**STAFFORD LEYS COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**LEICESTER FOREST EAST**

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#  HEADTEACHER – MR A KITCHEN

23rd August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family have had a good summer and a well-earned rest. We are really looking forward to welcoming children back to school and Wednesday and working with them in the term ahead.

We are all hopeful that this year is a little more normal than last and with fewer disruptions for your children. Clearly, we are still in the midst of a global pandemic and there has been updated guidance that all schools must follow for the year ahead. The senior leadership team have met and discussed at length how we will approach the new term, ensuring we take account of the new guidance in place, whilst ensuring the best educational experience possible and keeping our school and community safe. Below I have tried to summarise the key points, so you are fully aware of our approach this coming term.

**What is staying the same as last year**:

● Anyone presenting with symptoms should not attend school and should self isolate, book a PCR Test and await the result.

● All staff should continue to test twice weekly, to ensure any asymptomatic cases are identified and to reduce both transmission and infection rates.

● Enhanced cleaning regimes will continue throughout the school day, especially in high use/ contact areas.

● Robust hand hygiene measures will continue to be in place - students will be expected to sanitise or wash their hands on entry to the school, before dinner and after visiting the toilet

● Ventilation of rooms throughout the school day. A window or door will be open at all times. We have also purchased 2 Carbon Dioxide sensors to measure the air quality in key rooms in accordance with the latest guidance and we will monitor these closely.

● Students will enter classrooms via the external doors.

● The provision for remote learning will remain in place for any children who are self-isolating or affected by COVID.

● We will still be operating a cashless system, so all payments should be paid via our new ARBOR app.

**What will be different:**

● Face coverings will no longer be expected to be worn by staff in classrooms or corridors.

● Discrete class bubbles will cease. Children will be able to move more freely around school.

● Children will go for lunch in Year groups instead of class bubbles. This is a return to how things ran before.

● Children should arrive between 8:40 and 8:50am. Children in EYFS to Year 4 can be collected between 3:10pm and 3:15pm. Children in Year 5 and 6 will be let out of their classrooms at 3:15pm.

● Track and Trace of close contacts under the new guidance is to be run solely by the NHS. We feel this presents some challenges and risks to the system that has been effective this past year. For this reason we will continue to identify close contacts. Close contacts identified will be notified by the school and advised to look for symptoms or take a Covid test. We feel this will ensure greater safety for our community.

We are entering a new phase of the pandemic and there will no doubt be uncertainty and challenges to overcome. We have updated our COVID risk assessment and we will also be adopting the LA Outbreak Management Plan when it has been finalised. We will continue to work closely with the LA, PHE and DFE to ensure we minimise any disruption to your child's education but we are reliant on everyone following the guidance in place and our approach above.

Thank you for your continued support

Andy Kitchen