

St. Margaret's C.E. Junior School

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23rd November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Updated COVID information from Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire will be increasing the testing of residents in a bid to identify more cases of Covid-19 and reduce the spread of infection.

We are one of several local authorities to sign up for roll out of new rapid turnaround tests, and there may be an opportunity to use these in sixth forms/schools and colleges that are interested.

We are also expanding our advice around when to get a test. Currently anyone who has one of the main symptoms of persistent cough, high temperature, new cough or loss of taste or smell must self-isolate immediately and book a test.

However, with many people displaying other symptoms, we are asking residents in Staffordshire to consider getting a test as a precaution if they have other symptoms such as:

- Headaches
- Aches and pains
- Feeling very tired for no good reason
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Upset stomach or 'tummy ache' in children

People with any of these symptoms can carry on going to school or work if they are well enough to do so. They only need to self-isolate if the test comes back positive.

We would like parents/carers to be aware of this, as often children with Covid-19 can display different symptoms to adults. We want to ensure as many people as possible consider getting a test, even if it is merely a precaution.

The national testing centres across the county have good availability, and can be booked through the NHS website. People booking a test through this website need to check the 'My council has asked me to get a test' option.

We also have community testing sites that change on a weekly basis. People can view if there are any sites set up near them by visiting our testing website.

This advice supersedes the symptom checker chart we sent you a few weeks ago.

Yours sincerely,

D Hugill

Mr D Hugill
Headteacher (On behalf of SCC)

