

THE RICHARD CLARKE FIRST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Kay Hanson

Schoolhouse Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3BT

Telephone: 01283 840206

Email: office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk

01/10/2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware we have been through a tricky few weeks with ongoing Covid positive cases in our community affecting children, parents and staff, and it goes without saying we wish all those affected speedy recoveries.

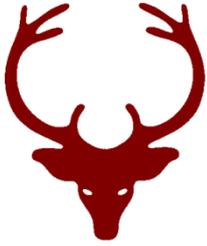
I am conscious that you may be getting fatigued with lengthy letters each time we have a case. Therefore, I am going to outline in this letter the latest guidance for you to keep for reference. Then if there are new cases we will just alert you rather than have to keep sending the same information repeatedly. We will only send new letters if there are any changes to guidance and I will update you in the weekly newsletter as normal.

As you know we are following advice from Staffordshire County Council's Local Outbreak Team, and have activated our Outbreak Management Plan. In the Stage 2 Response Stage of our plan, we have introduced the following enhanced control measures:

- Reinforcing social distancing measures
- Consistent groupings of children in their class bubbles
- Staggered lunches
- Face coverings /PPE for staff in communal areas
- Staff meetings to revert to remote/outside
- Limited visitors to school
- Parents requested to wear masks for drop offs and pick-ups and to socially distance
- Parents to communicate with school via socially distanced conversations on yard/email/phone and not come into the classrooms/office
- Postponement of clubs, trips and events

These measures will be continually reviewed and kept in place until the outbreak is over, usually 14 days after isolation of the last case (at least until after half term).

We will do our utmost to keep school/classes open and will only go to remote learning as a last resort if staffing classes becomes operationally impossible. If infection rates escalate, some classes may need to close for a short period and move to remote learning to prevent the spread and reduce ongoing transmission, although as already mentioned, this will be the last resort.



THE RICHARD CLARKE FIRST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Kay Hanson

Schoolhouse Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3BT

Telephone: 01283 840206

Email: office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk

Local Authority (LA) advice was updated yesterday because Covid-19 rates in Staffordshire are now some of the highest in the UK. Because of this, they have asked all schools and parents to do what they can to minimise the spread of Covid-19.

As a parent, you can help by continuing to LFT test your child twice a week. If they are showing any symptoms of Covid-19 you must keep them off school and get a PCR test as soon as possible at a local testing site.

If another member of your household tests positive for Covid-19, the LA are strongly recommending that all members of your household get PCR tests as a precaution. They would also advise you to stay at home until you get your result. They are asking that household contacts have a PCR around day 2/3 after the first case tests positive and then wherever possible encouraging you to let your child stay at home until the result is received however we can only encourage this as there are no legal grounds for your child to stay off and isolate unless they have Covid symptoms. Should the PCR come back negative then your child/ren will just return as normal but they encourage a further PCR test another 5/6 days after the first PCR test as delta tests positive quite late at times.

To summarise, the Local Authority:

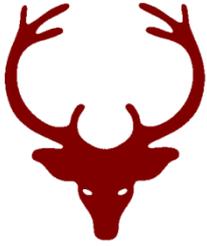
- Request that all contacts of positive cases are asked to get a PCR test
- Where pupils/staff have a sibling/parent/guardian/other member in their household who is a confirmed case there is a high risk of infection. PCR testing strongly advised for all household contacts. Pupils/staff household contacts advised to stay at home pending PCR test result – this will normally take 48-72 hours
- Promotes the vaccine to eligible pupils and staff

If you are advised that there has been a further confirmed case of COVID-19 within your child's class then guidance states that the whole class are considered a potential close contact with the affected individuals. You must then follow the guidance as set out above.

Children who have previously tested positive do not need to retest for 90 days unless they have symptoms and can come to school if they are symptom free.

PCR tests can be booked online through the NHS Test & Trace website or by calling 119.

If the PCR test is positive, they will be required to self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test or onset of the symptoms.



THE RICHARD CLARKE FIRST SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Kay Hanson

Schoolhouse Lane, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire, WS15 3BT

Telephone: 01283 840206

Email: office@richardclarke.staffs.sch.uk

Please see the link to the PHE Staying at Home Guidance.

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

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they 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.

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 is available at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We recognise that the guidance, disruption to children's learning and case numbers are burdensome for pupils, parents and staff. However, we are only following the advice given by Staffordshire County Council. We thank you for your continued patience, kindness and understanding as our team work tirelessly to ensure continuity of education to the best of our abilities.

With very best wishes,

Kay Hanson

Weary but stoic Headteacher