

Stanhope Barrington C of E
Primary School



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Head Teacher: Mrs D Cross

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Dear Parent/Carer

18th January 2022

Closure of the Sapphire Learning Zone

Further to my letter yesterday (17th January 2022), I am writing to inform you that there has been an increase in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school within the Sapphire Learning Zone. The number of positive tests has reached the Action Threshold of 10 which requires me to take further additional measures to protect our staff and children.

The increase in numbers of positive Covid cases has also impacted on our staffing levels and unfortunately, I have had to take the very difficult decision to close the Sapphire Learning Zone with effect from 3.30pm today for the rest of this week.

We will remain open for children whose parents are key workers or for children who are identified as vulnerable. If you are unsure as to whether you are a key worker please contact the school office for further advice. If you are a key worker, your child should attend school as normal having taken a negative lateral flow test that morning.

We now advise all parents in the Sapphire Learning Zone to lateral flow test their child daily for the next 10 days.

Children can access some work via Seesaw (our remote learning platform which they use for homework) but as the Class Teacher is unwell this may not be the full amount of work as I cannot expect her to work whilst off sick. Miss Hunter-Purvis will however, put work up when she feels able to do so throughout the course of this week.

If your child is unwell due to Covid (or any other illness) we do not expect them to complete work, however, if they are isolating or remaining at home as a result of the closure of Sapphire then they will be expected to complete tasks set and to access other learning such as reading regularly, practising their times tables and number bonds and accessing recommended websites detailed on our school website or directed via Seesaw.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, you can order a packed lunch via the school office for you to collect each day. Please note that this is not the Universal Free School Meals that infant aged children receive but is Free School Meals linked to entitlement to state benefits.

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The Sapphire Learning Zone will re-open on Monday 24th January 2022 and your child should attend as normal having had a negative lateral flow test result.

Please be aware, that this decision has not been taken lightly and has been discussed and agreed with the MAT, Health & Safety Advisors and the Chair of the Academy Council. I do appreciate the additional pressure this places on parents/carers and I really hope that the closure can be limited to the next three days only.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs D Cross
Head Teacher

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