



St. Lawrence CE Primary School

Executive Head Teacher - Ms. Helen Osterfield

Head of School - Mrs. Alison Moore

Friday 25th September 2020

Dear Parent and Carers,

I have been so impressed with how well the children have settled back into school life and those that have transitioned in to new classes with new teachers have been so confident and independent. Walking round school yesterday, I felt that school was very calm and children were incredibly focused on their learning which was absolutely wonderful. We hope that you are pleased with how your child has settled back and how well they are adapting to school life after such a strange year!

Last Friday each class teacher sent out homework via SeeSaw and this will be sent out weekly. In discussion with teaching staff this week it is apparent that not all children in year groups are uploading their homework by Wednesday. Please can I remind parents to do this so there is clear evidence that children and families are engaging with the work set. It is vitally important that homework set does get completed and that school and home are working together to support learning, a triangulated approach with the child at the centre is what really makes the difference and makes learning fly!

As we come to the end of the 4th week of term, the national news and the current Covid 19 picture is increasingly challenging, and seems like it will be challenging for some time to come, listening to the Chief Medical Officer and Prime Minister earlier this week. From a Local Authority meeting Miss Osterfield attended this week, the main message was that Telford & Wrekin schools have a very low incidence of symptomatic pupils and staff, which is good news for us all. The main source of transmission I am led to believe, is currently from adult to adult. This means we must all maintain the social distancing rules when we pick up and drop off and this includes teacher to parent communication. Thankfully, we are able to maintain this distance as our school arrangement does not allow adults and children to congregate on the school field like on other school sites. Please do still communicate with us though, either via email or telephone if you have anything you wish to discuss and we can always set up virtual meetings if you prefer.

Even though children are working in bubbles now and the interaction between classes isn't happening throughout the day, we are very keen to promote the pupil voice and set up school committees to enable children become involved in the full life of the school. Last week our House Captains were voted for and we now have four of Year 6 pupils representing each house - St. George's House Captain is Miley, St. David's House Captain is Spencer, St. Andrew's House Captain is Maisie and St. Patrick's House Captain is Ellie. Every child in school is placed into one of the colour houses and we use house points to award our pupils for good work and behaviour. Each month we will count the house points and make a total of the amount letting you know of the winning house.

On Friday 9th October school has signed up for the '#Hello to Yellow' campaign supporting young people's mental health and well being on World Mental Health Day. The idea is that children wear something yellow and make a donation to the **Young Minds** charity which raises mental health awareness. We are suggesting a minimum of £1 donation and ask for this to be placed in a named envelope which will be handed in at the gate. We do hope that this event will be supported, as our young people's mental health and well being has never been so important.



Celebrating Success



Budding Author

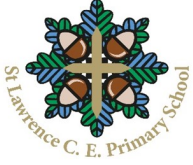
Miley had a piece of her writing published in the Ancient Adventured 2019. Out of 14,000 entries 10 winners were selected. Miley was one of the 10! They sent her a selection of books, a book voucher for £20 and a voucher for the high street for £25. She's over the moon.

Here at St. Lawrence we are all so very proud of Miley. This is such a wonderful achievement and we are delighted to hear that her writing has been recognised. Well done Miley, fabulous work!

This is a lovely way to end this week's newsletter

Hope you all have a lovely weekend

Mrs Moore



Celebrating Success this week!



CLASS 1

Lottie : for working so hard in all areas and brilliant engagement with Seesaw

Oliver C : for always being the best he can be and trying hard

CLASS 2

James L : for trying really hard with handwriting

Ivy-Rose: for her brilliant English and phonics work

CLASS 3

Spencer : for giving 100% to his work this week

Isabelle L : for an excellent retelling of a story for her homework





Dear Parents and Carers

RE: COVID and Illness in School

Since returning to school, we are naturally experiencing some anxiety from parents as to whether their child has symptoms of COVID, whether to keep them at home or whether to try and book a COVID test.

Children's immunity to common colds is always weaker after the summer holidays, but after such a long absence, this is more pronounced this year and the children seem to be already catching bugs.

We have been seeking clarification from the T&W Health Protection Team regarding general illness and suspected cases. From the information we have received, we would like to clarify our procedures in school and hopefully clear up any queries parents and carers may have.

