

## STAKEFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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### Important – Please Read

9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Now that school has been open for a week to all pupils, we have been reviewing the systems in place and need to make some changes and give out further reminders.

#### School Meals

The provision put in place for school meals, which was based on a good practice example from the DFE, is not working for our school. From Monday, we will not be providing school meals to children who would normally pay and are asking that these children are sent to school with a packed lunch. I have attached to this letter a leaflet and guidance on healthy packed lunch ideas and ask parents not to include sweets (including chocolate bars) or fizzy drinks.

Children who receive free school meals, either as part of the means tested entitlement or children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 who receive Universal Infant Free School Meal entitlement, will be provided with a hot or cold packed lunch by the school each day.

#### Symptoms

We are doing our very best to stay on top of the guidance sent out by the DFE and government to keep your children and our staff safe. We do not know all the answers and sometimes need to seek further advice ourselves in order to make the best decision possible. The director of Public Health England wrote to schools this week to clarify that, at the moment, children should only be sent for testing if they have one or more of the three published symptoms (continuous cough; high temperature; loss of taste or smell) children who have headaches, sore throats or upset stomachs do not need to be tested, **unless** one of the recognised symptoms is also present.

We realise that parents are struggling to access tests in the local area and ask that these frustrations are not taken out on school staff. This is not our fault and is out of our control. If you keep trying the testing contact number, sometimes testing slots closer to our area become available during the day. If you have no transport to reach a testing centre and are unable to access a postal test and GPs cannot help, contact school and we will try to help find a solution.

At the moment, there are a lot of children catching colds at school. Unfortunately, sometimes this is accompanied by a cough. We have no choice but to say that even if you think the cough is linked to the cold and not Covid-19, children have to be sent home. **We cannot take the risk that the cough is only linked to the cold and a test will need to be completed.**

Advice changes almost daily and we will inform you of any changes so **please ensure you read these letters.**

#### Drop Off and Collection

Following DFE advice we have staggered the start and end of the school day. We have allocated 15 minute arrival slots. This is so that children can arrive at any point within their designated slot. This has been done to avoid large gatherings on the yard. Unfortunately, this is still happening because parents are arriving before their child's arrival slot opens. Please do not arrive before your allocated time and please use the full 15 minute slot rather than arriving for the opening of the slot. Parents dropping off two children in adjacent slots will be using this time.

If we all keep working together, supporting each other and following the guidelines and rules we will be able to minimise the impact this current situation has on our children and avoid any partial or full closure.

Yours sincerely

J. A. Hall  
Headteacher

