

14th October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Over the last week we have seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in school. Although these cases are spread across year groups and not concentrated within one year group, it does indicate the importance of following the protective measures which reduce the transmission of this virus.

I have been working closely with other school leaders in Leicester as well as with the Local Health Protection team. With the number of cases increasing, we are keen to avoid an outbreak at the school.

Having reviewed our most recent risk assessment, I am writing to you for your support and to inform you of some additional preventative measures we will be taking to try and reduce the risk to our school community after half term. I hope that adopting a proactive approach will allow us to continue to run the school as 'normally' as possible during the winter months.

Face coverings:

I am recommending that pupils wear face coverings in all communal areas, including corridors and the restaurant, from Monday 25th October.

Pupils <u>will not</u> have to wear a face covering in classrooms or in the playground but will be expected to wear the face covering as they re-enter the school from break & lunch and when they are leaving the classroom before entering the corridor.

We know that pupils coped well with this requirement on their return to school last year and, whilst obviously not ideal, we are confident that pupils will quickly adapt to this again. We will continue to support pupils who are exempt from wearing face coverings by asking them to wear an orange pin badge for easy identification. We will of course continually review this measure and update parents regularly.

<u>Home testing:</u>

We are taking a number of measures to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including:

- Encouraging all staff to test regularly, to minimise the risk of our teachers giving your child or other children Covid;
- Ensuring our staff and children practice good hygiene;
- Making sure our spaces are well ventilated; and;
- Encouraging all members of our community to isolate and book a <u>PCR test</u> should they develop symptoms of the virus.

Testing remains the most effective way of finding and isolating cases to try and prevent transmission. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 can spread the virus without knowing. This is because they have no symptoms. We are also asking all parents to test their children regularly on Sunday and Wednesday evening and to report each result.







We have provided your child with enough home test kits until the end of December. Please ask your child if they have received these and help them to take the test and report their results. Testing is free of charge.

You can also see this useful video to show you how to take the test - tests usually take a few minutes to do and you get the results in 30 minutes. Then all you need to do is to report the result to:

NHS Test and Trace: <u>https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result</u>

Financial support is available if your child tests positive and you need to self-isolate

If you are unable to work due to your child having, or displaying symptoms of, COVID-19, you may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the <u>NHS Test and Trace Support Payment scheme</u> if you are required to stay at home and self-isolate.

By testing your child on Sunday and Wednesday evenings you will help us to reduce transmission of Coronavirus, keep your child in school and minimise disruption to their education and to you and your household.

Keeping our children and families, staff and local community safe is our priority. If you have any questions about the contents of this letter, please do email <u>office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk</u> and we will do our best to answer any questions as promptly as we can.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Ban<mark>n</mark>on Associate Principal



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