

Dear Parent or Carer,

11th September 2020

Re-opening Update

I wanted to write to thank you all for your support this week. School has now successfully re-opened in line with national guidance and I am very pleased with how our thorough plans have been implemented by staff and students.

It has been fantastic to welcome back all year groups and have the building full of children again. Students have returned with enthusiasm, have engaged readily with our new Covid secure ways of operating and have worked hard with staff as they have completed their back to school induction. Please pass on my thanks and gratitude to your child. We are all looking forward to working with, and supporting our students, through the challenges of the year ahead.

Self-isolation

In respect of the confirmed case in the school community that I informed you about earlier this week. I can now inform you that we are confident, as are the local authority, that the case was a result of a community transmission and not a school transmission.

I would like to thank the parents and carers of the small number of students in Year 7 who are now required to self-isolate and complete remote learning from home because they were identified as a close contact. Parents and carers responded swiftly which allowed us to implement our contingency plans quickly and efficiently.

We will send a form home next week asking for your consent in advance to allow your child to go straight home should the need arise again in future to close any other student bubble groups during the school day. We would of course advise you immediately if this was going to happen but, having pre-agreed arrangements in place with school for your child to go home or to another place of safety of your choosing, will make the process easier for all our families.

We continue to work closely with our local Public Health Team in Rochdale and I wish to reassure parents and carers again that we have stringent measures in place to keep everyone safe.

I would also like to thank all other parents and carers who have followed our guidance and informed us that your child cannot attend in other circumstances related to coronavirus. Please remember that all students must self-isolate and get a test as soon as possible if they have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus. Students should complete remote learning from home when they are well enough to do so.

Attendance

Despite the challenges we have faced together attendance has been high at the start of term. It is important that children attend school every day so we can work together in strong partnership to support them being their best.

Catering

Due to the restricted way in which we are currently operating our catering service is working at reduced capacity and our current food offer remains limited to lunch time only. This will be reviewed regularly and I will update you when we are in the position to extend this to break time.

Please remember that your child is encouraged to bring a nut-free snack for break and a reusable water bottle for personal use. Each year group bubble zone has access to drinking water.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

As a reminder, there are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with becoming 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

Thank you again for your continued support.

As always, if you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us on 0161 643 2643 or admin@stannesacademy.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Heyes
Headteacher