

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am writing to keep you informed and to ask for your continued support in managing our response to COVID-19 in the current climate.

As I am sure many of you are aware, the local situation regarding numbers of positive cases and the associated stresses this is placing on the NHS and the local workforce remains in sharp focus – Cornwall is still an Enhanced Response Area.

For further information regarding this please follow the link below.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/health-wellbeing-and-social-care/cornwall-designated-enhanced-response-area-to-help-tackle-rise-in-covid-cases/>

As a school, since the start of the term we have received notice from more than one parent informing us that their child has a confirmed case of COVID-19 – and we thank them for following all guidance to the letter.

**It is important here to repeat that, in accordance with the most recent school's guidance, we are no longer involved in the Test and Trace process. As such, we are not at liberty to inform parents where specific confirmed cases are in the school, this is each individual's confidential medical information. Rather than hearing from the school, close contacts, who need to take further action, will be notified and advised to do so by NHS Test and Trace.**

However, if you have concerns that your child might be showing early signs of symptoms or think your child is a close contact, but has not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace please follow the guidance here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person#i-think-i-have-had-contact-with-someone-who-has-tested-positive-for-covid-19-but-i-have-not-been-notified-and-advised-to-self-isolate-what-should-i-do>

Considering these factors, I felt it necessary to contact you to ask for your vigilance in responding to any symptoms your child / children may be displaying. Most importantly, please keep your child at home if any of the three main symptoms are displayed, and we ask that you book and complete a PCR test for them (not a lateral flow test) to confirm their COVID status.

- high temperature
- new and continuous cough
- change of your usual sense of taste or smell

If you are in any doubt whether your child requires a PCR test, we ask that you err on the side of caution and book and complete one, this will provide you with the peace of mind that you are making the right decision to send your child into school.

I appreciate that the newest guidance may seem to be very different and far less drastic than those we were working with last year, however we are bound by these. I hope that this letter clarifies both the school's response and what the guidance expects from all of us as parents.

All the best

*Rob Hamshar*

Headteacher  
St Hilary School  
01736 763324