



Five Ways Primary School

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29th January 2021

Dear Parents,

COVID-19 Lockdown Update

I hope you and your families are all remaining safe and well. It has been quite an eventful couple of weeks in education, so I am writing to keep you abreast of everything you need to know.

Reopening of school to all pupils delayed

On Wednesday 27th January, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced that it will not be possible to open schools fully after the February half-term break and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the re-opening of schools from Monday 8th March. School will remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as it is now. Our Nursery provision will also continue to remain open after February half-term for those children who are attending currently.

We have been informed that schools, as well as parents and carers will be given at least two weeks notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education. As soon as I receive further official updates from The Government, I will communicate this with parents.

For now, as a school, we will continue to focus on our home learning provision and continue to develop what we are doing. As home learning is now to continue after February half-term, please feel reassured that we will continue to make sure that we are doing everything we possibly can for our pupils, to make their learning experience the best it can be while we are working online.

Donation of Laptops

You will be aware from previous communication that we have currently received 14 laptops from the Department for Education which have already been distributed to families with the highest level of need. We have been informed by the DfE that we are not eligible for any more laptops currently. I am pleased to inform you however, that a member of our school community has bought 2 new laptops and has donated them to the school to support our online learning, along with another member of our school community who has donated a laptop that is no longer needed at home. On behalf of our pupils and staff, I would like to thank the 2 members of our school community for their generosity and kindness; I know the laptops really will make a huge difference to the quality of online learning available to more of our pupils. Thank you.

Nursery Places for 2021 – 2022

The New Year is a time when many parents consider which setting they would like their child to attend as they enter **Nursery** in **September 2021**. If you, or anyone you know has a child



of Nursery age, and would like to learn more about our teacher-led Nursery Provision, discuss what options are available for your child, or register your interest in taking up a place in our purpose designed Nursery, please contact the school office to speak to Miss Grice, who is our Nursery teacher. Please be aware that application forms for Nursery are available to access on our school website via the 'Information for Parents' tab, or alternatively by following this link: <https://www.fiveways-primary-school.org.uk/school-information/admissions>

The application round is open now and the closing date for Nursery applications is Monday 29th March 2021.

INSET Day

This is a reminder that school will be **CLOSED** to **ALL** pupils on Friday 12th February 2021, including for pupils of critical workers, vulnerable pupils and Nursery pupils because of our planned school INSET. I would like to make you aware that online home learning will not be available on this day.

February Half-Term Closure

We have been informed by The Department for Education that schools will CLOSE as usual over February half-term and will not remain open to vulnerable children, children of critical workers and Nursery children during that week. This means that school will close for pupils of critical workers, vulnerable pupils and Nursery pupils who are currently attending, on Thursday 11th February 2021 (due to our INSET day).

School will re-open on Monday 22nd February 2021, only to vulnerable children, children of critical workers and Nursery pupils who are currently attending.

Please be aware that online home learning will not be available during the February half-term break.

Covid-19 Contact Tracing

As you can appreciate, schools continue to play an important role in contact tracing for those pupils and staff who are continuing to attend school during this lockdown period. Contact tracing remains vitally important in the continued national effort to limit the spread of the virus.

Public Health England, in liaison with the DfE, has agreed a 2 day window after the final day of this term (Thursday 11th February 2021) in which schools have been asked to remain contactable so that we can assist with contact tracing where necessary. This means that parents of pupils who have been attending school during this lockdown period, are asked to notify us if your child tests positive for Covid-19 up until 5.00pm on Saturday 13th February 2021, due to our INSET day.

The school office will be closed throughout the INSET day on Friday 12th February and during the half-term break however, emails sent to office@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk will still be monitored until 5.00pm on Saturday 13th February. We have also purchased an emergency phone that will be monitored by a member of the Senior Leadership Team up until 5.00pm on Saturday 13th February. The number is as follows: 07726 615591. Please only contact us via the telephone number above or via email at office@fiveways.staffs.sch.uk if your child has been attending school during this lockdown period and tests positive for Covid-19.

Please note, that where a pupil's test result comes back positive after 5.00pm on 13th February, we do not need to be informed until Monday 22nd February when school re-opens. After 13th February, all positive cases and contact tracing will be dealt with through NHS Test and Trace.



Coronavirus Update from Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire County Council report that cases remain high in the county and state that Staffordshire residents all need to continue following the lockdown rules. The Council are reminding people in Staffordshire not to become Covid-complacent as cases remain high and a new mass vaccination centre opens to serve the north of the county. We have been informed that Staffordshire and Stoke have passed the 100,000 people vaccinated mark and the new centre in Tunstall can vaccinate 6 people every 5 minutes. The County have pointed out that even though the Covid rate for Staffordshire has fallen, it remains close to 400 per 100,000 population per week.

Continued Positive Comments – Thank You!

We continue to be overwhelmed with the amount of support and wonderful feedback we have received from families. On behalf of the staff at Five Ways, I would like to thank everyone for their continued kindness and support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rachel Mander
Headteacher