Suspected Cases of COVID-19

A suspected case is one in which a child/adult displays one or more of the three main coronavirus symptoms:

- **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

If your child has any of the coronavirus symptoms which indicate that they need a test then they, and everyone else in the household, including siblings, should isolate straight away.

A suspected case within school triggers us to complete a 'school notification form' for the attention of the Health Protection Team. At this stage, we will seek advice as to whether or not parents or carers of children within the same bubble need to be informed of the suspected case.

COVID-19 Tests

Parents and carers should arrange a test for their child as soon as possible if they are displaying symptoms of COVID. Test results can take between 24 and 72 hours to come through.

We do have members of our school family who have been tested for COVID over recent days and, at the time of writing this letter, all have returned negative. Testing will become a feature of our school community (helping to ensure their safety) in the coming weeks and we have been advised it is not necessary for us to write to you on each occasion that this occurs. We can however assure you that we will of course contact you all, as a matter of urgency, should there be a positive case within our school family. Contact from us in that situation would include any necessary action we need to take.

School cannot compel a parent or carer to provide test results, nor can they ask for any proof of a negative result. It is up to the parent if they wish to provide evidence. If a parent or carer does provide school with proof of a negative result, this will remain confidential. School will not share any personal information or proof of results in line with GDPR guidelines.

If a result comes back negative

No further action is required and the child/adult can return to school as normal, providing they feel well enough.

Where there has been a suspected case in school, we will inform the parents and carers of children in that specific bubble of a negative test result, providing we have consent from the child's parent/carer. We will not provide any information on the individual concerned or proof of results.

If a result comes back as positive

School will follow the set procedures with support from the DfE dedicated helpline. Children in the relevant bubbles will be told to self-isolate for 14 days. Other household contacts of the children in the relevant bubble will not need to self-isolate UNLESS a member of that household becomes symptomatic. If this happens then the family must follow the government guidance on self-isolation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The child/adult who has tested positive must self-isolate for 10 days and can only return to school once they have been symptom free for 48 hours.

If a cough or a loss/change in normal sense of smell or taste is the only persistent symptom, staff and children can return to school if they are medically fit as these symptoms are known to persist for several weeks in some cases.

Feeling Unwell and Illnesses

It can be tricky deciding whether or not to keep your child off school especially given the current circumstances. Parents should read the NHS guidance and decide whether they think their child has the key indicators for COVID when they are at home before bringing them into school. The guidance can be found on the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

In school, if we think your child has symptoms, we will phone you to collect them immediately and then follow our in-school procedures.

As a general rule, if your child has a slight cold or are feeling a bit under the weather (for example, a sore throat or runny nose) but are well enough in themselves to be at school, then they may attend as normal. They will be monitored in school by staff and parents/carers will be informed if their condition changes.

In cases where a child has more than a slight cold and are feeling too unwell to attend school, we are advising that they remain at home and are closely monitored for a 48 hour period.

Please follow the usual absence reporting procedure to inform us if your child is going to be absent; you should contact the school office on 01952 387790 before 9:30am on each day of your child's absence.

We hope that this information will provide some reassurance for parents and carers. Please bear with us as we tackle this ever-changing situation. We would be grateful if you could continue informing us of any illness or suspected COVID cases for the health and safety of all children, staff, parents and carers.

Please see below some extra information and guidance which we hope you will find useful.

H.Osterfield	A Moore
Helen Osterfield	Alison Moore
Executive Head	Head of School

Please note that the above information is subject to change – we will inform you of any changes and updates as soon as we are able to.

Government Update – ‘Hands, Face, Space’ campaign

A new public information campaign has been launched ahead of winter to highlight how everyone can help to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The Prime Minister launched the '[Hands, Face, Space](#)' campaign urging the public to continue to wash their hands, cover their face and make space to control infection rates and avoid a second peak.

NHS Test and Trace App

The NHS Test and Trace app has now been launched. The app has been launched to help control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). It will be used, alongside traditional contact tracing, to help notify users if they have come into contact with someone who tests positive for coronavirus. The app allows people to report symptoms, order a coronavirus test, check in to venues by scanning a QR code and it helps the NHS trace individuals that have coronavirus.

