



14<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

**COVID-19 Weekly Testing**



We would like to continue to encourage families and households to test themselves twice every week at home. Anyone in your household that is 11 years and over are eligible to participate in weekly testing by ordering free Rapid Lateral Flow Tests from NHS direct. Please follow to link below if you would like to order these:

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

**PCR Testing & COVID-19 Symptoms (including Delta Variant)**



If your child has one or more of the below COVID-19 symptoms, (these include the additional symptoms of the Delta Variant), they will be required to remain at home and book a PCR test:

- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Temperature
- ✓ Loss of taste and/or smell
- ✓ Headache
- ✓ Sore Throat
- ✓ Runny Nose

It is vitally important that a PCR test is arranged and not a Rapid Lateral Flow test. The PCR test picks up the new COVID-19 variant a lot quicker and Rapid Lateral Flow tests should only be used for asymptomatic testing (testing for people who do not have symptoms)

PCR tests can be conducted at a drive through site or ordered through the post. Please click the link below should you need to book a PCR for your child.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Booking on-line is the best way to book a test and the quickest way to be tested and receive your results back. If you are advised by school to book a PCR test and your child does not have symptoms you will need to select one of the following when booking a PCR test on line.

- I've been told to get a test by my nursery, work or place of education

**This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people/vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.**



Squirrel Hayes First School  
Springfield Road  
Biddulph  
Stoke On Trent  
ST8 7DF  
Headteacher: Mrs. E. J. Pickford  
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- I've been told to get a test by my local council, health protection team or healthcare professional

The cover of the Staffordshire County Council Covid School Bulletin is primarily blue with a white and pink geometric pattern on the left. It features the Staffordshire County Council logo in the top left corner. The main title 'Covid School Bulletin' is in large white font. Below the title, the date '27 September 2021' is displayed. The subtitle 'Your weekly COVID school update from Staffordshire County Council' is in bold black font. The main content area has a light blue background and includes a section titled 'Mobile Testing Unit' with a paragraph of text, followed by a 'General Advice' section with a bulleted list of four items.

Staffordshire  
County Council

# Covid School Bulletin

27 September 2021

## Your weekly COVID school update from Staffordshire County Council

### Mobile Testing Unit

To help tackle the rising number of cases in high schools a Mobile Testing Unit is to be deployed in schools across the county. This will offer precautionary PCR tests to students. It is known that around a third of people with Covid show no symptoms, so this will help identify more people who may unknowingly have the virus and in turn help stop the spread of infection. The PCR tests are sent to laboratories for analysis.

#### General Advice

- Everyone should get a free lateral flow test twice weekly
- Get a PCR test (which are sent to the labs) if you have any of the three key symptoms, are **feeling generally unwell**, have been in close contact with someone who as tested positive or are asked to do so
- Keep siblings off school and do online learning if advised to do so
- Public health chiefs and schools continue to work together to reduce the risk and keep schools open – and thank parents for their support, especially as cases continue to rise.

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## Vaccinations

### Vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds

School immunisation teams are today starting the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine with parental consent along with the flu jab.

### Vaccinations for 16 to 18 year olds

This week our vaccination trailer will start visiting colleges in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. This week the trailer it will be at Newcastle College tomorrow, September 28 from 9.30am to 4.30pm and on Thursday September 30. Next week it will be at Burton College, Stafford College and South Staffordshire College (Tamworth Campus).

You can check on the [national site](#) or [local site](#) for the latest community clinics. New clinics are added all the time, so please keep checking back regularly.

## Reception Class Photograph (PERMISSION REQUIRED)



The Chronicle Newspaper are coming into school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to take a photograph of the Reception class, this will then be printed in the newspaper. If your child is in Reception and you wish for them to participate in this, please provide permission by clicking the link below and submitting your consent.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6MDVPap5rEuvvzQTS\\_\\_LbJVLTFKwMwRDlpwA\\_fXrbL+UNihKQ1VHMUFDT09FWTFTVKZWUJLREFLUC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6MDVPap5rEuvvzQTS__LbJVLTFKwMwRDlpwA_fXrbL+UNihKQ1VHMUFDT09FWTFTVKZWUJLREFLUC4u)

PLEASE NOTE: IF PERMISSION IS NOT PROVIDED, YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE PHOTOGRAPH.

## Change to the Lunch Menu



The kitchen have asked us to make you aware of the below menu change:

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Lasagne or Veggie Meatballs

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September

Roast Dinner

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### Data Collection Sheets



If you haven't done so already please return your data collection sheet to school before Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021. Please ensure that we have at least 2 contacts for emergencies and safeguarding purposes.

### Holiday Activities and Food



I enclose the link to Staffordshire's HAF Parent Survey for the summer scheme:

<https://consultation.staffordshire.gov.uk/childrens-and-families/hafparentsurvey>

Thank you for your help with this. NB. Users may need to right click and select "open hyperlink" to access. The closing date is 14.10.2021.

### Temporary Vacant Seat Scheme



Biddulph Town Council Transport Working Group has been made aware of a consultation on the Staffordshire County Council website in relation to the 'temporary vacant seat scheme'. Unfortunately, this consultation isn't well publicised and so the Working Group felt it was unlikely to reach all the families and young people that would be affected in Biddulph.

The Temporary Vacant Seat Scheme has been available for children who wanted to access the school bus, but who were not eligible for a bus pass. Legislation has changed meaning that the bus must be wheelchair accessible and meet other accessibility requirements in order to be used for this scheme. The buses that are used for school transport in Biddulph are compliant, meaning that this scheme could be available within Biddulph. There is a survey here:

[Temporary vacant seat scheme - Staffordshire County Council](#)

People are encouraged to complete this survey by Tuesday 12 October 2021.

If you have any questions or queries about anything in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to ask, Take care and stay safe,

Mrs. E. J. Pickford (Headteacher) & Team

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**ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE**



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**BIDDULPH SCHOOLS  
PARTNERSHIP TRUST**  
(a mutual co-operative membership trust)

