

11th September 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

We have had a smooth and successful start to the new academic year and that is down to the overwhelming support of our parents and students. We appreciate the lengths you have gone to and understand that it has not always been easy. This letter contains information about:

- **COVID-19 UPDATE**
- **BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS**
- **'HANDS, FACE, SPACE' CAMPAIGN**

COVID-19 UPDATE

You probably heard the government announce on Wednesday 9th September that control measures are being tightened nationally as infection rates continue to rise. Once again, we appear to be receiving *mixed messages*:

- *schools are safe places; yet young adults are the age group where the infection rate is increasing.* However, please be reassured that there is guidance for schools on controlling a suspected outbreak that has been issued to support a prompt precautionary response to any suspected or confirmed Covid case within any school.
- *do not gather in groups of more than 6 from 2 households; meanwhile send your children to school and go to work.* The 'rule of six' is designed to limit some more casual activities in large groups but allows schools and businesses to operate with larger groups where Covid secure measures and controls are in place.

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

We are a large educational setting that has 1600+ students who may be at low risk, approx. 200 staff some of whom are vulnerable and thousands of family members, some of whom may also be high risk. It is vital that we all work together to ensure that our children are socially responsible and that we are able to keep our school safe and open. To that end I wanted to reiterate our behaviour and safety expectations for students:

- Students must sit in their allocated seats in the classroom without argument. We are required to keep and have available details of who each child has been sat beside for Test and Trace purposes should there be another positive case.
- Students must leave the site and go home at the end of the day, not gather in large groups beyond the school gate. We cannot necessarily enforce this so we need your help to do so.
- Arguing with staff about safety measures such as chewing gum, allocated doors, sanitiser and face masks is not acceptable. Members of staff have to follow the rules themselves and enforce them for everyone's safety.

Please ensure that your child understands the seriousness of coming to school during a pandemic. We all need to work together to ensure that no one exhibit behaviours that may distress others or be potentially dangerous in the current circumstances. Please note that:

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Mr N Wallace – Headteacher

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- Students who tell others they have coronavirus will be taken seriously; they will be required to stay away from school until they have been tested or isolate for 14 days.
- Students who deliberately cough on, or near to others or cause other students and staff distress by pretending to, will be excluded from school for a fixed term period.

We are not willing or able to cater for the behaviours of an individual at the expense of the wider school community. Enough learning time has already been lost and we have no desire to lose anymore. Any deliberate, wilful or defiant breach of the safety measures will result in the student being removed from the school and issued with a fixed term exclusion.

Some children may not be used to rules which are non-negotiable. They must be clear that these rules, and those set out in previous correspondence, are non-negotiable and without exception. The welfare and safety of everyone is our absolute priority.

'HANDS, FACE, SPACE' CAMPAIGN

The government are launching a new 'Hands, Face, Space' campaign as winter approaches to remind everyone of the fundamental priorities:



- wash your hands regularly
- use a face covering when social distancing is not possible
- try to keep your distance from those not in your household

We will continue to update **key information regarding Covid-19 on our website**. If you are uncertain what to do, please look there for official guidance rather than relying on other potentially misleading social media sources. Current items include:

- Don't come into school if ...
- How to book a test
- If symptoms develop
- Should I isolate?

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.

We have worked extremely hard over recent months to create the right environment for everybody to prosper. It has been heartening to get off to such a successful start. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support,

Yours sincerely,

Mr Neil Wallace
Headteacher