

30.9.21

Re: Covid Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

On 15.9.21, I wrote to you about the increase in Covid cases in school and explained the additional measures we were putting in place. I said I would review the situation in a few weeks and the time has come to give you a further update on where we are at now. Although positive cases at Violet Way have decreased, the Local Authority have been in contact with all Staffordshire schools to advise that cases within the community are rising and the prevalence of Covid-19 in Staffordshire is higher than West Midlands and England average. As a result, they have asked schools to take proactive action. They are pleased that our numbers are so low and have said that in order to maintain this we should continue to follow the advice and additional measures suggested.

The following suggested measures are already in place at Violet Way:

- Additional cleaning of touch points during the school day
- Classrooms are well ventilated
- Good hygiene routines are in place
- Sending letters to parents to request asymptomatic PCR testing when in contact with a positive case
- Risk assessment and Outbreak Management plan
- Staff engaging with LFT testing twice per week
- Year group assemblies at separate times and classes are spaced apart from each other

In addition, we will not be having parent events in school. I have spoken to the Local Authority team and they have advised that this continues at least up until half term. I will carry out my next review by the end of the first week back after the holiday so the measures described in this letter will remain in place until Friday 5th November. Unfortunately, this does impact on planned events.

Please read the following points carefully:

- Library sessions with parents cancelled (to be reviewed at the end of the first week back after half term holiday).
- Individual (and siblings in school) Tempest photographs on Wednesday 13th October will happen because we can keep children in classes and avoid mixing. Unfortunately, we will not be able to offer the family photographs before school this year.
- Harvest assemblies for each class will not happen in school. Class songs and poems will be videoed and shared with parents by Friday 15th October.

- Swimming for Y1 can continue as they go as a class and we have our own transport. The children do not mix with any other classes and no other schools attend at the same time. They only have contact with the swimming instructors. The centre has Covid-secure measures in place.
- Only essential visitors to school during the school day (supply, music teachers, dance teacher) and we will continue to ask them not to attend if they have experienced any of the three main or precautionary symptoms to prevent risk of Covid to the setting.
- Parents' meetings will be on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th October – these will not happen in school. Staff will arrange meetings with parents via Teams (KS1 pupils) and Tapestry (EYFS Reception pupils). Further information about booking a parent meeting will be sent out next week.
- Staff will have INSET in our own school. The planned INSET with Edge Hill staff will not happen to avoid mixing staff across the two schools.
- We will be recording a video for parents of new Reception starters (September 2022) and are hoping to be able to invite them for a tour at some point next half term.

As a school we are very disappointed that we are having to cancel, or consider virtual alternatives, for all of the lovely events we had planned for this half term. However, we all have a vested interest in keeping ourselves and our community safe and preventing the spread of Covid.

Please be reassured that I will continue to take advice from the Local Authority, review our procedures and measures regularly, and keep you informed.

Your faithfully,

Mrs Kee
Headteacher