



23 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Update COVID-19

I am writing to give you an update as we reach the end of the first half term in school within a COVID-19 secure environment. As you are aware, it has been a logistical challenge, but our systems and procedures appear to have been effective. It is inevitable that when planning is put into practice and reviews of systems are put in place it is possible to identify areas that could be changed and improved. This letter outlines a couple of changes we are making and actions we are taking to improve the systems we have in place. I also write to provide you with information on recent events this half term. I wish to thank all of our pupils for working with us and adhering to the systems we have in place; there has been a lot of significant change that we have all had to adapt to very quickly and I am proud of what we have achieved together.

Changes to our protocols

Use of toilets

I wrote to you on 18 September 2020 and included a copy of our handbook of protocols. We will be making a key change from the start of next half term. During the planning phase in August we considered that access to the main toilet block in school would be severely restricted and so we included in our protocol the opportunity for all pupils to have any time access to toilets in each year group zone. Having run through our system for seven weeks we know that the cleaning schedule in place is very effective between break time and lunch time and usage of the toilets in year group zones means that we no longer need to have toilets always open. Therefore, pupils will not be allowed to use the toilets as they want to throughout lesson time as access to the main toilet block is provided for use at break and lunchtimes.

Uniform and PE Kit

The implementation of policy to allow pupils to wear PE kit to school on days when they have PE has worked very well and I want to thank our pupils for working with us to make this effective. On days when weather has been cold, we have encouraged pupils to wear base layers. As we move into a season of colder weather and the need to keep at least one window open in a classroom for ventilation we all must consider the impact on our pupils and the wearing of school uniform. It is not the case that pupils should think that they can routinely wear their coats in the classroom; we would much prefer that pupils consider wearing base layers underneath their school uniform to keep warm in autumn and winter weather. It will be down to teachers in affected rooms to make a judgement on whether pupils can wear coats in classrooms in addition to wearing base layers underneath school uniform.

Food voucher scheme

In response to having to ask pupils to self-isolate as a consequence to a positive case of a pupil or member of staff who was in school forty-eight hours before having symptoms of COVID-19, we put in place a scheme to support families of pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM). The scheme we put in place is the issuing of a supermarket voucher for use at one of the following - Morrison's, Asda or Sainsbury's

- The value allocated each day for a free school meal is £2.35
- The value of the voucher is based on the number of days missed in school for which a pupil would have been eligible for a free school meal

- The voucher is then be rounded up to the nearest five-pound denomination as vouchers at supermarkets are issued in multiples of £5.00

An example of how the scheme works in relation to self-isolation as a response to a positive COVID test is:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, pupils are in school. A notification is received in school that someone in proximity to a pupil has tested positive for COVID-19. An identified group of pupils are sent home to self-isolate from the point of last contact in accordance with guidelines from Public Health England. The last contact was Monday. Pupils have been in school Tuesday and Wednesday which is two days of the advised self-isolation period. The eligible days are then Thursday and Friday plus the following Monday to Friday and the following Monday after this full week. In total this is eight school days that the identified pupils are not in school. The value of the voucher will be £2.35 multiplied by eight days which gives a total of £18.80 which is rounded up to a £20.00 voucher.

I would very much appreciate you contacting my Personal Assistant (PA), Heather Riley on enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk and letting us know if you are eligible and wish to be part of this supermarket scheme. Unfortunately, the scheme is not in place for holiday periods.

Inspection by the Health & Safety Executive

All schools are either having a review by telephone or visit by the Health & Safety Executive to monitor the implementation of protective measures in school. We were notified last week that we would be having a visit Tuesday 20 October 2020. The inspector met with me, toured the school, looked in classrooms, checked our policy against our practice, met with catering staff and two of our Teacher Union Representatives. The verbal report in summary is that we are well organised, have effective systems in place and are in a process of continual review to improve as we all adapt to living with COVID-19. I await any written report, but I am pleased with the inspection visit.

National Testing Programme

We have been invited to take part in a national study of one hundred and fifty schools; the invitation is from Public Health England, the Office for National Statistics and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The purpose of the study is:

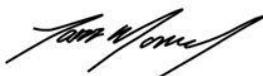
“We want to find out how many school pupils and staff have COVID-19 infection, how many have already developed antibodies against the virus and how this changes over the course of the year. The information we collect will help inform policies to protect school pupils and staff.

The study is being conducted by Public Health England in partnership with the Office for National Statistics, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, working with the Department for Education and is funded by the Department for Health and Social Care. IQVIA, a healthcare company, are also supporting the study.”

The study is aimed at our students in Years 12 and 13 as well as members of staff who teach students in these year groups. We hope that we can be of great help in this national study.

As always, I wish to thank you for your continued support; the letters and emails of thanks are much appreciated and help us to continue to strive to do the best we can. If you have any concerns about any of what is contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. We do of course, finish for the half-term break today and will return 8.00am on Monday 2 November 2020.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel
Headteacher