



St. Edward's Church of England Academy

Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN

Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19 Update



This week we have welcomed everyone back to the Academy, some with joy, some with a little apprehension and some who just took it all in their stride. It is wonderful to have everyone back together and the school feels full and alive again after a winter of hibernation of sorts.

Thank you to all of you as parents and carers for getting the pupils ready to return and supporting us in this, and thank you to the pupils for as ever being 10:10 and coming back and getting on with your learning.

A final 10:10 thank you goes to the staff team at St Edward's! They have worked so hard during lock down to provide for our community and have prepared for the pupils return and have been looking forward to what comes next in supporting our pupils as they get back into lessons. Thank you for all that you do!

Updates for this week:

Entry to School:

Pupils must enter the school via the playground entrances on Westwood Road and Beggars Lane. Pupils should only use the main school entrance and reception if this is agreed in advance due to medical conditions or other issues.

Crossing Warden:

At the current time there is not going to be a crossing warden during the AM window on the Burton Street/Spring Gardens crossing. This is due to unforeseen staffing issues and will be resolved as soon as possible.



Companies House number: 08316327

Pupils with medical needs and/or diabetes who are returning

If your child has medical needs and requires medication (e.g. inhaler and spacer, EpiPen, diabetic kit), please ensure that your child brings their medication to school with them ready to hand in at the school office on their return.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's medical needs, please contact us via the contact form on the Academy website.

Sims App Lite

We use the Sims app to collect the most up to date data about students and their parents, to comply with the GDPR safe data transfer. Please continue to use the Sims app to inform us of any changes to your details e.g.; address, mobile number.

PE kit

Pupils will need to come in their PE kit on the following days:

Year 5	5Ed / 5EI / 5Is	Monday and Friday	5Ne/5FI/5Ni	Tuesday and Friday
Year 6	6Ed/6EI/6Is	Wednesday and Thursday	6Ne/6FI/6Ni	Monday and Friday
Year 7	7Ed/7EI/7Is	Monday and Friday	7Ne/7FI/7Ni	Thursday and Friday
Year 8	8Ed/8EI/8Is	Wednesday and Thursday	8Ne/8/FI/8Ni	Tuesday and Friday

Nut free school

Could I please remind you that we are completely a nut free school. We maintain this in order to protect both the pupils and the staff with severe allergies to all kinds of nuts. This includes any form of peanut butter or Nutella.

Water bottles

Please remind your child to bring in their own labelled water bottle every day to keep them hydrated throughout the day.

Lunch menus

Please see the updated menus from our catering team:

[Aspens Menu Spring Term 2021 - Week Two \(from Monday 15th March\)](#)

Haircuts

At the current time with hairdressers closed for the foreseeable future, we are aware that hair is beginning to get a little unruly and/or magnificent attempts at home hairdressing are taking place. We will be flexible regarding haircuts for this reason but would politely request that parents/carers support the Academy in our high standards and maintain hairstyles in line with Academy guidance as much as possible, with long hair (i.e. below shoulders) tied up.

Peripatetic music lessons

At the current time we are continuing to limit the number of people visiting the Academy to reduce the opportunity for transmission. For this reason, we will not be able to offer peripatetic music lessons at the current time. I will update you regarding this as soon as we are able to relax this control measure.

Remote learning

For pupils who are remote learning after Monday 8th March, teachers will be setting work and/or delivering live lessons on Teams as has been the case during lockdown but this will now follow the normal Academy timetable.

Where pupils have PE lessons on their timetable, either a task will be set or pupils can take this opportunity to get some fresh air (in line with current guidance and restrictions) or catch up on their reading.

Personal belongings

Please make sure that your child has everything with them that they need for school each day as **we will be unable to take any forgotten items from the office to classrooms.**

Your child will need:

- **glue stick and children's safety scissors (added since last week's letter)**
- suitable clothing for the weather (coat, hat, gloves) as we will be going outside whatever the weather – please make sure that everything is named
- named water bottle
- named pencil case with pen, pencil, sharpener, ruler, rubber, green pen and coloured pencils if possible
- headphones/ear-buds for computing
- calculator
- planner
- reading book
- packed lunch/break time snack (unless purchasing lunch from Aspens, our catering team)
- any medication your child is required to keep with them at all times e.g. inhaler and spacer, Epipen

Parent/carer questionnaire regarding remote learning

We would like to find out how we can continue to improve our remote learning offer and gain some feedback from parents and carers as the current period of lockdown draws to an end.

