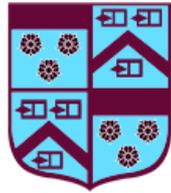




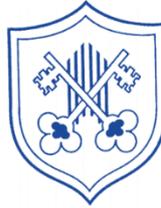
Mid-Trent  
Multi Academy Trust



St Andrew's CE  
Primary School



Colwich CE  
Primary School



St Peter's CE  
Primary School



Flourish Early Education @  
St Peter's CE Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

Compared to the national picture, schools in Staffordshire are experiencing high numbers of covid cases. This is particularly true amongst school-aged children in the Stafford area. In response to this, the local authority, in consultation with the DfE, is recommending that schools reintroduce measures to mitigate the spread of Covid.

**Recommendations include:**

- Re-introduce class bubbles
- Limit staff movement within each school setting
- To stop "all" school events such as assemblies
- To reduce the need for visitors, including parents and carers, to come into school
- To promote regular PCR and lateral flow testing amongst families and staff
- To keep siblings off school and do online learning if advised to do so

**What this means for you:**

Importantly, we would like to thank you for your support throughout the pandemic so far. Cases at Mid-Trent schools have remained relatively low, partly by luck but mainly because families have followed the guidance asked of them. We are asking you again to bear with us as we put measures in place to protect the children and protect their education.

**From Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October Trust schools will:**

- **Re-introduce bubbles.** This means classes of children will be kept separate, wherever possible, throughout the school day and during activities before and after school.
- **Suspend large groupings of more than one bubble.** During lockdown, for example, assemblies were broadcast via TEAMS. From Monday, and up until half term at least, we will continue in this way.
- **Conduct parents' evenings and visits by TEAMS or telephone whenever possible.** Face to face meetings will be avoided but where this is not possible, parents, carers and visitors will be asked to wear face coverings in communal areas.

- **Ask parents to maintain 2 metres social distancing.** Face coverings will not be required outside when in the school grounds but we do ask that you maintain 2 metre social distancing.
- **Continue to control parent and visitor movement around school when dropping-off and picking-up children.** Each Trust school will explain how they would like you to drop-off and collect your children.
- **Ask that children remain at home if a member of their house-hold tests positive and then for children to go for a PCR test before they return to school.** This is where we are asking families to support us. Government information states that one in every three cases of covid show no symptoms whatsoever. Therefore, sending a child into school without a PCR test, knowing they have come into contact with a person who has tested positive could put other children and their families at risk.
- **Postpone school events.** The local authority has said they are going to review their guidance at half term. School events that involve gatherings of children or parents will be postponed. Where possible, some events will be posted online or take place via Microsoft Teams. Parents' evenings, for example, will take place via Teams or by telephone.
- **Continue to sanitise children's hands as they enter school.** We will continue to apply hand sanitiser to children's hands as they enter school and move around during the day. Additional cleaning in school will continue to take place throughout the school day.

Many of us thought we were past the worst of the pandemic. In many ways, we are but it appears that covid variants are breaking out in localised areas, as they are highly infectious. As mentioned previously, the Stafford area is particularly affected.

<b>Parents with no symptoms/ no contacts</b>	Regular lateral flow testing (min. 2 x per week)
<b>Child with symptoms of Covid 19 or feeling generally unwell</b>	Do not attend school until negative PCR test is returned.
<b>Child with positive case in household</b>	Advised to stay at home and take PCR test before returning to school.
<b>Child notified as a contact of a positive case in school/ wider community.</b>	PCR test taken. Can return whilst waiting for results if generally well and lateral flow test is negative.

Hopefully, these measures will keep covid at bay but if an outbreak occurs within a school then bubbles may have to be closed and children taught remotely. Again, we would like to thank you for your on-going support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mid-Trent Trust