



28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

You may well be aware that we have experienced a steady increase in the number of children testing positive for COVID-19 over the last two weeks. Fortunately, the vast majority of pupils appear to be suffering very mild symptoms and recover quickly. We have a very small number of staff that have also tested positive, however, we have been able to maintain a regular routine for most classes in school.

I am in daily contact with the Local Outbreak Team and please be reassured that they are more than happy with the systems and procedures we have in place at school. We continue to encourage pupils to sanitise hands regularly and wipe down work spaces before and after use. All children are also encouraged to cover their mouth with a tissue or the inside of their elbow to catch coughs and sneezes, dispose of tissues in the bin afterwards, and then wash hands. Rooms are being kept well ventilated whilst balancing the need to maintain a comfortable environment during the cold weather. All these actions help us to try and limit transmission of the virus.

As from 27<sup>th</sup> January the Government is no longer advising the wearing of face coverings in schools. Given the recent increase in the number of cases, we are happy to support any pupil or staff member who wishes to continue to wear their face covering whilst at school. We are committed to doing all we can to support pupil attendance and want children to be confident to come to school and experience the quality face to face learning opportunities provided. If wearing a face covering helps build this confidence for an individual, we are more than happy to allow this.

We do strongly encourage children to complete tests at home twice a week. Where a year group has an increased number of cases we may advise you to support your child with daily testing for a week or two. School can still provide test kits free of charge to children where parents and carers have provided consent but you can also order them [online](#). Please remember to report all results to the [NHS](#) and inform school immediately if your child tests positive. All individuals who receive a positive result must self-isolate in line with [Government guidance](#) for the required length of time. The isolation period can now be reduced to five full days as long as an individual has two consecutive negative test results on the morning of day 5 and day 6 of the isolation period.

We do appreciate that being away from school for a period of time due to isolation, or having a different teacher whilst a member of staff self-isolates, can be unsettling for some children. Please do contact us at school if you require any support with your child's attendance at school. Our aim is always to minimise the impact COVID has on your child's education. The best way for us to achieve this is to work together to overcome any challenges that may exist and for children to be learning in classrooms at school. Thank you for your support and do not hesitate to contact the main school office if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Lycett  
Headteacher

Headteacher:  
Mr R Lycett

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ

Tel: (01785) 258383

Email: [office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk)