



Croesyceiliog School

Turnpike Road, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran, NP44 2YB

Tel: 01633 645900

Website: www.croesyceiliog.org.uk

Email: head.croesyceiliogcomp@torfaen.gov.uk

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Start of the spring term arrangements and school operations January 2022

We trust you had a lovely Christmas and New Year and your family are safe and well. We are delighted to inform you that our expectation is that **all students are to return to school on Friday 7th January 2022**. We are looking forward to seeing all students. On Friday 7th January 2022 we shall start the day with a with a revision of our safe operations that all students must follow, a wellbeing check in, and then move straight back into learning and lessons.

As part of our planning days and in line with the most recent Welsh Government guidance on Alert Level 2 and school operations we have revised our risk assessment and Local Infection Control Decision Framework (LICDF). A copy of both these documents can be found on our website [here](#). Following discussions with Torfaen CBC and the regional Infection of Management Team (IMT) we are returning to school at **very high** risk level.

Our school's priority is to minimise disruption to our students' education and maintain face to face learning in the classroom in a safe way for everyone. Key protective measures are as follows:

- ✓ All students and staff, unless exempt, are to wear face coverings in all areas inside the building where physical distancing cannot be maintained. We would ask for your support that your child arrives with a three layer face covering. These face coverings should also be used on public transport.
- ✓ All students and staff are to continue with regular Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing three times a week using LFDs on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings before returning to school** and to then continue testing regularly three times a week there after. It is important the LFD tests are taken in the morning.
- ✓ Re-introduction of year groups as contact groups:
 - All students on arrival at school must go directly to their year (contact group) designated zone. Students will then be advised by staff when to enter the school building through their year group entrance.
 - At break and lunch year groups are to use their designated zone and area within our canteen.
 - Separation of year groups within the canteen areas.
- ✓ A rigorous one-way system within the building to reduce close interactions.
- ✓ Adherence to seating plans and forward facing desks in all classrooms.
- ✓ Regular handwashing and respiratory etiquette (Catch it, Bin it, Kill it).
- ✓ Adequate ventilation and use of CO² monitors
- ✓ Maintaining appropriate levels of cleaning in line with other communicable diseases
- ✓ Assemblies are to be held virtually
- ✓ Limited visitors to site.

The fundamental principle remains that the most effective way to prevent transmission of COVID- 19 within our school community is to stop it being brought into school. Students and staff should not attend school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms. The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:

- ✓ a high temperature
- ✓ a continuous cough and/or a loss or change of taste or smell.

If a student or a member of staff becomes symptomatic they should get a PCR test as soon as possible, and self-isolate until the outcome of the test. If a student or member of staff test positive for COVID-19 they must self-isolate and not attend school.

Executive Headteacher: Mrs E Lewis - Head of School: Mr A Davies



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All staff and students who test positive for COVID-19 are to follow the Welsh Government guidance for self-isolation below:

- ✓ You can leave self-isolation after 7 full days (on day 8 of your self-isolation period). You should take a LFD test on day 6 of your self-isolation period and another LFD test 24 hours later. This is to check if you remain infectious and could pass COVID-19 on to others.
- ✓ If either of your LFD tests taken on day 6 or day 7 are positive, you should remain in self-isolation until 2 negative LFD tests or day 10 whichever is sooner.
- ✓ If you still have a high temperature after 7 days, even if the LFD test is negative you should continue to self-isolate until your temperature has returned to normal.
- ✓ You do not need to continue self-isolation for more than 7 days if your LFD test is negative and you still have a cough or loss of sense of smell
- ✓ You should not take a LFD test before the sixth day of your self-isolation period because the risks of remaining infectious and the chances of passing it on to others before this period is significantly higher.

For staff and students who are identified as contacts of a positive case self-isolation arrangements are as follows:

- ✓ If fully vaccinated (having received two full doses of an approved vaccine) you are now asked to take LFD test every day for 7 days. This is known as 'Daily Contact Testing'.
- ✓ It is recommended those undertaking Daily Contact Testing take their LFD test **before they arrive at school each day**. These individuals do not need to self-isolate for that day unless they have a positive LFD test or develop symptoms. In either of these cases, they should book a PCR test as soon as possible.
- ✓ Unvaccinated staff and students identified as a contact of a positive COVID-19 case must isolate for 7 days.

As a school our aim is to maintain face to face schooling, however we know the new COVID-19 variant Omicron is now the dominant strain in Wales. There will be some disruption to education this term if we encounter high levels of student and/or staff absence. It is vital we have accurate contact details for all parents/guardians so we can communicate with you effectively. You can update your contact details using our Schools Comms App or by emailing the school directly. Please note any changes to our school operations will be shared via Schools Comms, our twitter feed @croesychool and our Instagram account Croesyceiliog School. All published letters are also placed directly on our [school website](#).

We are well prepared to move swiftly to remote learning and if required. Those year groups undertaking summative assessments this summer will be prioritised and remain in school wherever possible. All students at home do need access to a suitable digital device, a mobile phone is not suitable. If your child requires a digital device please contact the school using the following email head.croesyceiliogcomp@torfaen.gov.uk marked FAO AHT R Spencer.

Currently the Welsh Government expect the summer exam series 2022 to continue however all schools have been asked to prepare contingency assessment arrangements. These are in place at Croesyceiliog School and those year groups affected will receive detailed information regarding these on Friday 7th January.

The current situation regarding COVID-19 is very fast moving and therefore we shall continue to communicate with you regularly as and when changes occur. Can we thank you for your on-going support in what continue to be challenging times for everyone.

Yours faithfully

Mrs E Lewis
Executive Headteacher

Mr A Davies
Head of School

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