



**Stokesay Primary School**  
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Executive Head Teacher: Mr. P. O'Malley  
Assistant Head Teacher: Miss K Hadley

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians

We hope that you all had a restful Christmas, and we wish you all a Happy New Year!

You will have seen several announcements in recent days about schools and tiers, so we thought it timely to write to you. The most recent government guidance advises that schools are safe. Therefore, we look forward to welcoming children back on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January**. The main purpose of this letter is to remind you of our effective policies and procedures that we have already got in place to keep our school community as safe as possible. As you know we have very carefully set up our school systems and we will be continuing to carefully carry them out when we open next week.

You will have seen that Shropshire is now in Tier 3 (Very High). This means that as citizens we cannot mix indoors, in private gardens or most outdoor areas except with your household or support bubble. Current government guidance advises Primary Schools in Tier 3 will be open as usual and will be operating the same careful processes as last term. This is because there is a recognition by the Government that infection rates in primary schools nationally have remained comparatively low and the impact on children is less as well. This is a pattern that we have also seen locally and in our Trust which gives us reassurance.

Can we therefore remind you all of the following:

### **Staggered Start and End Times**

The staggered start and end times of the day must be stuck to as closely as possible. They have been arranged to ensure that children and 'bubbles' are as protected as possible. Please do not arrive early, as this causes a bottleneck on the entrance to the school site, the aim of the staggered timings is to enable the flow of people to move safely around the school.

When collecting pupils from school siblings can be collected together. Please arrive at the time of the youngest sibling, older siblings will be ready and can be to avoid having to make repeated trips.

### **Face Coverings**

A reminder please, that we are requesting you wear face coverings in addition to adhering to social distancing when on or near school grounds.

### **Absence**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing. For our attendance records, please inform school if your household is isolating due to COVID-19. Please inform us at the earliest opportunity by emailing us on [covid.support@stokesayprimary.co.uk](mailto:covid.support@stokesayprimary.co.uk)

### **Symptoms**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

As you will be aware, Stokesay Primary School has strictly followed the guidance provided by the government and have robust control measures in school to ensure as safe an environment in school as possible. We are very grateful to you for helping us by following these processes too.

As always, I would like to thank you for your wonderful support. As I receive further updates, I will forward them to you to ensure that the children and the whole school community are as safe and supported as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mr O'Malley