



STIVICHALL PRIMARY SCHOOL
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8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all. I sincerely hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas, albeit under very strange circumstances and the ever-changing restrictions. We were thankful to be able to spend Monday with our pupils and enjoyed an extremely positive day at school. It was so disappointing to hear the announcement of school closure at 8pm on the same day.

Again, I would like to extend my thanks for all your support and kind words sent to all our staff over this last week since the announcement of the school closure. Many of you have already empathised with the challenges faced by schools at this time.

School has been open to children of critical workers as well as vulnerable children since Tuesday this week. The number of children taking up places has increased significantly since the previous lockdown which we understand is partly due to the government guidance extending the definition of both vulnerable and critical worker children. However, further to national guidance shared last night, Coventry Local Authority have today agreed a local position to enable schools to open safely during this lockdown period. This reflects the local current public health position of an increasing rate of transition and high number of daily positive cases. For the next two weeks, schools have been recommended to revert to the current, locally agreed bubble size criteria of no more than 15 pupils. This will be reviewed in two week's time.

As the number of children accessing a place is significantly higher than during the previous lockdown with **over 200 children** currently onsite, we may need to revert to previously agreed criteria for key worker children, as outlined below:

- For children whose parents are critical workers, we may need to prioritise places in the following order:
 - 1) Both parents or single parent critical workers
 - 2) One parent is a critical worker and the other parent is not working from home
 - 3) One parent is a critical worker but the other parent is working from home

We will be looking at our numbers over the weekend and assessing whether there is a need to review the places already offered. We are hoping that we can balance the restriction on numbers against the need for places but ask that parents think about whether they really need a place. Whilst we continue to do everything we possibly can to reduce the risk of transmission, we have to acknowledge that the number of positive cases continues to rise locally and across the country. Therefore, it is important to balance government guidance on school places alongside the emphatic advice that the safest place for everyone to be is at home. **If on reflection you decide that you no longer wish to take up a critical worker or vulnerable child place, we thank you and ask that you contact the school office to advise us of this.**

Please remember that the children in school are doing the same work as those working from home.

As Mr O'Hara said in his morning message on Seesaw today (children can see this in their 'Inbox' under 'School Announcements'), children have made a great start to their learning in this first week of 2021. Teachers have said that they have been feeding back to some excellent online learning on Seesaw and the critical worker/vulnerable groups in school have been working hard on the same work. Learning at Stivichall really is 'a passport for life' and as we support each other through these challenging times, please join us in helping children to see the opportunities that the current situation offers, i.e. practising new IT skills; finding further reading materials and reading for pleasure; practising times tables and number bond facts; taking time to develop other skills such as drawing, painting, baking, music. There are some great ideas in the home learning section of our website. Children have also been asked to remember the online safety messages that they have learned in school. Again our website has information and links in regards to online safety (link [here](#)). Next week, we are looking forward to our 360 Degree Online Safety Mark assessment - this should celebrate all the online safety work of children and staff at Stivichall and we will hopefully be able to share the result with you soon.

Remote (home) learning

As outlined in our Remote Learning Policy and communication earlier this week, daily provision will offer a blend of online tasks and activities supported by recorded input from a staff member. This will be shared on Seesaw covering a range of curriculum content. Recorded sessions will include a morning greeting and wellbeing message, a shared reading session, a teacher explaining a concept or some new vocabulary or modelling an activity.

A suggested 'daily timetable' for home learning can be found on the school website and in the Remote Learning Policy.

We have looked into the possibility of providing live online lessons as part of our remote learning package but have currently decided against it for our daily provision for the following reasons:

- Many parents have fed back that our current arrangements allow them the flexibility to fit supporting their child(ren)'s learning in around busy home working schedules – live lessons at set times would reduce this flexibility
- In homes where siblings are sharing devices, scheduled lessons for different year groups would be challenging particularly in homes where schedules from different schools conflict.
- Although live lessons allow a level of interaction between pupils and staff, this is more suited to older (secondary aged) children. Instead, we continue to offer feedback throughout the day via Seesaw, regular phone calls from school staff to home and recorded messages and lessons as described above.
- Recorded lessons can be paused and played back allowing children to revisit key information and work at their own pace.
- We are mindful of working parents and the increased pressure that may be created though ensuring younger children attend scheduled live lessons on time.

DfE guidance states that provision should include recorded OR live direct teaching as well as time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently. It is important to remember that recorded sessions do not necessarily need to be recorded by school staff, Oak Academy lessons, for example, can be provided in place of school led video content. It is important that teachers focus their time and energy on the things that will have the best impact on pupil outcomes; if something is readily available and meets need, we will not be asking our teachers to recreate it.

At Stivichall, we are striving for a balance between creating purposeful school led input and allowing teachers the necessary time to make regular contact and feedback on independent work. We do also need to be mindful of staff well-being (as well as that of children and their families).

