



Through God, We
Love, Laugh and
Learn.

ST. MICHAEL'S CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL

Weavers Lane
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 8QB

T: 01785 334930

email: office@st-michaels-stone.staffs.sch.uk

Twitter: @StMichaelsStone

Headteacher: Mrs J Wass BA (Hons) NPQH

18th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to inform you that we currently have a number of positive cases of COVID-19 that have been identified within the school. I am aware that National guidance is changing on an almost daily basis so have outlined the most current guidelines on symptoms, testing and isolation periods in this letter.

Please help us reduce the risk of transmission by continuing to be vigilant for any symptoms that your child may have and follow the appropriate guidance.

If you are unsure of what action to take at any point please contact us via the school office where we will be happy to help.

Main COVID-19 Symptoms

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

What to do if you have symptoms:

If you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, even if they're mild:

- Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab) to check if you have COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- Stay at home and do not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get your test result – only leave your home to have a test.
- Do not attend school until you have received a negative PCR test.



Additional Symptoms

A number of other symptoms may occur which are a result of COVID-19. If your child has any of these symptoms or is feeling generally unwell I ask please that you carry out an LFD test on your child as a precautionary measure to help us in the reduction of transmission due to asymptomatic cases. Additional symptoms may include (but are not restricted to):

- Fever or chills
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhoea

If Your Child Tests Positive:

If your child tests positive on a PCR test or LFD test they need to isolate. Guidance on isolation periods has recently changed, the most up to date information is included below.

This change came into effect in England on Monday 17th January.

People who are self-isolating with COVID-19 have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with an LFD test on both day 5 and day 6 and they do not have a temperature. For example, if they test negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to their education or childcare setting immediately on day 6.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period, and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace.

If the result of either test is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they get negative results from two LFD tests on consecutive days or until they have completed 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests or anyone who continues to have a temperature will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

Close Contact of a Positive Case:

If your child is identified within school or by Track and Trace as a close contact of a positive case or is living in the same household as someone who has tested positive then please follow the guidance outlined below which was updated on 11th January 2022.

LFD tests are very good at identifying people who have high levels of coronavirus and are most likely to pass on infection to others, even if you do not have symptoms. You are therefore strongly advised to take daily LFD tests during the period you are at highest risk of becoming infected yourself.



If you are aged 5 years and over and have been identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19, but are not legally required to self-isolate, you are strongly advised to:

- take an LFD test every day for 7 days, or until 10 days since your last contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19 if this is earlier
- take this daily test before you leave the household for the first time that day
- If you have been informed by NHS Test and Trace that you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 but they have not been able to tell you the date you had contact with this person, you should take an LFD test every day for 7 days.

If you take an LFD test and the result is positive, you should immediately self-isolate to prevent you from passing the infection on to other people and follow the stay at home guidance. You should start a new self-isolation period, starting from the date the positive test was taken.

Daily LFD testing allows for early identification of any transmission of COVID-19 including any person who is asymptomatic and thus helps us reduce any spread.

If you require LFD tests information can be found on the following website as to where you can collect them for free or how to order online:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

The website is currently stating that test kits are available from Stone Leisure Centre, Stone Library, Stone Pharmacy, Birchill and Watson and Boots chemist on the High Street.

Please help us by carrying out LFD tests as appropriate on your child and by being vigilant for any signs of your child being unwell. This will enable us to keep our school community safe and to keep our classrooms running as normal.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs J Wass

Headteacher

