



# Nether Stowe School

Headteacher: Mr G Langston-Jones  
St Chad's Road  
Lichfield, Staffordshire  
WS13 7NB  
Tel: 01543 263446 & 263487

25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## September 2020 Update

Dear parent or carer,

We were exceptionally pleased to welcome back pupils at the start of term, and I have been very proud of how pupils have displayed the outstanding qualities of positivity, hard work, effort, perseverance and great learning we always expect from them. I also wanted to take the opportunity to reassure you of the measures we have in place as well as share some important changes.

### Arrival at School

As you will be aware, we have one main pupil entrance for the vast majority of the school. It is, therefore, a very important part of our risk management plan that pupils arrive only at the appropriate time, as set out below, and not before:

Year	Arrival Time	Arrival Route
Pupils arriving by public bus		Pupil should report via reception and then to the school hall, where pupils will be seated in year group sections
7	08:30	Via main pupil entrance and report to tutor room
8	08:40	Via main pupil entrance and report to tutor room
9	08:40	Via Hall door entrance and report to tutor room
10	08:50	Via main pupil entrance and report to tutor room
11	08:50	Maths block and report to tutor room
Sixth Form	08:30	Access to Common Room from 08:30. Report to tutor room at 08:40

We have been very lucky with the weather, thus far, at the start of term. However, as we head towards Autumn, it essential for pupils to abide by these timings. Your continuing support with this is much appreciated. **Please note that, even in incidences of inclement weather, it will not be possible to allow pupils into school, before their allotted time.**

### Face Coverings

I am sure you are aware of the significant national increase in Covid cases. As an additional measure to help further support staff and students, we will be subsequently be raising our expectations around the use of face-coverings in school.

**From Monday Oct 5<sup>th</sup> October, all pupils and staff will be encouraged and expected to wear a face covering when inside the school building.** The only exceptions will be:

- Whilst eating or drinking in the canteen or hall at break and lunchtime
- In a lesson.
- Where a pupil has a recognised health-related exemption. This will need to be communicated to your child's form tutor no later than Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and a 'pass' will be provided.

Whilst face-coverings are not recommended in lessons, if pupils have opted to do so, we have allowed their use and will, of course, continue to do so.

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The expectation will formally be in place from the date indicated as this allows you to source appropriate face-coverings, if needed. Only a small number of face-coverings will be available for provision in school. However, where possible, I would urge you to ensure your child adheres to these expectations from next week.

### **NHS Test and Trace Phone app**

I trust you are also aware of the recent launch of the test and trace app. Whilst this app is aimed at people who are 16 years, or older, we understand that you may wish younger students to make use of it.

We are, therefore, making a temporary amendment to the school mobile phone policy, outlined below;

Pupils who have downloaded and activated the app:

- May leave their phone on (to allow the app to work) but it must remain on silent and must remain in the pupil's bag, not their pocket. **'Silent' is defined as no ringtone or other alert tones and no vibration alert.**
- Pupils may check their phone for an app notification at the **end** of each lesson. The expectation will be that phones are then returned to bags before the pupil leaves for, or starts, the next lesson
- **Along with pupil safety, good quality teaching and learning is the highest priority: use of a phone within a lesson, or a phone not on silent, will still constitute a breach of policy. In such circumstances, the phone will be turned off and confiscated from the pupil for collection at the end of the day**
- If pupils are leaving their bag in a communal area – for example in a changing room – the phone must be turned off as this will avoid potential 'false positive' reports
- If a pupil receives a notification, they should inform the nearest member of staff. The member of staff will take them to reception for contact to be made with parents.

**Please note that, should a notification be received, there is no way of identifying where the contact took place, or with whom, and it does not necessarily mean the contact occurred in school.**

Further information is available from the NHS [website](#).

### **Attendance**

After such a prolonged period of time out of school, good attendance at school is even more essential. The current government guidance can be found [here](#).

It is important for me to emphasise that attendance at school is compulsory and that it is the parent's or carer's duty to ensure good attendance. If you require further support, please contact your child's pastoral head.

### **Self-isolation**

As a reminder, the current guidance on self-isolation is as follows and is available [here](#) on the NHS website. You must self-isolate immediately if:

- You have any symptoms of coronavirus (a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)
- You've tested positive for coronavirus – this means you have coronavirus
- You live with someone who has symptoms or tested positive
- Someone in your support bubble has symptoms or tested positive
- You're told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace

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In short: pupils **must not** attend school if they are displaying any of the Covid symptoms above and your proactive support in this regard will help us to ensure the continuity of school provision.

### **Remote Learning: 'Plan B'**

All pupils have undertaken 'Plan B' training. Although we obviously hope it will not be required, pupils can access work and resources for guided learning via the Stella link on the homepage and log-in using their normal school network login details. We have also created a video guide to help remind students of how to access their lesson resources which can be found by selecting the student tab on the school website and selecting the Plan B link.

If you experience any problems accessing the resources please contact: [ITAdvice@atlp.org.uk](mailto:ITAdvice@atlp.org.uk). When emailing, please remember to state the school name, full pupil name as well as the nature of the problem.

### **Building work**

The new extension to the main building, as well as the Sport Hall, have progressed incredibly quickly and we are excited that they are well on schedule. We have some fantastic new classrooms and we are really looking forward to our new facilities being available and ready for everyone to use.

You can see images on our Twitter feed and new Instagram account. Search for Nether Stowe School on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for more details.

### **Open Evening**

Next week we would normally be warmly welcoming prospective parents into school for our Open Evening event. Feedback around previous events has always been glowing and it is disappointing that, due to current restrictions, we are not able to do so. However, our virtual open evening will be launched on **1<sup>st</sup> Oct** on our website and we will provide plenty of opportunities for questions and more information. See the website for more details.

Most importantly, I would like to thank you all for your positive and continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr G Langston-Jones**  
**Headteacher**

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