



Squirrel Hayes First School
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1st October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Essential Additional Measures in Response to increased rates of COVID-19 in Staffordshire & Staffordshire Schools



Due to a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases across Staffordshire, **the Local Authority and Local Outbreak Team have made a number of recommendations to Staffordshire schools around increasing protective measures in an effort to tackle high transmission rates.** Currently the prevalence of COVID-19 in Staffordshire is higher than that of the West Midlands and England's average.

Schools in Staffordshire have been asked to review their COVID-19 risk management measures and to re-instate some 'additional protective measures', which are to be reviewed again by the Local Authority after the October half term holiday.

In response to this advice, we are introducing the following additional protective measures at Squirrel Hayes First School:-

- Re-introduced class group bubbles keeping classes separate.
- PCR testing for the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms plus Staffordshire precautionary symptoms - headaches, aches and pains, feeling tired for no good reason, sore throat, runny nose, sneezing and tummy ache sickness - particularly in children.
- Limiting staff crossover between class groups to targeted interventions.
- Postponing of all school events or mixing of class groups such as assemblies.
- No whole school or class events inviting parents/carers into school except arranged meetings with individual parents/carers.
- Face coverings to be worn by staff and visitors when moving around the school buildings.
- PCR testing advised for all contacts, including household contacts and siblings.
- Children to remain at home and access their learning remotely whilst awaiting PCR test results (this includes staff and visitors)
- Lateral Flow Test required for all external visitors to school.

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.



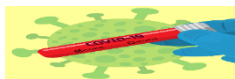
- PCR testing to be considered on day 7 if had multiple contacts at different points with confirmed cases.
- Increased cleaning and ventilation
- Staff to continue Lateral Flow Testing throughout October.

Our COVID-19 Risk Assessment has been updated to reflect these changes and can be accessed via the school website following the link below.

<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/squirrel/UploadedDocument/76e8f9b6-1968-4e2e-b82e-28baf44081e9/covid-19-risk-assesment-v5-30.09.2021.pdf>

Please note that the current protective measures now in place on the COVID-19 Risk Assessment include all the measures in the white boxes plus the addition of the new measures in the blue boxes. We will be reviewing these measures and liaising with the Local Outbreak Team when necessary.

COVID-19 Testing



We are aware that due to changing advice it can become confusing as to which type of testing is required at what stage for COVID-19.

- If you are just undertaking weekly testing at home and there are no COVID-19 symptoms than a LFT (Lateral Flow Test) can be used for adults and children over 11 years.
- If you or your child have any symptoms including the Staffordshire precautionary symptoms or have been in contact with someone with these symptoms then a PCR test is required.

Please note that we are now being advised that all household contacts and school contacts should book a PCR test if they have been in contact with a positive COVID-19 case. 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 yourself or your child.

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

If you have any questions or queries about anything in this letter, please do not hesitate to ask a member of staff or contact the school office.

Take care and stay safe,

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

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