



Five Ways Primary School

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COVID-19 Update: Government Announcements / Increased Cases of Covid-19 in Staffordshire

Dear Parents,

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

Step 4 of the Roadmap

This week, the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, made several announcements regarding the final roadmap step (Step 4) as we transition out of lockdown. Subject to a final review of the data next week, the public have been informed that legal restrictions related to schools will end at the end of this term, which for Five Ways, is Wednesday 21st July.

As you know, schools have to be guided by the DfE and Public Health England and have to make all decisions based on advice provided. On 7th July, The DfE published new guidance ahead of Step 4, related to the autumn term, when children will return to school on Thursday 2nd September.

Of course, The Senior Leadership Team and I will want to read through the guidance carefully and consider what this will mean in practice for Five Ways. As soon as the Senior Leadership Team and I have studied the guidance, I will write to you before the end of term and share any updates with you related to arrangements for September.

However, for now, as a school, we will continue to follow all of the Covid-19 safety measures that are in place currently, and I would ask that parents support us in following them too.

High Levels of Covid-19 across Staffordshire

We have been advised that regardless of the Governments announcements, we are currently experiencing high levels of Covid-19 across Staffordshire, with the majority being the Delta variant which spreads very easily. The levels are above the West Midlands and England averages, and several Staffordshire school settings currently have outbreaks. The outbreaks and the increasing levels are being observed especially amongst children.

Given the current high numbers of children and young people testing positive, schools have been advised to remain alert and to enforce all Covid-19 safety measures in school until the end of term. The Local Outbreak Control Team has looked carefully at the potential health risks (especially to those not yet vaccinated), and the educational and reputational impacts associated with becoming complacent and relaxing safety measures before the end of term.



They believe that any relaxation of rules before the end of term, could potentially result in many class bubbles being placed in isolation and pupils missing important end of term activities.

Covid-19 Health and Safety Rules in place until Wednesday 21st July 2021

I would like to stress the importance of parents and families continuing to follow our Covid-19 Health and Safety rules that are in place until the end of term on Wednesday 21st July. The following list of the main safety rules act as a reminder to parents whilst on our school site until 21st July 2021:

- We still DO expect adults to wear a face mask whilst on the school premises – both indoors and outdoors. This means that ALL adults who are dropping off and collecting children from school MUST wear a face mask when on the school site, unless exempt on medical grounds.
- Staggered start and finish times will remain in place to ensure year groups do not mix and to allow additional social distancing between the adults on site.
- Parents and pupils are only able to enter the school site through the main pedestrian gate at the front of the school.
- The one way system remains in operation around the school site. Please only exit out of the side gate leading onto Hill Street or the top gate leading to the junction by Chaplain Road. Parents are asked NOT to turn and walk out of the school site through the main pedestrian gate or vehicle gate, unless permission has been granted by a member of the Senior Leadership Team or you are a Nursery parent collecting your child during the lunch hour period.
- Only 1 adult should accompany a child onto site to drop off in the morning and collect in the afternoon.
- Queuing systems are still in operation at drop off and collection times, and parents are still encouraged to stay 2m distance away from each other.
- Our ethos of an 'open door policy' very much remains albeit by telephone and email or your child's Home-Link book (Year 1 to Year 6 only) until 21st July 2021. If you would like to speak to your child's classteacher, please phone or email the office or write a message in your child's Home-Link book (Year 1 – Year 6 only) and your child's teacher will contact you by phone.
- The office remains **CLOSED** to visitors and parents. Parents are still not able to enter the office area with queries or have face to face meetings with teachers at the present time. No parents will be permitted inside the school building without prior arrangement agreed by the Senior Leadership Team.

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>



The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home. Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/>.

If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

I would like to thank you for your understanding and continued support during these unprecedented times. Regardless of the fact that schools need to continue to follow the current Covid-19 Health and Safety rules, I am sure that the children will still have an enjoyable time with their class, including many end of year treats, before we break up for the summer holidays on 21st July.

I am sure that you will agree that we all have a duty to protect each other and be mindful of the situation which we all find ourselves in at this time. It is hoped that by working together, we can keep as many class bubbles in school until the end of term, and look forward to a brighter future ahead of us in the autumn term.

I will look forward to writing to you before the end of term on 21st July, and sharing any updates with you related to arrangements for September.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R. Mander
Headteacher

