



St. Peter's CE Academy, Alton

Town Head, Alton, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire ST10 4AW

Telephone: 01538 702321

www.st-peters-alton.staffs.sch.uk



28 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't quite believe we are at the end of the first half of the summer term, where has that six weeks gone?! It has been a half term full of exciting learning, sporting challenges, mental health and wellbeing activities, a careers talk by a Royal Marine Commando Officer and Jordan has been back into school to deliver worship... to name but a few things! We have more amazing activities planned for the second half term too!

Following a Headteacher network meeting with the Local Authority on Tuesday evening, I just wanted to inform of some updates from Staffordshire County Council. It is worth noting that even though national restrictions are easing, this doesn't transfer to school guidance. Although the DfE have updated the operational guidance recently, many restrictions are still in place for schools. We continue to operate in bubbles and will continue to do so until the end of this academic year. Visitors to schools, face to face parents' evenings and indoor gatherings, are still not permitted and we are recommended to run these virtually.

As far as possible contact with visitors, parental meetings and attendance by colleagues not school based should be undertaken remotely, by phone or video call.

There is also guidance from our Health and Safety advisors on the following which was released yesterday:

Award and Reward Ceremonies

End of Year Reward ceremonies involving the entire school community must be managed in line with government guidance and the principle of controls referred to above. Alternatives to consider are:

- Events in bubble/cohort groups.
- PowerPoint presentation of pupils' achievements
- Individual certificates or a small gift which this could be streamed virtually around the other classes or school.
- Gift vouchers/cards for older pupils to celebrate academic success posted to home.

Visitors to such events should be avoided – in line with government guidance – if visitors are permitted, consider:

- Outside events.
- Additional ventilation if inside.
- Keeping social distancing between household bubbles.

The Saints Academies

Executive Headteacher: Mrs R Walker

Deputy Executive Headteacher: Mrs A Bennett

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All Saints CE Academy, Denstone

Oak Road
Denstone
Uttoxeter
Staffordshire
ST14 5HT

Tel: 01889 590418

Email: office@allsaints-denstone.staffs.sch.uk

Web: www.allsaints-denstone.staffs.sch.uk



St Augustine's CE Academy

Pipehay Lane
Draycott in the Clay
Ashbourne
Derbyshire
DE6 5BY

Tel: 01283 820365

Email: office@st-augustines.staffs.sch.uk

Web: www.st-augustines.staffs.sch.uk





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- The use of face coverings where recommended.

End of Year Performances

The current Government Guidance for singing and performing is included in the following in the section on Music, dance and drama on the Schools Operational Guidance: Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) These control measures will include:

- an audience is not permitted and therefore consider live streaming, pre-recording the event
- playing instruments and singing in groups should take place outdoors wherever possible

Sports Days

Schools must adhere to the current guidance around bubbles and social distancing. Schools should consider holding virtual sports days or adapting the events, so they are spread over a greater period. The government guidance for sport and PE should be followed and school risk assessments must be in place. This includes:

- Masks worn in changing rooms where social distancing cannot be maintained or come to the event already dressed in PE clothing
- Try to avoid sharing equipment
- Sanitise hands before and after
- Sanitise equipment before and after use
- Bibs should not be shared between individuals and washed before next use

If schools consider having visitors limit attendance and space out visitors in household bubbles and maintain effective social distancing.

We want our pupils, parents and families to be able to attend and enjoy the fantastic end of year experiences, please be assured that we are working incredibly hard to create risk assessments and amend arrangements to ensure these can go ahead in the safest possible way whilst adhering to the new guidance.

Three schools in Lichfield are currently being affected by a 'Variant of Concern' as well as a school in Stafford. Our Health and Safety Outbreak Control Team have advised us to not let our guard down and ensure that our previous operational arrangements continue to be followed strictly until the end of the summer term. We ask that you continue to wear face coverings when dropping and picking up your child/ren. We have also been asked to remind our parents and carers that if your child has any of the following symptoms:

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- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- 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)
- 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

A PCR test and not an LFD test should be taken and a negative result received before returning to school. LFD tests are used purely to identify those who are asymptomatic.

The three academies will be closed for half term so that our staff can take a well-earned rest. Whilst we are closed, I will be taking texts on my work mobile number should there be any new positive cases of Coronavirus. Please text this number for COVID related issues only. If your child tests positive, please can you let me know the following details in the text:

- Pupil's full name and academy they attend
- The date they became symptomatic
- The date of the test and result
- The date of the last time they were in school

The mobile number is: 07519106864

Finally, I would like to wish you all a fabulous half term in the sunshine!

Best wishes

Rebecca Walker
Executive Headteacher

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