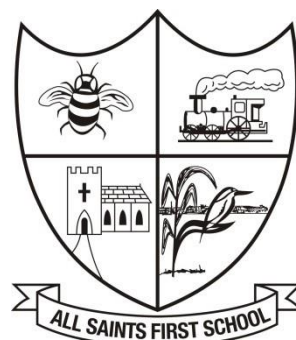
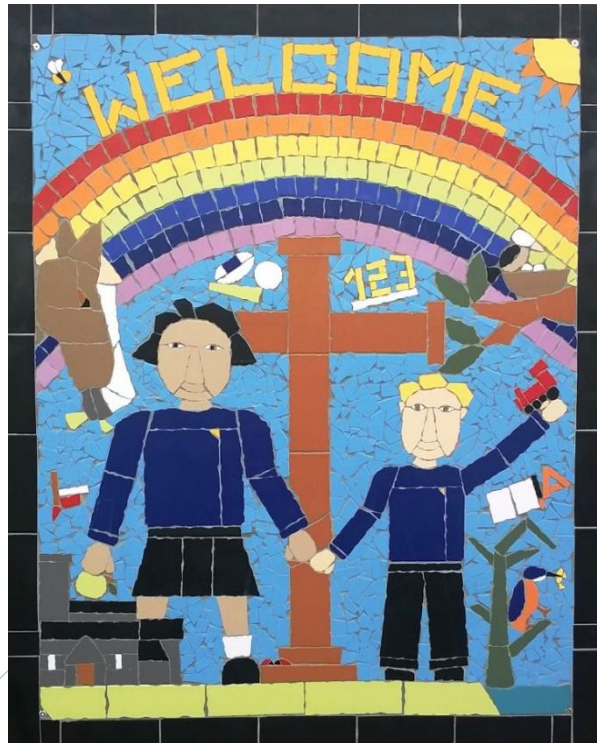


Information for Parents

JANUARY 2022



Vicki Bradley
HEADTEACHER

The Omicron variant is spreading very rapidly at the moment and as you will be aware the Government have implemented their Plan B policy. As such there have been a few key changes to their guidance for schools, these are outlined below.

Summary of latest DFE guidance issued on Sunday 2nd January 2022

1. Staff and children over 5 in all education and childcare settings, are advised to take one self-test at home either the evening or morning before they return in January, then continue to test twice weekly at home. Even if someone has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, they are strongly encouraged to take part in LFD testing once they have completed their isolation period for their prior infection.
2. Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10-day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

3. Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Please also be aware that Staffordshire Local Outbreak Team continue to offer recommendations on both a county and school level depending on the rates of infection locally and the level of outbreak in school.

School will remain open for face-to-face learning whenever possible and will only move to remote learning when advised by the local outbreak team. Your support in following both DFE and local outbreak advice and recommendations is appreciated in order that we can remain open wherever possible.

Bubbles

Class bubbles will continue until Plan B is reviewed on January 26th 2022.

Breakfast and after school clubs will continue to operate and wherever possible, children will be socially distanced from children in other bubbles.

Attendance & Illness

Our usual Attendance and Illness policies remain in place. In addition, children who have any of the 3 main symptoms of covid (see below) should not attend school and will be sent home if they develop the symptoms during the school day. We would ask for your support in collecting them as soon as possible following notification. It is recommended that PCR tests are booked for the child. Children should not then return to school until they have received a negative PCR result and they no longer have a temperature.

Staffordshire's recommendation is that children who have any of the following precautionary symptoms, should also consider a PCR test. According to current national guidance, these children can return to school whilst awaiting the result. However, in an effort to support the measures whilst rates are so high, Staffordshire would support children remaining at home until a negative PCR test is received. We will of course support you with this by providing home learning for your child until they return to school.

Testing for people with symptoms ([SCC website](#))

If you have any of the following symptoms of coronavirus:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

[Book a coronavirus test online](#) or by ringing 119, and remain in isolation until you receive your test result.

Precautionary symptoms

It is possible to catch coronavirus and not display any symptoms. Many people who have tested positive also displayed other symptoms. Staffordshire residents are therefore advised to book a coronavirus test as a precaution if they have symptoms such as:

- Headaches
- Aches and pains
- Feeling very tired for no good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Sometimes 'tummy ache' in children

If you have one or more of these additional symptoms, [book your test online](#) and when you are able to, select the option "My local council has asked me to get a test".

At this time of year many children will have seasonal colds. Please do communicate with school if you are unsure about the need for testing.

One-way System

The one-way system for all parents is in operation whilst on the school grounds. Please arrive in the morning via the side gate on Mill Lane and leave via the front gate on Church Lane. In the afternoon, please arrive through the front gate on Church Lane and leave via the side gate on Mill Lane. Whilst queuing, please use the spots to support social distancing.

Morning - Drop Off

Our usual start to the school day will continue in October. Therefore, children should arrive at school between **8.45am and 8.55am**. Parents of children arriving late will be asked to complete the late register.

Afternoon Pick Up Times

In order to reduce the high number of parents arriving to collect children at the end of the school day, staggered collections will continue to operate. The times will be as they were before the Christmas break, please speak to your child's class teacher if you are unsure of your collection time.

Face Coverings

Staff will continue to wear face coverings whilst on gate duty. We would be very appreciative if you could show your support by also wearing a face covering whilst on the school site and when talking with school staff at the gate.

Outdoor Activities

We would be very grateful if your child could have a pair of wellingtons that they can keep in school. In order to aid with ventilation and airing the classrooms through the winter months whilst the heating is on, we will be taking the children outside for playtimes and lunchtimes. As bubbles have now been re-introduced, there will be a need for classes to play on the field every day. A waterproof coat and wellingtons are therefore strongly recommended.