The app is available to download on smartphones for anyone aged 16 or over.

Please take a look at the official NHS test and trace website for more information: [NHS COVID-19 app](#)

A factsheet for parents can also be found on:

<https://www.covid19.nhs.uk/pdf/parents-carers-over16s-factsheet.pdf>

Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline weekend opening hours

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline remains available to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children's social care. Please listen carefully to the available options and select the most appropriate to your nursery, school, or college's current situation.

To support the transition back to education, we have extended our opening hours and are now available 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm
Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm

Telford and Wrekin Social Distancing Reminder

It is important that all parents/carers remember to social distance while on school grounds. There are some simple steps everyone can take to help stop the spread of coronavirus. Please view the video on the link below:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/blog/education-nb/post/47/noticeboard-24-september-2020?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=#atschoolgates

Covid-19 related pupil absence

A quick reference guide for parents and staff (September 2020)

What to do if...	Action Needed	Return to school when...
...my child has Covid-19 symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us - Self-isolate the whole household - Get a test - Inform the school immediately about the test result 	...the test comes back negative or a period of 10 days has passed since the symptoms started, and the child feels well.
...my child tests positive for Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 10 days). - Self-isolate the whole household. 	...10 days have passed since symptoms began, even if they still have a cough or loss of taste/smell. <i>(These symptoms can last for several weeks.)</i> AND the child feels well.
...my child tests negative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact school to inform us. - Discuss when your child can come back (same day/next day). 	...the test comes back negative.
...my child is ill with symptoms not linked to Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school - Contact school to inform us. - Ring on each day of illness. 	...after 48 hours following the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea (as per attendance policy)
...someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Self-isolate the whole household. - Household member to get a test. - Inform school immediately about test result. 	...the test comes back negative.
...someone in my household tests positive for Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days). - Self-isolate the whole household. 	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
...NHS test and trace has identified my child as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Agree an earliest date for possible return (minimum of 14 days). 	...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.
...NHS test and trace has identified a household member (other than my child) as a close contact of somebody with symptoms or confirmed Covid-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The household member must self-isolate for 14 days. - Child can continue to attend school. 	...child can continue to attend school
... a sibling attending another school has been sent home to self-isolate due to their being a positive case in their school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sibling must self-isolate for 14 days. 	...child can continue to attend school
... my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that is NOT on the exempt list of countries.	<p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is needed*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - minimum of 14 days self-isolation for all those who travelled. - contact school to inform us you are back in the country and we will agree an earliest date for possible return to school. - Self-isolate the whole household. <p><u>*Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)</u> – for up to date travel information</p>	...the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed.

<p>... my child has travelled abroad from a country or territory that IS on the exempt list of countries.</p>	<p>If returning from a destination where quarantine is NOT needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check the current Exempt countries and territories list to confirm the country you have travelled from or through is on the exempt list. - Ring school to inform us you have returned to the UK and agree a return date to school. 	<p>... you have informed the office of your return to the UK (<i>the office will ask you a few questions about your travel</i>).</p>
<p>...I have travelled from a country that requires us to quarantine (but my child didn't travel).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As long as you do not have / have not had symptoms in the last 14 days, your child can continue to attend school. - The person who has travelled MUST NOT leave the house, including to do pick-ups and drop offs (<i>please contact school if you need support getting your child to school</i>). 	<p>...child can continue to attend school</p>
<p>...we have received medical advice that my child must resume shielding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not come to school. - Contact school to inform us. - Shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again. 	<p>...school inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again.</p> <p>...you receive medical advice that your child may return to school.</p>
<p>...my child's bubble is closed due to a Covid-19 outbreak in school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child must not come to school. Including for drop off and pick up. - Support your child at home with remote education provided by your school. - Your child will need to self-isolate for 14 days. - Other siblings may continue to attend school. 	<p>...school inform you that the bubble will be reopened.</p>
<p>... I am unable to get a test for someone in the household who has symptoms</p>	<p><i>If you are not able to get a test in the first 5 days of having symptoms, your child and anyone they live with must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone in your support bubble must also stay at home.</i></p>	<p>...the child has completed 14 days of isolation.</p>