



St. Chad's C.E. (C) Primary School

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Acting Headteacher: Mrs J Brennan BA(Hons)

"Building together for a better future"

1st October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I have recently met with the Staffordshire Local Authority for an update on COVID levels in our area. Covid-19 rates in Staffordshire are now some of the highest in the UK, and we must do everything we can to reduce these rates and stop the spread of the virus in our communities. Staffordshire are advising that we now increase measures in school. The **suggested** control measures that schools have been encouraged to put in place include:

- The reintroduction of class bubbles
- No all-school events like assemblies for the time being
- Staggering of start, end and lunch times
- Possible reintroduction of face coverings
- 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.
- Consideration of other pre-summer break COVID controls where the school sees fit to do so.

Currently, we have 1 active case of COVID in school. Due to the low number of positive cases in our setting, our COVID outbreak management team and senior leaders have revisited our risk assessments and outbreak plans and have agreed not to impose all of the above controls at this stage. We will continue to monitor this closely and we must all be prepared for a reintroduction of measures if necessary. We will seek advice from the Local Outbreak Team before any other measures are imposed. Some schools have already had to close year groups and have had no choice but to resume remote home learning. This is a last resort and we really hope that we can keep levels low enough to remain open, but we must be prepared for this if infection rates rise.

We have been informed by the high school that certain sporting events have been cancelled to reduce the mixing of pupils from different schools and we fully appreciate that it may be upsetting for some pupils who have been selected to represent our school. Please let them know that we are sorry about this and that sometimes matters are taken out of our own hands, but we are hopeful that we will be able to rearrange some of these events in the near future. We have also had to postpone the amount of after school clubs that our teachers would have been delivering after half term to reduce the mixing between age groups. Again, we will introduce these clubs as soon as we are advised to do so.

As a parent, you can help to keep COVID rates low by socially distancing on our playground and keeping a 2m distance from staff members. You may also wish to LFT your children twice a week. If children 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 local authority strongly recommends that all members of your household get PCR tests as a precaution. **The local authority would also advise you to stay at home until you get your result.**

I will keep you informed of any updates as soon as we receive them. Thank you for your continued understanding and support.

Kindest regards

Mrs Brennan
Acting Headteacher

