



17th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to my final update of 2020. As with the previous 30 updates since the start of the pandemic, I do hope that you and your family are well. There is no doubt that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on all of our daily lives. If this terrible virus has impacted on your health or you have lost a loved one, then our thoughts are with you. At the beginning of 2020 we certainly did not know what the year would have in store for us all. As the year now comes to a close, we still cannot predict exactly what the next twelve months will bring. However, with news of vaccines and rapid testing, collectively I am sure we all hope for a brighter 2021 and a return to some sense of normality.

Before this can happen we must all continue to follow the advice over the Christmas period as it appears Staffordshire is most likely to remain in Tier 3. We must protect ourselves, as well as our family and friends, by adhering to the guidance and always remembering 'Hands, Face, Space'. We have all worked so hard this term to keep to the rules and look after each other that we must not lose focus over the Christmas holiday. With this in mind, it is important you let school know if your child tests positive for the virus once the term finishes on Thursday 17th December.

In line with Government instruction, if your child tests positive for COVID-19 we will be contactable for 6 days from when term ends until **Wednesday 23rd December**. Therefore, if your child tests positive in the days immediately following the end of term, please email us at 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.

We will check this email inbox at **10am each day**, up to and including **Wednesday 23rd December 2020**.

If your child develops symptoms on **Friday 18th or Saturday 19th December**, and subsequently tests positive for COVID-19 after these dates, then school will be required to trace contacts. Please inform us immediately of the positive result using the email address above.

If symptoms develop from **Sunday 20th December** onwards, positive cases will be dealt with via the NHS Test and Trace Service. You should still notify school on the email address above.

If your child tests positive from **Thursday 24th December** onwards, or has to self-isolate due to someone in the family testing positive, you can email us or alternatively contact us by phone on **Monday 4th January 2021**.

Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ

Tel: (01785) 258383

Email: office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk

However, from Thursday 24th December to Sunday 3rd January 2021 we will not be checking emails on a regular basis whilst all staff have a well-deserved rest! Please also be aware that from Friday 18th December until Sunday 3rd January 2021 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 4th January 2021.

Where we are made aware of a positive case, and the individual was in school during the infectious period (two days prior to symptoms developing), we will be tracing close contacts. If your child is identified as a close contact of an infected individual, we will contact you via text and email, advising your child to self-isolate for the required number of days. Clearly we recognise that if we have to contact you, it is likely we will instruct your child to self-isolate over the Christmas period. Although this is the last thing we would want to do, I am sure you will appreciate that it is our responsibility to do as the Government requests in these circumstances in order to keep everyone safe and reduce the transmission of the virus.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that our website has a dedicated COVID section that contains all the information above and a wide range of support for families. This includes links to organisations that provide advice about staying safe online or where to go if you need advice around mental health and wellbeing. There is also a link to the Family Hub who provide help to individuals and families who need food supplies during these difficult times. You can find the page by following this link <https://www.staffordmanorhighschool.com/covid-19-updates>. We have also been made aware that CAMHS now have a self-referral form which can be accessed online for under 18's (parental consent is required). The form can be found by following this link <https://camhs.mpft.nhs.uk/staffordshire/self-referral-mental-health-support>

This year has been unprecedented and incredibly challenging for us all. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and kind messages over the last nine months. I maintain that by working together we can overcome anything that is put in our way and the Stafford Manor High School community has clearly proven this to be the case. I also firmly believe that we will all be stronger for our experiences as we emerge from the pandemic. The future is bright and we must now work together to do everything we can to support every single child to fulfil their dreams and ambitions. Your child deserves this from us and it will be our prime focus for 2021. In the meantime, I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year. I do hope that you and your family have an enjoyable but most importantly safe holiday. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Take care and stay positive.

Yours sincerely



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Headteacher

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