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Dear parents,

Can I start by thanking you for your patience and many kind words as we manage the current situation.

As you will be aware from the letter I sent at the beginning of the week, we have been advised that there has been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school. As a result of this, we have had to contact parents of children in both the nursery and year 4 and advise that the children need to stay at home and self isolate.

The cases that impacted on both classes are not connected.

A members of staff in both year 6 and 1 are getting tested and so both classes are at home today whilst we wait for the results. Children in other classes do not need to self-isolate. As a precaution, we have arranged for all staff to be tested so that we will get the results over the weekend.

The number of infections in North Staffordshire is high. It is important that if yourself or your child has any of the symptoms below, you should stay at home and arrange to be tested.

The NHS says that the main symptoms are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If you are displaying any of these, you need to self-isolate and arrange to have a test. Testing can be arranged by calling 119 or via the NHS website: [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus)

Further information is also available at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by phoning 111.

You should all have had a couple of letters emailed out to you this week. If you did not receive these, please check your email address is correct on the Parent Pay website.

One of the letters from Staffordshire County Council explained that if you or your child is displaying any of the following symptoms you can get tested:

- Headaches
- Aches and pains
- Feeling very tired for no good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Sometimes 'tummy ache' in children

The testing for these extra symptoms has been organised by Staffordshire County Council, so when you go to book a test, explain that it is as a result of a request from the council.

As a result of the current situation, a significant number of children and staff are having to isolate because they may have been in contact with someone with Covid-19. Some of these have come through the track and trace app. The school is therefore running on a reduced staff team. The admin team and I are all currently isolating. Please have patience when contacting the school.

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

- 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
- keep a social distance from each other.

The current situation is the most challenging time of my teaching career and I know that it is of concern to you all. We are following the guidance from Staffordshire County Council and have put Covid-safe procedures in place in school. If you have any concerns about the safety measures we have put in place or your child's education, please contact the school. I am aware that some comments have been posted on social media. These can be very upsetting for staff who are working very hard at this stressful time.

With thanks,

*B. Anderson*

20th November 2020

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