



30th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the final update of the spring term. I do hope you and your family are well and looking forward to the Easter break. As we experience a relaxation in Government measures that will allow us some increased flexibility in what we can do, we must also continue to follow all advice to keep each other safe.

Home Testing over Easter

Thank you for all your help and support with home testing. The vast majority of the school are now home testing twice a week which is a significant addition to our system of controls. Today we will be distributing a further 2 packs of Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) so that your child can continue home testing over the Easter holiday. Please keep testing every Monday and Thursday morning and you must report the result to the [NHS](#). If the LFD result is positive you must immediately seek a PCR test. The only difference over the holiday period will be that we will not be emailing a link to the survey for you to inform the school of your result. However, you must still notify school if your child receives a positive result.

Reporting a positive case over Easter

In the event you receive a positive result from either your LFD or a PCR test, then please inform the school immediately using c19@smhs.staffs.sch.uk with the following details:

1. Your child's full name and teaching group
2. Your name and contact number
3. The date their symptoms commenced (if they had any)
4. The date of the confirmed positive test
5. Contacts including the names of friends who your child walked to and from school with, and who they socialised with at break and lunch time.

The inbox for this address will be checked daily at 10.00am up to and including 7th April 2021 in line with Government and Public Health guidance. After this date the inbox will be monitored but less frequently. Please also be aware that during the holiday period the school office phone, along with any messages left on the answer phone, will not be monitored. Office staff will be available to respond to any messages by phone from Monday 19th April 2021.

If we receive notification of a positive LFD result where the pupil has been attending school in the two days prior to testing positive, we will be required to trace close contacts who will need to follow self-isolation guidance for the required period. Similarly, if a pupil develops symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss of taste and/or smell) within two days of attending school and subsequently tests positive having had a PCR test, we will be required to trace close contacts. Please remember that the LFD home test kits should not be used if you have one of the three main symptoms for COVID-19. If anyone is displaying any of the three main symptoms they must seek a PCR test through the [NHS](#)

Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ

Tel: (01785) 258383

Email: office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk

It is important for pupils to continue to follow all guidance even if they receive a negative LFD or PCR test result. As children have returned to school they should be commended for the way in which they have continued to adhere to all systems to keep school as safe as possible. All existing systems will remain in place next term in line with the latest guidance. Over the Easter holiday the Government will be reviewing its advice on whether face coverings will continue to be worn in lessons, in addition to corridors and communal spaces. Please ensure your child does continue to bring their face coverings to school next term.

The new term starts on Monday 19th April 2021 and pupils should arrive at their usual start times and enter the site through their established entry points. We do expect all pupils to be wearing uniform in line with the school [uniform policy](#). Our uniform policy clearly states that any unnatural hair colours are not allowed in school. Furthermore, only one set of stud earrings are allowed and no other visible (including facial) piercings are allowed. If necessary, please make sure that you take necessary actions over the holiday to ensure your child meets these expectations on their return.

Whilst we are required to have windows and doors open to ventilate rooms, we would recommend children wear a plain V-neck jumper under their blazer to keep warm. It may also prove beneficial for children to wear a base layer or t-shirt under their school shirt. Furthermore, we continue to be advised to keep children outside for breaks and lunches, unless the weather is inclement, and therefore we advise children to bring a warm coat with them to school. Please be aware that as the term progresses and the temperatures increase, we do not expect children will need to wear additional outer layers when in the classroom.

I have been asked to share the following information with you. Staffordshire County Council are giving residents up to £200 financial help to pay their heating bills. This money does not need to be paid back. This support is available to families who claim free school meals for their children, or anyone who has lost their jobs due to COVID-19, have low or no income or claim benefits. Apparently this offer is only available until March 31st 2021, so click this [link](#) to check your eligibility and to apply.

Looking to the term ahead, the virtual Year 9 Choices Evening will take place on Tuesday 4th May. Year 11 & 13 students will be working hard prior to grades being submitted this summer. We will also be completing the remaining virtual Parents Evenings before the end of the academic year. Further details for all these events will be shared prior to them taking place. We are looking to rearrange school photographs for Year 10 and 11 pupils and any Key Stage 3 pupils who were not in school on the days photographs were taken last term.

We hope you all have a good holiday and well deserved break. Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact us at school if you need any assistance. Keep following national guidance – take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Lycett
Headteacher

Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ
Tel: (01785) 258383
Email: office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk