

15th October 2020

Dear parents/ carers,

Last night, we were made aware of another positive COVID-19 test in school.

As a result, we have been advised by the Staffordshire COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Team **to instruct year 7 to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days**, following last point of contact, in line with national guidance. We are asking them to do this to reduce the further spread of COVID-19 to others in the community. They will need to self-isolate until Monday 26th October and will return to school **after half term on Monday 2nd November**.

Due to the way the year groups bubbles operate, any pupils remaining in school who are not in year 7 or already self-isolating can continue to attend school. This does not affect the return dates of those pupils isolating currently.

Return dates for self-isolating pupils:

- Year 5 (apart from 5.4 maths)- Monday 19th October
- 5.4 maths, 6C, 6.2 maths, 6.4 maths, 7C, 7.4 maths and 8T- Wednesday 21st October
- 7D, 7M and 7T (not 7.4 maths)- Monday 2nd November (these pupils can stop isolating on Monday 26th October).

Due to the fact that this will have implications on our teaching and cover arrangements in school, regrettably those children on the SEN register may have reduced provision until this date to enable us to keep the school open and operate the remaining classes. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause over the next few days.

While these circumstances will cause concern for everybody within our school community, you do not need to request a test or self-isolate unless you are showing symptoms, in line with national guidance. Those pupils with siblings in year 7 also do not need to stay home and self-isolate unless they start showing symptoms, or are already self-isolating.

The main symptoms to be aware of are:

- new continuous cough
- fever/high temperature above 37.8°C
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

- If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test-or-by-calling-119>.

- All other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days.
- The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.
- Household members staying at home for 14 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Deborah Farr
Principal