



11th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

These are rapidly changing times and I believe it is important that we regularly communicate any developments with you. By working together we can make sure we are doing our very best to keep you and your child safe whilst sustaining a quality education. It is clear that even though we all continue to do absolutely everything possible to protect each other, unfortunately no one in the Stafford Manor High School community is immune to catching this terrible virus.

Following the introduction of the latest national lockdown on the 5th November, the Government has made some minor changes to its guidance for schools. This mainly centres on making the wearing of face coverings mandatory in corridors and communal areas in all secondary schools. We had already implemented this advice and I would like to thank you for your support with this. The children have been fantastic in following the new rules and we are also happy to support any individual who wishes to wear their face covering in the classroom. We would advise that children bring more than one face covering to school and that they have a sealable storage bag and container for them when not in use. It is also important that children continue to bring their face coverings on a day when they have PE and are not in their usual school uniform.

As I have mentioned in previous letters, if we have an individual test positive for COVID-19 who attends our school, I contact the Local Outbreak Team who liaise with Public Health England. They provide comprehensive advice and guidance on how we identify close contacts in school and exactly who should self-isolate. It is important that you understand that a key principle is to identify close contacts of the infected individual in the 2 days before they became symptomatic, rather than before they tested positive. If the positive individual has been in school during that 2 day period before displaying symptoms, it is likely all close contacts will be required to self-isolate for 14 days after their last contact. If the infected person is in school for a shorter period then less people are likely to need to self-isolate. If the infected person has not been in school at all during the 2 day period, then we may not be required to take any further action.

Therefore, it is crucially important that you keep your child at home if they have any form of symptoms of coronavirus (a new continuous cough; high temperature or loss of taste and/or smell). I would urge you to err on the side of caution if you are unsure, keep your child at home and seek a test immediately. Please contact us at school to keep us updated and we can also help with advice if needed. Furthermore, Staffordshire County Council are now also asking residents to consider getting tested as a precaution if they have other symptoms such as: headaches, aches and pains, feeling tired for no good reason, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing, sometimes 'tummy ache' in children. More details on testing from the County Council can be found at <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/Testing/Book-a-test.aspx>. Please remember that an absence related to COVID-19 is coded in such a way that it does not count against a child's attendance. Keeping your child away from school in current circumstances, can reduce the need of others to self-isolate and vastly increases our chances of preventing an outbreak in school.

Headteacher:
Mr R Lycett

Wolverhampton Road, Stafford, ST17 9DJ

Tel: (01785) 258383

Email: office@smhs.staffs.sch.uk

We had scheduled all school photographs to be taken on Friday 13th November. Due to the recent changes in national circumstances, along with the fact we have some children self-isolating, we have an amended plan. Years 8 and 9, as well as 7EA and 7EW will have their photograph taken on Friday 13th November. Year 10 and 11, and the remaining Year 7 pupils will now have their photographs taken on Wednesday 25th November. This will help us ensure we are doing everything we can to keep everyone safe. If any pupils are self-isolating or absent on these days, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to rearrange another alternative date, but will do all we can to try and ensure the vast majority have an opportunity to have their photograph taken. We appreciate your understanding with this change, as well as the fact that we may have to make further amendments if other year groups are required to self-isolate. Unfortunately, we will only be able to take photographs of individual pupils and will not be able to take joint photographs of siblings this year.

We continue to update the COVID page on our website with all the latest advice and guidance we receive. One really useful addition includes reference to the NHS 'Hands. Face. Space.' public information campaign that urges the public to continue to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control infection rates. As part of this [campaign](#), a video has been released to show exactly how coronavirus spreads indoors. With people expected to spend more time inside during the winter, the film – produced with the help of scientific experts – encourages the public to follow simple steps to reduce the risk of infection. <https://vimeo.com/455704121/01b3eea402>. The second useful link is to Staffordshire's Family Hub which is an organisation that supports individuals and families who need food supplies during these challenging times. If you feel this could be of help then follow the link. [Family Hub Assistance Grant for food and Essential supplies.](#)

Friday 13th November is Children In Need and we will be running a competition to guess the number of sweets in the school trophy! If pupils wish to take part, they can bring 50 pence which will be donated to Children In Need, and the pupil with the closest guess will win the sweets! Next week is Anti-Bullying week and a number of events will take place ending with all members of the school being invited to sign a pledge stating that they are 'United Against Bullying'. On Monday 16th November children are invited to wear odd socks in support of 'Odd Socks Day'. This day is part of Anti-Bullying week and is an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique.

We hope that you and your family continue to stay well. Please do follow all the advice to protect yourselves and those around you. As always, if you need any help or advice then please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Thank you for your support. Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



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