

4th November 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am writing with several updates regarding Covid precautionary measures and the national lockdown that starts tomorrow. This letter contains key messages and information about:

- **A POSITIVE START**
- **BEHAVIOUR DURING LOCKDOWN**
- **NEW TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY**
- **WASHABLE FACE COVERINGS**
- **VENTILATION AND UNIFORM**
- **EXTRACURRICULAR PE**
- **STUDENTS FEELING UNWELL**
- **NOTIFYING US OF A POSITIVE COVID TEST**

A POSITIVE START

It has been a positive start to the half term and thank you for continuing to adhere to our Covid precautionary measures that are vital in enabling us to function smoothly. These new routines of hand sanitising, wearing face coverings, restricted movement round the school etc...are what helps to keep us open. It remains very important for students to attend school, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians.

Unfortunately though, the safety of everybody was compromised yesterday by a fire in one of the boys toilets. The police have been contacted and I now intend to permanently exclude the student responsible.

BEHAVIOUR DURING LOCKDOWN

It is important that students understand that, whilst they are expected to continue attending school, we are now entering a period of national lockdown and their behaviour on the way to and from school needs to conform to government restrictions. As you are aware, from Thursday 5 November until Wednesday 2 December, the Government is taking the following action:

1. Requiring people to stay at home, except for specific purposes.
2. Preventing gathering with people you do not live with, except for specific purposes.
3. Closing certain businesses and venues.

Students must not leave or be outside of the home except for specific purposes. These include:

- for education
- to exercise outdoors or visit an outdoor public place - with the people you live with, with your support bubble or, when on your own, with 1 person from another household
- shopping for basic necessities, for example food and medicine, which should be as infrequent as possible

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Mr N Wallace – Headteacher

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As such, please remind your child that they should travel directly to and from school without lingering or gathering in groups. **Year group bubbles do not apply outside of school. Students should go straight home and are not permitted in other people's houses. The national restriction is that people can only meet with 1 person from another household outside.**

You should minimise time spent outside your home and when around other people ensure that you are two metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble. Parents should not be coming onto site and if you do need to pick up your children, please arrange to meet them away from the school and not on the main road as this will cause a traffic hazard.

Remember - 'Hands. Face. Space':

- hands – wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds
- face – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- space – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors)

NEW TIMINGS OF THE SCHOOL DAY

Please note that we still expect students to be on site by 8.45am with lessons beginning at 8.50am. This applies to all students, including Sixth Formers with 'free' periods. Unfortunately, there has been a delay erecting the new gates between the main building and the sports hall.

WASHABLE FACE COVERINGS

Please can you provide washable face coverings for your child. They should carry a spare each day as well. This will help reduce health risks associated with used disposable facemasks being discarded and minimise the environmental impact.

VENTILATION and UNIFORM

We will continue to try to keep classrooms ventilated as much as possible. As the weather gets colder, **students may wish to wear additional layers to help keep warm during the day.** However, these should still be in keeping with uniform expectations e.g. plain white vest or t shirt, plain navy blue or grey jumper or sweatshirt with the shirt and tie. In the absence of lockers, students will need to keep coats with them during the day. Students are encouraged to wear their blazer as an additional layer over their PE kit.

Please note that in the event students do not have the correct or clean PE kit, they should attend school in their regular uniform instead. Alternative leisurewear will not be accepted; students will be directed to the Late Door and we will ask you to bring their regular uniform into school so they can change.

EXTRACURRICULAR PE

It was lovely having over 100 Year 7 students attending extracurricular PE clubs on Monday. **We will continue to offer extracurricular PE clubs throughout lockdown** to specific year group bubbles on particular days, with a range of sports available to each year group:

- clubs will run from 3:15pm to 4:30pm
- attendees will be required to wear full PE kit on that day.
- students do not need to book in prior to attending the club,
- they will need to come to the sports hall and sign in/register with the lead teacher for the activity,
- the clubs are free of charge for any SuAS student

| Monday Year 7 | Tuesday Year 9 | Wednesday Year 7 | Thursday Year 10 | Friday Year 8 |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Netball – Courts | Netball – Courts | Cricket Sports Hall | Netball – Courts | Netball – Courts |
| Football - Astroturf | Football - Astroturf | | Football - Astroturf | Football - Astroturf |
| Badminton – Sports Hall | Badminton – Sports Hall | | Badminton – Sports Hall | Badminton – Sports Hall |
| Hockey - Astroturf | Trampolining – Sports Hall | | Hockey - Astroturf | Trampolining – Sports Hall |

STUDENTS FEELING UNWELL

We sent you a letter on Monday from Warwickshire Local Authority advising you **not to send your child in if they are unwell** in order to keep schools as safe as possible. We realise that this is a different message to the one we have given in previous years when we have encouraged students to try and get through the day with a cough / cold / headache but the circumstances in which we are operating are significantly different.

In addition to the previously publicised symptoms of Covid (**cough / high temperature / loss of taste and smell**) children and younger adults with Covid are **suffering sore throats, muscle aches and severe fatigue**. If your child has any of these, please keep them at home until you are sure they do not have Covid. We appreciate that school attendance will be lower for individuals and the school as a whole but the safety of the school community is everyone's priority at the moment. The flowchart is replicated at the end of this letter.

NOTIFYING US OF A POSITIVE COVID TEST

May I remind you that **in the event that your family has a positive Covid-19 test, please notify us immediately via Covid19@stratfordschool.co.uk**. This will enable us to respond promptly. I will contact parents via groupcall with Covid-19 related information when it may affect your child and we will also continue to update key information regarding Covid-19 on our website.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support as we continue to work together to get through this challenging period. Please follow us on twitter [@StrUponAvonSch](https://twitter.com/StrUponAvonSch) or check the school website www.stratforduponavonschool.com for regular updates.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher

p.s. **we will be closing early on Tuesday 17th November. All students will have 4 full lessons on those days, finishing at 1.10pm.** Lunch service will still be available on those days after lessons have finished at 1.10pm. However, school buses will remain at their normal time.

COVID SYMPTOMS AT HOME FLOW CHART

