



Thursday 20th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID-19 Update



As you will be well aware, the rules around COVID-19 are constantly changing. **Here in school we follow both the national guidance and that of our Local Outbreak Team for Staffordshire.** Any measures that we have in place are there to try and ensure that we reduce the spread of Covid as much as possible and keep the school operational. **We have seen an increase in the number of positive cases within all our classes and have staff who are required to isolate due to having Covid.**

Boris Johnson made an announcement last night regarding the changes to wearing face coverings in schools. Despite this, **the isolation and testing rules remain the same at present.** As of Monday, 17th January **people who test positive for Covid-19 are expected to self-isolate for 10 days. They have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with a lateral Flow Test on both day 5 and then on day 6 and have no temperature.** 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. If the result of either test is positive, you should continue to isolate until you get negative lateral flow test results on two consecutive days. If you keep getting positive lateral flow test you must remain in self-isolation for the full 10 days.

What does this mean for my child in school?

- If your child is off with Covid-19 or is required to isolate related to Covid. Please ensure that they access their daily learning through 'Google Classrooms' remotely. If you need help with access to an ICT device or logins, please contact the school office.
- Google classroom learning will be available from day 2 of your child's Covid related absence.

If they test positive for COVID-19:

- If your child tests positive, they should self-isolate. They can take a lateral flow test on day 5 and if this is negative take another test on day 6. If this is also negative, they can come into school on day 6.
- If your child tests positive and is still testing positive on lateral flow tests after day 5 you will need to keep testing them on a lateral flow test until you have 2 days of negative test results. Your child can come to school on the day they get their second negative test result.
- If your child is positive and continues to keep testing positive on lateral flow tests from day 5 onwards, they must isolate for the full 10 days before returning to school. (we are aware that this can be the case as we have seen this already in some cases)

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.



If they are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for Covid-19:

- Your child will be required to complete lateral flow tests daily before they come to school for 7 days. This must be done in the morning before they attend school. If your child tests negative they can continue to attend school. If they test positive, they must stay at home and start their isolation period.
- If your child is under 5 then it is all the household members that will need to complete the lateral flow tests each day before sending your child to school.
- If you are unable to complete daily lateral flow tests then your child must stay at home for the 10 day isolation period.

It is important that you work in partnership with school to try and help us stop the spread of Covid in school. **Please ensure that you test your child daily each morning before they come into school if you have been informed that there is a positive case in your child's class. We will be asking parents and children if they had done their lateral flow tests each day.** We have had to ask some parents to take their children away and return when they have done a test this week, which is not helpful to both you and your child as we are well aware of how busy life is for everyone.

Please help us to keep our community as safe and healthy as possible so that we can try to continue to operate fully so that your child is benefiting from their full education.

The School Age Immunisation Team



The NHS have sent out a text message to all parents whose children are outstanding their flu vaccination, whether it is due to missing it during the school session or deciding not to have the vaccination. If you have already taken your child to a community clinic, do not contact the service, please be assured that the NHS have your child's vaccine on record but there is a slight delay in the national system updating. For all other queries or issues, please follow the 119 guidance as per the message.

What is the SEND Local Offer?



The website provides information, support and services for children and young people aged 0-25 years. It is the place to go within Staffordshire for parents, young people and practitioners who are looking for SEND support. The information is held all in one place and can be searched by age and district. It covers:

- Early years and childcare
- Education
- Graduated Response
- Education Health and Care Plans
- Social care
- Health and wellness

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- Travel and transport
- Places to go, things to do
- Preparing for adulthood
- Money matters
- Extra help
- Information and support, including support groups
- Policy library

Our [user guide](#) page provides an easy read guide, how parents and young people can access it, more information on the accessibility bar, how to search for information, and a video tour of the website.

- Website: [Staffordshire Connects SEND Local Offer](#)
- Email: Localoffer@staffordshire.gov.uk
- Facebook Page: [Staffordshire SEND Local Offer](#)

The SEND Local Offer is a statutory duty:

- Children and Families Act 2014 - Part 3 , Section 30
- The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice requires local authorities to publish and maintain a local offer.

It has two key purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive, accessible and up-to-date information about the available provision and how to access it, and
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving disabled children and those with SEN and their parents, and disabled young people and those with SEN, and service providers in its development and review.

School Lunch Debt



Please can we politely remind parents that any school lunches need to be paid for in advance via parent pay, so please ensure that your child's account has the relevant credit on to cover this.

Free School Meals



You can only apply online if you meet the [low income criteria](#). Remember, you can only claim free school meals if your child is going to be in Reception year or above when the meals begin. It is worth applying to check if you qualify by clicking the below link: the system will give you an instant decision:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>

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Squirrel Hayes First School
Springfield Road
Biddulph
Stoke On Trent
ST8 7DF
Headteacher: Mrs. E. J. Pickford
Telephone: 01782 973820
Twitter: @squirrelhayes



SUN is delighted to offer Parents and Carers of children with SEND in Staffordshire the opportunity to attend this **FREE** workshop delivered by Laura Graham, Occupational Therapist

Sensory Processing for Parents and Carers

A workshop to introduce the subject, bust some common myths, discuss the minefield of terminology and look at some key strategies to support those with sensory processing needs.

Aim:

- During the workshop the 7 senses will be introduced and linked to challenges faced on a daily basis by those with sensory processing differences, at home, school and in the community
- The emerging topic of interoceptive awareness will be discussed and linked to an individual's emotional regulation
 - Sensory Processing Differences and the links to neurodevelopmental conditions will be discussed and the issues around diagnosis of such sensory differences
- Assessment of sensory needs and intervention options to support sensory needs will also be discussed.
 - Plus opportunity for Q&A

This two-hour workshop is being delivered online via Microsoft Teams and there are three dates to choose from

Tuesday 8 th February 2022	12pm – 2pm
Tuesday 8 th February 2022	7pm – 9pm
Tuesday 1 st March 2022	10am – 12pm

Places are strictly limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis.

If you would like to request a booking form, please email;
sun@staffordshire.gov.uk

When we have received your completed form, we can then confirm if you have been allocated a place

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ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE



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If you require any additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely, Mrs E. J. Pickford (Headteacher) & Team

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

