

Ashwater Primary School
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THE CAREY FEDERATION



Halwill Primary School
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Tuesday 7th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Halwill School Update

Yesterday, I told you I had contacted Devon County Council (DCC) and was awaiting their response, which I have now received, so I am writing to share this with you as promised and hopefully it will reassure you.

I explained our cleaning regime and measures we have put in to place to Martin Bevan, DCC Health and Safety Adviser and Public Health Devon Officer. This was his response:

'The school is following the DfE guidance around cleaning – "...regular cleaning of areas and equipment with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces...". The school is daily cleaning table tops and under edges, pencils and other equipment as well as regular cleaning of touch points throughout the school. They also have increased the ventilation within the classrooms and continue handwashing and sanitising regimes for staff and pupils. Although the school is seeing an increase in cases number I do not see closing the school for deep cleaning a method to reduce cases.'

I also sought advice from Simon Niles, Schools Planning, Pupil Placement and Commissioning Manager for DCC. This was his response:

'We would not normally close a school for a deep clean, your measures look more than appropriate, especially the enhanced cleaning.'

I also clarified with Simon what would happen if staff were to be unwell and were unable to staff a bubble. He explained that if we cannot operate the school safely and meet our basic statutory safeguarding requirements then we will need to move to remote learning, the DfE will expect there to continue to be an offer for key worker and vulnerable learners so that needs to be factored into that decision making. It was made clear to me that any decisions must be made in consultation with DCC.

At the moment we are able to staff all 3 bubbles but should the situation change, I will let you know.

Remote learning is being set but children should only do this if well enough. Please be patient with teachers; they are working incredibly hard teaching in school and setting and

marking work for children at home and as all external providers have been cancelled, there is no non-contact time available.

Sadly, I confirm all the Christmas shows and church service have been cancelled. At this point I don't know if we will be in a position to do anything virtually but we hope to.

Please do regularly carry out LFD tests on your child. If your child has had an LFD positive result, please ensure they have a PCR test. Please then email admin@halwill.devon.sch.uk a copy of the PCR record and also confirm the date their isolation ends.

We recommend, as far as possible, you avoid your child mixing outside of school with children from other families.

I hope you feel reassured that we are aiming high at this challenging time and I thank you for your understanding and overwhelming messages of support, in person and via e-mail and phone, these have been most appreciated.

I wish you and your families well.

Keep safe,

Mrs Ruh Alford
Executive Headteacher