

My Ref: JP / TK 034

Date: 13 October 2020

Dear Parent

As you will have seen in the local news, cases of Covid-19 have risen sharply nationally, prompting the Government to set out a new Covid-19 alert system.

Staffordshire is currently in the Medium alert category, but cases are rising.

This will obviously be a worrying time for you, so I wanted to reassure you that it is still safe for you to send your child to school. Our schools have worked hard to ensure they have measures in place to protect children, and our health, safety and wellbeing team are continuing to advise schools who have had a positive case of Covid-19 amongst their children or staff.

As a parent or carer, you can also help, by sticking to the rules and ensuring your children continue to follow them both inside and outside school. This includes regular handwashing, keeping their distance, and wearing face coverings on public transport and in places where social distancing is difficult.

If your child is unwell and you have booked them a test, please keep them off school and at home until you know the results. Please do not send them into school while you wait for the results of their test, as this could potentially spread Covid-19 to others. It is better to be safe than sorry.

If your child is asked to self-isolate, please can you make sure that they remain at home for the full 14 days and not to go out into the community.

Finally, we are seeing instances of parents and children congregating at the school gates before and after school. This increases the chance of spreading the virus, so please make sure you are keeping your distance, at least two metres at all times. We have also had reported of older children congregating in parks and town centres after school. Again, this poses a high risk of infection and we would be grateful if you could discourage them from gathering in groups after school.

The response of parents in the county to this pandemic has been amazing, and I wanted to thank you for continuing to send your child to school during this time.

If we all pull together, stick to the rules, and help each other, I am confident we will be able to beat this virus, and Staffordshire can avoid some of the further restrictions we have seen elsewhere in the country.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several horizontal strokes followed by a small loop at the end.

Jonathan Price
Cabinet Member for Education
(and SEND)

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized 'R' and 'H' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Dr Richard Harling
Director for Health and Care