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Mrs D L Thompson/ Miss M Davidson  
Co-Head Teachers

4<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **COVID-19 Update**

We hope that you had a safe and relaxing half term holiday last week. We are writing to inform you that, like many other schools in Northamptonshire, we have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases since the week before half term. We have now had 33 positive cases of COVID-19 since the start of term and **this week we have 15 positive cases made up of both children and staff members**. Many children have been absent through positive cases within the home, particularly those with secondary aged siblings. Equally, we have experienced a high number of staff absences from awaiting results of PCR tests due to positive cases within the home.

It has been very challenging staffing classes when staff have been absent, especially as there is a current shortage of supply teachers due to the high demand from all schools. We will continue to make every effort to keep classes open but we may, like some other schools in Northamptonshire, need to close classes and resort to remote education if we have staff shortages that mean we are unable to operate safely. **We will endeavour to give as much notice of any class closures and will make every effort to ensure that all classes stay open whenever possible.**

It is very important that we all work together to avoid a major COVID-19 outbreak in our school community which will lead to significant disruption in people's lives and children's learning as well as compromising everyone's safety. We ask that all parents and staff are aware of the COVID-19 symptoms (high temperature, continuous cough and loss of taste/ smell) and ensure that anyone with COVID-19 symptoms self-isolates and arranges a PCR test immediately, not returning to school until a negative result is obtained or, for a positive result, the self-isolation period has been completed.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, we emailed parents and staff an important letter from the Department of Public Health that we hope everyone has read. COVID-19 guidance keeps on changing and can be confusing that we would like to reiterate the latest guidance and advice from the Department of Public Health:

- All secondary school aged children should continue to do a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) at least twice a week. **It is also recommended that that parents and guardians do the tests too.** This is particularly good for early years or primary aged caregivers as it means cases are identified quickly without the need to regularly test younger children. Tests can be obtained at local pharmacies or ordering them online for home delivery <http://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>. If a parent, guardian, or older sibling does test positive with a LFT then all family members should isolate and get a PCR test as soon as possible.
- If a child tests positive using a LFT, that a PCR test is sought as soon as possible and that the child remains at home until the result of the PCR is known.
- On receipt of a positive PCR test, that any school age siblings of the case also seek an urgent PCR test and remain at home until the result is known - and if negative, take a daily LFT for 10 days thereafter to ensure no transmission into other school years/other school settings occurs.
- That pupils adhere to any requests made by Head Teachers for the use of face coverings where infection risks are identified and/or outbreaks occur.
- Vaccination is clearly a key component to containing the virus and we would strongly advise all eligible children to have the vaccine when offered and for parents and guardians who may not have yet been immunised to do so too.
- Finally, it's important to remember that regular and thorough hand washing remains an essential part of good hygiene and prevents the spread of many viruses. As well as COVID-19 it can also reduce the spread of colds, flu and stomach bugs.

If you have any questions, please contact us through emailing [enquiries@standrewsceva.uk](mailto:enquiries@standrewsceva.uk), telephoning the school office or completing the contact form on the school website: [www.standrews.northants.sch.uk](http://www.standrews.northants.sch.uk)

We thank you for your co-operation and working with us at this continuing difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

*D. L. Thompson M Davidson*

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Co-Head Teachers