



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you so much for your continued patience and support with the COVID security plan at St. Wilfrid's. We hope that things may return to some sort of normal as soon as possible.

I would like to let you know about the things we have in place to try to keep everyone safe and to tell you about our plans to improve things further.

- The staggered starts and ends to the day and separate break times and lunchtimes for each bubble mean that if we do have a positive case only one class would be affected.
- Only essential visitors are allowed in the building and anyone on site must wear a face covering.
- All of our meetings in school are virtual, (even if we are all in the building) to ensure that contact between staff is limited.
- All of our training and meetings take place on line –we do a lot of these from home straight after school so that we can access the internet platforms which do not work in school.
- The staffroom works on a rota system so that two metre distancing can be maintained and staff have their preparation time at home to limit contact time in school
- Cleaning has been stepped up and we have a sanitising cleaning machine which is used in larger spaces and between groups in areas such as nursery.
- Staff and families have followed the Track and Trace rules to the letter, getting tested and isolating if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive. Thank you to everyone for this –we know how frustrating this can be.
- Risk assessments are carried out in line with the local authority and each new one is posted on our website.

All of these measures are designed to get us through this crisis as quickly and safely as we can.

I know that concerns have been raised about lunchtimes.

In order to ensure that children get their teaching time entitlement within the staggered days and to keep the bubbles completely separate we have allocated 45 minutes for lunchtime. Most children manage to eat their lunch in 20 minutes but we are now using the time more flexibly so that the children get a little longer to eat and still have time in the fresh air (weather permitting). If your child has any dietary needs or issues around eating please let us know. Following the lunch break teaching will resume straight away but children will be allowed to finish their food for another ten minutes.

We have always insisted that uneaten food in packed lunches must be left there so that parents know what their child has had during the day. We will continue to monitor this in the classrooms as we did in the dining hall.

We share your concerns about the quality and quantity of packed lunches provided for those on free meals and universal infant free meals and the lack of a hot meal option for those of you who would like to pay for this. We had hoped that the catering company would have moved to a limited hot meal service after half term. As this has not been offered we have arranged a meeting with them to address these issues on Wednesday of this week.

If you are supplying your child with a packed lunch and would like to provide a hot meal in a food flask this is perfectly acceptable but please remember to send a spoon or fork as we cannot supply these at present.

Finally, if you are unfortunate enough to have to isolate I would like to clarify our remote learning policy. Our first version was completed in line with the Government guidance documents and fulfilled the basic legal requirements. Since publishing this we have had a rise in numbers of families having to isolate and as such we have further developed the provision for those who will be out of school for 10 or 14 days. This will be more precise, will link more closely to the curriculum in class and will have more contact with teachers.

Please be reassured that we are doing everything we possibly can to get our school community through this pandemic safely and our staff are working long hours to make sure that your children have quality teaching and learning in these extraordinary times.

Take care and stay safe

Pauline Johnstone.

Head teacher

Graham Wilkins

Chair of Governors.