

Endon Hall Primary & Nursery School

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Last night I attended a virtual Headteacher's briefing, scheduled specifically to address rising COVID cases in our area, across Staffordshire, and Nationally. The current rise in cases was described by the Local Outbreak Team as a third wave. Evidence suggests this wave is affecting younger age children. The current impact does seem to be on 11-18 year olds, but three of the four schools in our local cluster (two of which are primary schools) have 2/3/4 cohorts currently self-isolating and staff members have also tested positive. The current case rate for Staffordshire Moorlands, for children aged 5-10, is 194.6 per 100,000 (compared to a case rate of 146.3 per 100,000 for the whole of Staffordshire).

Last week, we had 1/2 children absent per day for COVID related reasons. We also had to send 1 child home during the school day as they were displaying symptoms. This week we have had 6/7 children absent per day for COVID related reasons. We have also had to send 7 children home during the school day as they (or their siblings) were displaying symptoms. Today, we have 11 COVID related absences, but there are 21 children absent in total, with other symptoms.

May I remind you that lateral flow tests are required for children with any of the following symptoms:

- headache
- aches and pains
- feeling very tired for no good reason
- sore throat
- runny nose
- sneezing
- upset tummy/stomach ache

PCR tests are required for children with any of the three main symptoms:

- cough
- temperature
- loss of taste/smell

Several of the additional symptoms are now more prevalent than the main three.

If a family member is symptomatic and requiring a PCR test, all family members should be tested and isolate while they await the results. Hence, siblings must remain absent from school until test results come through. This means families are affected, but not whole bubbles, so the disruption can be contained as far as possible. Children must not come into school if they are displaying any of the above symptoms.

DfE guidelines for schools remain unchanged and will remain in place until the end of the Summer Term, regardless of any easing to restrictions beyond the school gates. I will update parents/carers during August regarding the measures that will be in place when we return in September. These will no doubt change at some point as we head into the winter months.

I felt it pertinent to share this information with you, for the purpose of encouraging us, as a community, to maintain measures and keep each other safe. Having got this far, I would love all bubbles to remain in school for the duration of the term. Extensive measures are in place internally. Ensuring measures remain in place at the start and end of the school day, along with a cautious approach overall, will mean we are best placed as a community to stay safe and well.

Thank you in advance, once again, for your ongoing support and understanding.

Best Regards,

V. C. Lewis

Miss V Lewis (Headteacher)