

1st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have all been keeping safe and well over Christmas break and have enjoyed spending time with your families. I hope the holiday has been kind to you and that the New Year has started well. I wanted to write to you to formally welcome you back to the start of spring term at Shobnall Primary School but also because there has been so much speculation and rumour over the past few days with regards to the government's response to the coronavirus outbreak.

For some, it has not been the ideal Christmas break or the start to the New Year that many had hoped for as the threat of COVID-19 continues to rise and the risks have increased. For some, it has meant that either they or their loved ones have been poorly. Our thoughts are with any of our families and friends who are suffering with coronavirus right now; it is certainly a time to be focused and cautious in preventing the spread of the disease.

As you will now be aware, all of Staffordshire is now in [Tier 4: Stay at home](#). However, the government has made it a national priority that education and childcare settings continue to operate as normal as possible during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

Even though all primary schools in London boroughs remain closed next week due to higher infection rates, for us, we will welcome back **all** of our pupils on **Tuesday 5th January 2021** as planned and school will be **open**. Unless we receive any further information to the contrary, we will be at the gates to greet the children as we always do, but will be tighter and more vigilant in relation to our procedures. Please keep checking your text messages and emails though as if the government revoke this decision over the next few days, we will be in contact with you immediately to provide you with the information you need with regards to remote learning (already on our school website) and arrangements for face-to-face learning in school for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers.

PROCEDURES

Class bubbles remain the same for our school. Our risk assessments and control measures have been revised and robustly reviewed by the JTMAT Trust Board and our own Local Governing Body and as always, they will remain under constant review as our staff and pupils' health continues to remain our priority. The whole school has also been deep cleaned over the Christmas holiday. We will continue to provide the safest environment we can, as we have done from March 2020. Detail of our procedures can still be found on the [Covid-19 Info](#) page on our school website in case you need to refer to them.

As we have advised previously, please try to be on time and not before (as that could result in queuing, which we want to minimise) or too late. We once again remind our families that only one adult should accompany those children who need to be dropped off and picked up as this keeps the numbers outside of school as low as possible at any one time. It is also important not to congregate in groups or with others outside your household.

Whilst dropping off and collecting your children, please keep yourselves and others safe at all times by following government guidance of 'Hands, Space and Face' - please stay 2m apart and wear a face covering. In the past we have asked that parents and carers to wear face coverings when coming to school. Whilst we cannot enforce any adult decision and the space is outdoors, in light of the increased risk in Staffordshire, we ask that adults do wear a face covering at these busy communal times to keep themselves and others as safe as possible.

Should our remote learning procedures need to be applied to ensure learning can continue



from home, we will ensure that those families who have not yet received their log-in and code for SeeSaw will do so this week, so please check your email as you will need to activate this when it comes through. This will then allow the class teachers to communicate with you directly and provide the children with resources and instructions for live learning.

All other guidance remains the same (including mandatory attendance). Please refer to [what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges](#), which will provide you with the answers to any further questions you may have.

WELLBEING WEEK

You will already know of our plans for Wellbeing Week as detailed on our last newsletter of 2020. Each class will be exploring the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' and will be engaging in physical activity during the week as we launch Commando Joe's, an evidence-based character education programme, enabling young people to develop life skills. Children will be undertaking a series of top secret missions so we would like them to come to school every day in their comfortable/sporty clothing so that they can get as active as possible. Please ensure clothing is warm as children will work outside, weather permitting.

YEAR 5 SWIMMING

Year 5 received a letter just before Christmas, as swimming was due to resume on 12 January 2021. We assume that this will now be postponed as under tier 4 restrictions, gyms and indoor swimming pools, indoor sports courts and dance studios must close. We will definitely confirm this with Year 5 parents, once we have received confirmation from Meadowside Leisure Centre.

WHAT DOES TIER 4 MEAN?

Please refer to [Tier 4: Stay at home](#) for further guidance, but in brief:

- Stay at home. You must not leave your home unless you have a "reasonable excuse" such as work, education, essential shopping or medical appointments
- In general, you must not meet socially. However, you can exercise or meet in a public outdoor place with people you live with, your support bubble or with one other person
- You must not meet indoors socially with any other household, unless part of your support bubble
- Clinically extremely vulnerable people are advised not to work if they cannot work from home
- All shops deemed non-essential by the government must close
- Hairdressers and barbers must close
- Indoor entertainment venues must close
- Gyms and indoor swimming pools, indoor sports courts and dance studios must close

WHAT TO DO IF MY CHILD IS DISPLAYING SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

As has always been the case, if **anyone** in your household becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), your child must **not** attend school and you will be advised to follow the [guidance for household with possible or confirmed \(COVID-19\) infection](#). This sets out that you must:

- Self-isolate for at least 10 days
- Arrange to have a [test to see if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)



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You may also find it useful to refer to the [letter from the Chief Nurse and Interim Chief Medical Officer of NHS Test and Trace on when parents and guardians should book a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) test for their child.](#)

Please keep the school fully informed as swift action must be taken if we become aware that someone who has attended our school has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). This was the case when we received confirmation at the start of the Christmas holiday that someone had tested positive and we had to advise groups and individuals to isolate. We can only act on facts so speculation and rumour is unhelpful.

I have no doubt that I will be writing to again very soon, so please ensure you continue to check all of your communication channels. Our strength of community will continue to see us through and please sleep easy in the knowledge that our school will always ensure that your children are at the heart of everything we do. As always, we will continue to work hard to ensure they are learning, having fun and staying safe.

As always, take care of each other and stay safe. We look forward to seeing you on **Tuesday 5 January 2021.**

Many thanks and kind regards,

Mr D. Adams
Head Teacher



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