching and learning within the school remains high. I would also like to thank you, the parents as so far throughout this term we haven't had any children sent to school displaying any of the symptoms that we are all looking out for. Any children displaying symptoms have been tested and isolated until the result has been returned (so far, all negative). Your vigilance on this matter is reassuring for all within the school and is helping to keep our community safe.

Could I please take this opportunity to remind parents that we have requested that face coverings are worn on the school site. This is not something we want to police but rather an expectation that respect is shown for one another, especially whilst cases locally are most definitely rising. Maintaining a safe space between one another is also another way in which we can reduce the possibility of transmission through our community. Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation on this matter.

Also, as per the letter sent out just before half term, a reminder that all children should now be within their classroom by 9:00am so that teachers can begin teaching, and learning is not disrupted for others.

Finally, moving away from COVID, a warm welcome to Gemma Kent and Mark Edwards to our Lunchtime Supervisor team here at school. Ensuring our children have a happy and nutritious lunchtime is important to the success of our afternoon sessions, and an extra couple of pairs of hands (and eyes) has been most welcome as we now have the extra challenge of maintaining bubbles outside.

As always, any questions, please ask.

Kind regards

Helen Ward