We recognise the importance of children seeing us and hearing our voices which will be achieved through our recorded sessions and regular contact.

Contact with staff members

Children working from home will receive daily online feedback on Seesaw from a member of staff. Over the next week, children who are learning from home and are not attending school at any point, will be contacted by telephone by a member of staff in order to maintain the link between school and home during this challenging time. Staff members may be calling from home so please do look out for calls from private numbers. The focus here is for the teacher to praise and motivate pupils with home learning and check on their well-being, as well as check they understand how everything works online.

YouTube

Our longer pre-recorded teacher videos will need to be posted on our non-public school YouTube channel. The videos will be linked in Seesaw activities and announcements – your child will click on the Seesaw link as they have for other embedded videos. The videos only contain staff and are uploaded by staff.

Exercise books

We hope that, if needed, you have been able to collect an exercise book from school for your child to record their home Learning – the lines in the book are matched to each key stage requirements. If you have not been able to do so yet, these may be collected from outside the school office between the hours of 10 – 12 and 1.30 – 3.00 via the Coat of Arms Bridge.

Those who are attending school in person must remember to bring these books into school with them.

Reading books

We are aware that access to reading books for children learning at home is limited. Please follow these links to access books from these online libraries:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

We will keep you updated as we obtain new resources to support your child with their reading.

Technology

The school has been provided with a limited number of devices to support children with their remote learning at home. We would ask that parents only make a request for one of these devices if absolutely necessary. Devices will not be offered for children who have been allocated a place in school.

Wifi

We appreciate that households may struggle with accessing the internet. The school have received a number of prepaid SIM cards to help. Again, due to the limited supply, we would ask that parents only make a request for one of these cards if absolutely necessary.

SEN Inclusion Provision

If your child has a dyslexia plan or a Speech and Language plan, they will receive a regular 1:1 session via Microsoft Teams with either Mrs Keatman or Mrs Ensor. Additionally, other children on the SEN register will either be supported in school if they are in the critical worker group or via a regular 1:1 session on Microsoft Teams. We are in the process of contacting parents about this.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We cannot stress enough the importance of continuing to isolate should anyone in your household develop any symptoms. All family household members should stay at home until a test is taken and the results are received. **You must not send your child into school if anyone in your household is symptomatic.** Please click [here](#) for the latest guidance.

Below is key information taken from the government website:

If you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 symptoms

Your isolation period includes the day the first person in your household's [symptoms](#) started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, whether this was an LFD or PCR test), and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your 10 day isolation period starts on the 15th of the month, your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th and you can return to your normal routine.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have received a positive COVID-19 test result

Your isolation period includes the day your symptoms started (or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms), and the next 10 full days. This means that if, for example, your symptoms started at any time on the 15th of the month (or if you did not have symptoms but your first positive COVID-19 test was taken on the 15th), your isolation period ends at 23:59 hrs on the 25th.

Follow this [Stay at Home guide](#) for more information.

Failure to comply with self-isolation may result in a fine, starting from £1,000. Parents or guardians are legally responsible for ensuring that anyone under 18 self-isolates if they test positive for COVID-19 and are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and told to self-isolate.

Reporting test results to school

In order to keep our pupils, staff and the community safe, the school will continue to contact any close contacts resulting from positive cases reported where symptoms have developed within 48 hours of the last attendance in school. If you need to report a positive test result for a pupil of Stivichall Primary, please call the school number: 024 76419555 select option 2 (including weekends) and provide the following information:

- Name of child
- Date pupil last attended school
- Date of onset of coronavirus symptoms
- Date of test
- Date the positive test result was received
- Contact number

All the above information will be used to carry out a rapid risk assessment and identify if any pupils and/or staff need to isolate. Should this be the case, you will be contacted by both email and text via ParentMail.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone safe.

School Dinners

The system for ordering school dinners will remain the same throughout the current lockdown. If your child is attending school and you wish them to have a school dinner, please book via your ParentPay account on the Thursday prior to the week they are due to be taken.

If you have booked any meals in advance, please remember to log on to your ParentPay account and cancel them if your child is not attending school. Thank you.

Milk supplied by Cool Milk

This service has temporarily been suspended. We have been informed that parents will be contacted direct from our supplier regarding a credit being added to your account.

Staff News

- Mrs Zoe Field has started in the school office on a part time basis which has been a very welcome addition by the admin team.

Emergency Contact Information

It is important that you keep us informed of any change of address or telephone numbers held on our database, associated with your child, to enable us to keep our records accurate and up to date. Please notify the school office of any changes. Thank you.

Rising 5 Admissions for September 2021

A reminder that if you have a child due to start school in September 2021 (date of birth between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017) the closing date for applications is **Friday 15th January 2021**. **Please note that you will still need to apply for a place, even if you live in our catchment area or have other children who already attend our school.**

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Ferguson

Mrs K. Ferguson

Head Teacher

parle2193/yg