28th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am just writing to give you some updates and let you know of some changes for the next term.

Firstly, thank you so much for continuing to support us with the testing and helping to keep everyone safe, it has been wonderful to have a full half term without any disruption even if it has been extremely tiring!

We have been asked to pass on information about testing over the half term holidays and I have attached a document to this effect. Can I also remind you **not** send in pupils if they are displaying any of the symptoms of Coronovirus. We will have no choice but to ask you to come and collect them and for you to arrange a PCR test.

While we are all pleased to be returning to some form of ‘normal’ we must continue to observe the control procedures in school. We will still be using the one-way system, frequent hand-washing, separate bubbles etc. On the topic of face masks I’m sure you are aware the Government advice is that they no longer need to be worn in the classroom but need to remain in place in areas where social distancing is not possible such as corridors. We have continued to allow pupils and staff to continue to wear them at all times if that is their choice within the classroom and after half term we intend to continue with this. Pupils over 11 years old must continue to wear them on school transport.

As we move towards the end of the first half of the summer term, I would like to publicly thank and praise our Year 11 students in particular, who have shown a huge amount of resilience to overcome everything that has been thrown at them.  They have had a lot to cope with!  The disruption they have faced over the last 15 months has been incredible, the decision to cancel their exams and the numerous in-class assessments they have sat has allowed us to gather enough information to award them an accurate teacher assessed grade, these have been numerous and they have risen to the challenge extremely well. The majority of our Year 11’s have a place at college or other further education or employment facility and we will be having our Leavers celebration on the 2nd July for all our leavers of 2021 and last years leavers from 2020. Parents and Carers of Year 11 pupils are invited. More details will be sent to those parents and carers.

Staff are assessing pupils attainment across all areas of the curriculum and where appropriate pupils are engaged in interventions with the aim of continuing to support the development of their literacy and numeracy skills.

Staff are also in the process of compiling the end of year reports which will be sent out at the start of July. This will explain the topics pupils have been studying and the progress they have made. We have also started publishing, on the school website, the topics pupils are studying across the curriculum at the start of each half term so parents and carers are aware of what is being studied in all areas and at all Key Stages. These will also be emailed out to parents and carers each half term.

Croft is also attempting to gain the Leading Parent Partnership Award(LPPA) so there will be some questionnaires being sent out after half term. If you could complete these and send them back to school we would be extremely grateful. This can be done via email or via the pupils.

We are also just finalising the class groups and staffing for next year and as soon as we have done this we will inform you who your child’s class staff are if your child is in Primary and who your child’s form tutor is if they are in Secondary.

I’m sure you are aware that schools have been asked by the Government to organise Summer Schools and here at Croft we will be doing so for the first week of the Summer holidays. This will be week beginning the 19th July. The days will run over the normal hours of the school day, 8:55 to 2:55 and will be staffed by our own staff, with lunches being provided but you must be able to transport your child yourself. The make-up of the day will be a combination of academic work, social time and physical activities.

If you are interested in your child attending the Summer School please could you inform the office as soon as possible via, text, email or phone call. We have a limited number of places so it will be on a first come first served basis. We will need to know if you are interested in this by the 11th June 2021.

As ever, if you have any questions or queries about this please don’t hesitate to get in touch with school.

Lee Davis

Head of School.

**Parents letter to continue twice weekly testing over the May half-term**

Dear parent/carer,

Thank you for your continued support with Covid-19 home testing.

We understand that each [pupil has individual needs. Many [pupils/students] have adapted to testing as part of their routine, while others find this more challenging.

Wherever possible, your child should **continue testing and reporting results twice a week, at home, throughout the May half-term school holiday and take a test before returning to school.**

**Reporting results**

Recording all test results helps scientists stay ahead of the virus by spotting new outbreaks quickly and advising how to respond. **Reporting results** **is easy**.

Go to: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) Or call: 119 free from a mobile or landline. Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. Support is offered in 200 languages as well as British Sign Language and Live Video Assistance.

**All results should be reported, even if your child's result is negative or void.**

You should also keep a note of and share your child’s results with their school wherever possible.

**Universal Testing**

The government is encouraging all adults to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread of coronavirus. You can order tests through the [Order coronavirus (COVID-19) rapid lateral flow tests](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests) service.

Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Maintaining a regular habit of testing twice a week, 3-4 days apart, will help stop the virus spreading and keep schools and colleges open to students and staff.