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Date: 23/10/20

Advice to All Parents – Tier 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will be aware, Stoke on Trent is seeing a rise in the number of positive COVID-19 cases and will move to Tier 2 tomorrow. This is due to the following facts:

- Positive cases across the city are increasing exponentially
- 210/100,000 cases (doubled in last week)
- 2nd highest rate of infection in West Midlands
- 96 cases are currently in hospital compared to 17 a week ago
- 10% or 3000 pupils are out of school due to Covid

The Local Authority have made it clear that we are at risk of moving to Tier 3 unless immediate action is taken. So we all need to do our bit to keep ourselves, family and friends safe.

1. Don't ignore symptoms, stay at home and book a test as soon as possible after symptoms start. Self-isolate until your test results are known.
2. Self-Isolation - You need to self-isolate if:
 - You or anyone in your household* has Covid-19 symptoms
 - You or anyone in your household* is awaiting Covid-19 test results
 - You or anyone in your household* has tested positive
 - You have been notified that you are a contact of a positive case and been told to self-isolate
 - You have travelled into the UK from a high-risk country and need to quarantine

*Household includes support bubbles

Self Isolation means you should not leave your home:

- Do not go to work, school or visit public places
- Do not travel in a taxi or on public transport
- Do not go out to exercise or to the park – you can exercise at home or in your garden
- Do not go shopping – order online or ask someone else to drop it at your home
- Do not have visitors in your home including friends and family (except for people providing essential care)

Arrange a buddy support system with friends or family so if you need any help to self-isolate there are people who can help with shopping etc.



3. Follow Tier 2 rules

- People must not meet with anybody outside their household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- People must not meet in a group of more than 6 outside, including in a garden or other space
- People should aim to reduce the number of journeys they make where possible. If they need to travel, they should walk or cycle where possible, or plan ahead and avoid busy times/routes on public transport
- Wash hands regularly – Wear Face Coverings where social distancing is difficult – Keep your distance from those not in your household

The key message from the Local Authority is enjoy half term, but avoid mixing with other households to help to prevent us from moving to Tier 3.

If you or your child test positive for Covid-19 over the half term break, please share this information immediately by email on Covid@prioryceprimary.org so that appropriate action can be taken.

In school we have reviewed our Risk Assessment (this can be found on the school website) and have made some changes considering the local situation, but most protective measures were already in place. I have indicated the new measures. Protective measures include:

- ⊕ Masks/visors to be worn by all adults on the school site please **NEW Nov 20**
- ⊕ Office closed to parents – please communicate by email and telephone and leave forms etc that they office may need in the dropbox by the front doors. On late drop offs or early pick-ups, pupils should be left by the front door for staff to collect, following a conversation on the intercom **NEW Nov 20**
- ⊕ All meetings to take place via telephone/Zoom/Teams/Dojo **NEW Nov 20**
- ⊕ Droboboxes on classroom doors for medication/ROAs etc. **NEW Nov 20**
- ⊕ Staggered start and finish times
- ⊕ One-way system on the exterior of the school building with a ‘keep moving’ principle
- ⊕ Staggered breaks – a rota and additional cleaning will provide safe access to spaces/equipment
- ⊕ Staggered lunches (with some pupils eating in classrooms)
- ⊕ No mixing of year groups - year group bubbles will ensure that workshops can still take place
- ⊕ No assemblies as a whole school – class-based worship and virtual celebration worships
- ⊕ Mindfulness daily
- ⊕ All resources provided by school – no pencil cases from home
- ⊕ Pupils to come to school in PE kits on PE days – class timetables to be provided by teachers
- ⊕ Children sitting in rows. 2 to a desk. Facing forward from Year 2
- ⊕ Regular hand washing and sanitising
- ⊕ Regular cleaning throughout the day and thorough cleaning at night
- ⊕ Reduced contact between staff e.g. virtual staff training, no use of communal areas
- ⊕ Track and trace/check in with QR code for essential visitors. All visitors to wear a mask at all times

As said previously, we know that this may seem extreme, but we have to follow the guidance and advice from the Local Authority and reduce the risk as much as we possibly can.

This year has been like no other that we have experienced, and the start of this academic year has seen us faced with challenges that we never could have anticipated. I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who belongs to Team Priory, we have faced these challenges TOGETHER with kindness and understanding and as a result we have had the pleasure of seeing many happy faces in school every day. So, thank you to you for trusting us and thank you to our fantastic team for trying hard every second of every day to make Priory the best that it can be.

Take Care,
Jenny
Mrs Jennifer Cunliffe (Deputy Headteacher)

#TeamPriory 

