



St John's CE Primary School

Brook Lane, Walsall Wood, Walsall, WS9 9NA

Head Teacher: Mr A C Mills

Tel: 01543 452197 Fax: 01543 452956

e-mail: office@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk

Website: www.stjohnscewalsallwood.co.uk



15 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Head teacher's Update

I do hope you are all well.

As you may have heard on the local news this morning all Walsall schools are being strongly encouraged to adopt many of the previous restrictions and precautions we've had in place over the last 18 months or so. Cases in Walsall have risen significantly in school age children and I can confirm that this has been the case in our school as well as several members of staff (including myself) also recently testing positive.

We will be re-introducing some measures from Monday in an attempt to slow down the rate of infection and keep all members of the school community as safe as possible.

The start and end of day will remain the same as congestion is already minimised as much as possible.

Children will now remain in their class bubbles and have their lunch in their classrooms (other than both Reception classes who will eat separately in other areas of the school.) During break times the children will once more remain with their class bubbles. Staff members have been advised to resume wearing masks again in communal areas and when they are working closely with your children.

We have been strongly advised to limit visitors into school. In the first instance, if you need to contact anyone in school can I suggest that you get in touch through class dojo or phone the school office rather than come in in person please. This does mean that the forthcoming Parents Evenings scheduled to be held the second week back after half term will be held virtually. Details of this will be made available very shortly.

We will be liaising with the Local Authority and Public Health next week regarding the Edmond Hall trip and we will let you know the outcome of these discussions as soon as we possibly can.

We will also retain our thorough cleaning routines, keep the classes as ventilated as much as we possibly can and ensure the children wash their hands as frequently as possible.

I have attached a joint letter from the Local Authority and Walsall Public Health that outlines the reasoning behind their decision and how we can all help to limit infections. They are hopeful that these measures being put in place will bring the high number of rates down (this has been the case





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in Wolverhampton and Staffordshire when these measures were introduced) and then can be lifted sometime in the middle of November.

I had hoped that we would not have to re-introduce these measures and that we could enjoy the normality of a school routine. However, given the rise in cases in Walsall coupled with the number of cases in school, this was almost inevitable and necessary.

One more thank you for your co-operation and support during these times. Please take care of yourself and your loved ones.

With fondest regards,

Mr Mills

