



St. Edward's Church of England Academy

Westwood Road, Leek, ST13 8DN

Telephone: 01538 714740

Principal: Mr. T. Hutchinson

<http://stedwards.academy>

Friday 26th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Covid-19 Weekly Update



This week has marked a year since the first UK lock down began, we have seen many changes to our country and world since that point. Some for the better and some for the worse.

Everyone in the Academy has marked all those that we have loved and lost during the pandemic with by respecting the National Day of Reflection on the 23rd March. The pupils of the Academy as ever conducted themselves with the amazing level of empathy, love and support that they always demonstrate for one another, our local community and the wider world.

It is at such times as these that the true values of our school community shine through brighter than ever embodied by our pupils and that our ethos of living life in all its fullness is demonstrated.

Updates for this week:

Free School Meal Vouchers:

The FSM vouchers for the Easter holiday will be sent out this week. If you have any issues with this, please contact the Academy via the Contact Form on the website.

Red Nose Day 2021:

Well done to everyone who wore something red on Friday 19th March. The Academy raised **£289.00** for the Red Nose Day charities. A great effort!

Year 7 and 8 Pupils: Reporting Lateral Flow Test Results:

Please can parents/carers remember to send in your home testing results to the link below and not the Academy contact form. This form below has been set up specifically to collate this information:

[Year 7 and 8 Lateral Flow Home Testing Result Form](#)

Home Testing Information Year 7 & Year 8

All consenting Year 7 and 8 pupils have now completed 3 rounds of lateral flow testing in school. Their attitude and conduct during these tests has been excellent. From now on they will be provided with home testing kits for them to be able to conduct these with adult supervision and then report their results to us.

A detailed letter with further guidance on this has been sent out to Year 7 and 8 parents/carers. Information on this has also been posted on the Academy website. A Video and links with further information can be found below.

How to do a Covid self-test video

Informing the Academy of your result

Informing the NHS of your result

Testing at Home Y7 & Y8 Letter

Privacy Notice for Staff/Pupils Testing at Home

If you have a positive test returned, do not send your child into school. Please follow the guidance that can be found on the link below:

What to do if you have a positive test:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/>

I would remind all parents/carers that these tests are for the use of Academy pupils and each has an **identification code** that is linked back to the Academy. Please ensure these tests are solely used for testing of Academy pupils.

We recommend that pupils complete a test on a Wednesday and Sunday night and send the results to the school via the links on the letter/website.

You will need to continue to complete tests during the Easter holiday and the results should be returned to the Academy. You will need to complete a test on Sunday 18th April before returning on Monday 19th April as a priority.

Appointments and Collection of Pupils

If your child has an appointment during the school day, please can parents put a note in their planner to show the teacher and the teacher will allow them to leave during the lesson. The pupils can then ensure they are at the office on time for collection. Currently, lessons are facing disruptions due to staff having to locate pupils who are unaware they are leaving for an appointment and this is impacting the whole class.

Stakeholder engagement:

The views and queries of you as parents and carers matter to us at the Academy and help us to rethink and reshape in order to improve our practice and provision.

For this reason, parents and carers have the opportunity to submit questions or queries via the form (link below). The Principal will then provide a recorded video message of responses to these queries that will be shared with parents and carers as we are still unable to conduct face to face meetings.

If questions/queries are such that a response would identify an individual such cases will be dealt with in a confidential manner.

[Parent and Carer: Stakeholder Question Form](#)

Tennis for 4 -11 Year olds



The Lawn Tennis Association have just launched a new programme to encourage children to play tennis at their local clubs. If you could promote this with your parents, we would be very grateful.

This is a modern approach to tennis training. Forget standing around waiting for your turn to hit a forehand. Think dynamic sessions catered for all abilities.

We want to encourage children to play tennis throughout their lives – and be active too. So, if your child is aged 4-11, why not give it a try?

£29.99 (+£5 P&P) gets you:

- Six weeks of coaching with specially trained coaches
- A tennis racket and set of balls
- A branded t-shirt
- Activity cards, a lanyard, stickers and a certificate (provided by the coach)
- To book onto a course click the link below:

<https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/lta-youth/start/>

Mobile Phones:

We are happy for pupils to have their mobile phones with them as they are a piece of equipment that keeps them safe on the journey to and from school. However, we do not allow phones to be used in school and will be reminding pupils about this. If phones are seen in school, they may be confiscated and held in the Academy office until they can be collected by a parent/carer. Evidently, we wish to avoid this situation to reduce the risk of transmission through unnecessary visits to the Academy office.

To avoid this please can parents/carers reinforce that mobile phones are not to be seen or used in school.

Year 8 Leaver Hoodies

Leaver hoodies for Year 8 pupils are now available to order via the School Leavers Company. The deadline for placing orders is **Thursday 6th May**. Please see this letter for further details about the hoodies and how to place an order: [Year 8 leaver hoodies letter](#)

Spare PE kit donations

Please can I request if any parents/carers have any spare Academy PE kit or serviceable trainers at home that pupils have grown out of and you would like to donate could pupils bring it to their PE lessons, where we will quarantine them. We will give house points for donated items and redistributed them to pupils who need it or keep it in school as spare kit.

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

PE lessons until Easter

For PE lessons until Easter, pupils in all year groups will be given a choice of the following activities:

- Field games - in addition to their usual PE kit, pupils will require studded boots and shin pads
- Outside yard games - in addition to their usual PE kit, pupils will require shin pads and a gumshield if they select hockey
- Inside games - no additional items required other than their usual PE kit

Studded boots and shin pads are available to borrow if required. Pupils should speak to their PE teacher at the start of their PE lesson if they wish to borrow studded boots and/or shin pads.



Gumshields are available to purchase **for £2 via ParentPay**. Once payment has been received, PE staff will be notified, and your child will be given a gumshield in their PE lesson to bring home to be moulded. Please note that we are a cashless school so payments should be made via ParentPay rather than in cash.

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.

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.

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](#)

Parent Pay

Please make sure that you have checked your Parent Pay balance, cleared any debts and topped up ready for pupils to access their funds.

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 in 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Hutchinson'.

Mr T Hutchinson
Principal