Please would you complete this questionnaire to give us insight into what has gone well and how we can make further improvements in the future:

[Parent/carer questionnaire regarding remote learning](#)

Travel survey

Please can we request that all pupils complete this survey about travel to school. The survey will take no longer than 30 seconds to complete.

[Pupil travel survey for all pupils to complete](#)

Active travel map

Please use this travel map to plan your active travel journey to and from school:

[Active travel map for St Edward's Academy](#)

Red Nose Day on Friday 19th March: Share a Smile

Friday 19th March is Red Nose Day and this year's theme is 'Share a Smile'. We are requesting that pupils wear something red along with their uniform and for a £1 donation to be made via Parent Pay. All proceeds will be donated to Red Nose Day charities.

Parent Pay

Prior to Monday 8th March, please make sure that you have checked your Parent Pay balance, cleared any debts and topped up ready for pupils to access their funds.

Mental Health Support

North Staffordshire NHS Mental Health Support Team are hosting virtual parent support groups. For further details:



Reminder of the information regarding opening from last week's letter:

Pick up and drop off

This is unchanged from the system that was being run prior to the Christmas holiday.

A reminder for parents/carers not to wait in any of the gateway areas when dropping off or collecting pupils as this causes congestion for others who are arriving. Please also be considerate when driving and parking at busy times.

Face coverings

All parents, carers and other adults who are dropping off or collecting pupils should wear a face covering when on site.

Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will be expected to wear face masks when entering school, when moving from classroom to classroom and in the majority of lessons. Pupils will be made aware when this is not the case. This will be monitored and under current guidance may be relaxed after the Easter holiday. **Please can you ensure that your child has a face mask with them at all times.**

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils may wear a face mask if they choose to.

PE kit and uniform

Pupils will be able to wear their PE kit on the days when they have PE. This must be Academy PE kit and not alternative sportswear. Warmer layers in black/navy can be worn in addition to Academy PE kit. This is to avoid the need for changing rooms and to reduce the risk of potential transmission.

Full Academy uniform including smart black shoes (not trainers) should be worn on all other school days.

Break times and lunch times

We will be continuing with the handwashing/sanitising routines that have already been in place and the staggered lunchtimes for year "bubbles".

Please can you ensure that your child has funds on their Parent Pay account to be able to purchase hot lunches that will be running as they did previously.

If you need any assistance with this, please use the contact form on the Academy website and we will contact you with support.

As a reminder, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will eat their lunch in the hall and Year 7 and Year 8 pupils will be utilising the marquee.

Free School Meals and Foodbank vouchers

A reminder that we can provide **Foodbank vouchers** if you need them. Please contact us if you would like Foodbank vouchers and we will arrange this for you in confidence. If your circumstances have changed and you think you might be entitled to means-tested **Free School Meals**, please ensure that you go to the Staffordshire County Council website and make an application. The link can be found [here](#).

Covid-19 symptoms

Please make sure that if your child has any symptoms at all of Covid-19: you self-isolate, arrange a test as soon as possible and let us know straight away via the pupil absence line or website contact form. If we have a positive case confirmed at school we will need to close that "bubble" of children and staff for 10 days

which means that the children affected will not be able to come to school and we very much want to avoid that but we need your help to do so. If this happens, we will need to contact you straight away so please **make sure that we have up-to-date contact numbers for you in case of closure.** Please notify us of any changes to your contact details via the contact form on the Academy website.

Before and after school club

Kids Space before and after school club will resume as per the arrangements prior to the Christmas break. If you require any further information regarding this, please call Lyn on 07534 839280.

Junior Bake Off

We have been contacted by a production company at Channel 4 who have recently opened applications for the 7th series of Junior Bake Off – a Channel 4 programme that celebrates the culinary talent and ambition of the younger generation in Britain.

They are looking for young budding bakers between 9 and 15 years old. Filming will take place from July 2021, but the applications close on Sunday 28th March.

Interested bakers can apply online at WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK.



Thank you for your support with helping us to keep everyone as safe as possible at school. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to allow all pupils to return to in-school learning as soon as possible in line with the Government guidance. We look forward to seeing everyone back soon!

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Hutchinson
Principal