

Lyme Community Primary School

June 2



With the news that Newton-le-Willows has a COVID-19 case rate of 152.4 per 100,000 which is triple the borough average and Earlestown is also among the highest rates in the borough for the last few weeks, it is vital that we follow the advice.

The Community Safety poster at the end of this newsletter outlines how the Council are taking targeted action initially including surge testing in this area.

There are details of additional vaccination clinics where you can get your second (or first in some cases) vaccinations earlier than expected.

Please take advantage of these opportunities so we can get the rates down and life back to normal as soon as possible.

I'm afraid we will **NOT BE HAVING ANY** events in school before the end of the year where parents can attend including sports day.

Roll on next year when we can invite you back in but until then, staggered timings remain and masks worn at all times, plus social distancing at all times. One bubble burst was enough!

PGL Trip

Absolutely thrilled, we'll be taking 29 children away next year for the adventure of a Y6 lifetime! 😊 Pay in instalments if you like on School Money or send in cash, whatever, however, as long as the full £200 is paid by the deadline of Friday 29th April, you can do it any way that's the easiest for you.

Change to Holiday Dates 2020-2021

As the extra Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee falls in the Whit holiday (2022) schools have been given the freedom to add that day wherever they want. We've decided to add it to the end of this Summer Holiday and re-arrange an Inset day, so the children come back in on Monday 6th September 2021. I've put the revised holiday list at the end of this Newsletter.

Transition

Y6 & Y7 - In light of Boris Johnson's announcement this week, Hope Academy have reviewed their transition plans and have decided to postpone transition originally scheduled for the 7th, 8th and 9th July.

They are currently looking at hosting face to face transition days on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th July at the Academy. It is really important that year 6 pupils have the opportunity to take part in face to face transition so that they are fully prepared for September; working together we hope to make this happen.

The Academy will communicate with parents and children when they have more details.

Nursery & Reception - The letter at the end of the Newsletter from St Helens Council has also affected our transition plans for Nursery and Reception. Unfortunately, we've been told we can't hold any of our planned meetings.

Mrs McDermott will contact our Nursery parents by phone before the end of the year and we will organise stay and play sessions in September with staggered starts to make that more manageable.

Mrs Lawrenson will make a video and prepare a welcome pack for our Reception parents. More details will come out soon for both of these arrangements.

Y6 Prom – The extra Covid precautions have also affected the Y6 Prom. We'll have a party in school on the afternoon of Wednesday 21st July so the children can come in their Prom outfits and we'll have our own traditional celebration on the last day of Term, Thursday 22nd July. We will film the Y6 Leavers' Assembly and provide that to all Y6 parents and Carers.

I CAN!
Inspire
Challenge
Achieve
Nurture

1st day response to absences

Please contact school as early as possible on the first day of a child's absence. It is your duty to inform us of any absences from school and we need you to do this in a timely fashion. Thank you for your co-operation.

January, April and September 2022 nursery intake

The online application system has now opened for the January, April and September 2022 nursery intakes. If your child turns three between after September you are eligible for a place in January if we have space.

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/schools-education/school-admissions/nursery-schools/>

ADVICE AND INFORMATION RE COVID AND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

COVID-19 COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Government has announced that the whole of the Liverpool City Region, including St Helens, is to be designated as an Enhanced Response Area (ERA).

This is because COVID-19 cases are increasing and doubling weekly, and we know that this is linked to the Delta variant, first identified in India, which is easier to spread with a 64% increased risk of household transmission and is 40% more transmissible outdoors compared to previous strains.

Newton-le-Willows has a COVID-19 case rate of 152.4 per 100,000 which is triple the borough average and Earlestown is also among the highest rates in the borough for the last few weeks which is why we are taking targeted action initially including surge testing in this area.



People aged 40 and over can change their COVID-19 second dose interval from 12 to 8 weeks by calling 119.



Two drop-in COVID-19 Pfizer vaccination clinics at the Totally Wicked Stadium (Saints) on Tuesday 22 and Friday 25 June, 8am-7pm (with a break between 12.30pm-1.30pm) for anyone:

- People aged 18 and over
- People with an underlying health condition (including 16 and 17 year olds)
- People who live and work in care homes
- Frontline health and social care workers
- Carers over 16 (you don't have to be a registered carer, simply someone that has caring responsibilities for a vulnerable person)

No need to book - just turn up!



Get tested for coronavirus (COVID-19)

There are different tests you can get to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19). The test you need depends on why you're getting tested. The 2 main tests are:

PCR tests – mainly for people with symptoms, they're sent to a lab to be checked

Rapid lateral flow tests – only for people who do not have symptoms, they give a result in 30 minutes using a device similar to a pregnancy test. You should do a rapid test **twice a week (every 3 to 4 days)** to check if you have the virus. If people test positive and self-isolate, it helps stop the virus spreading.

You can order tests from:

www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests, collect tests from a test site or pharmacy. More information can be found at sthelens.gov.uk/letsgetttested

Both tests are free.



If you have symptoms of COVID-19

Get a PCR test as soon as possible if you have any of these symptoms:



- a high temperature
or



- a new, continuous cough
or



- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

You and anyone you live with should stay at home until you get your test result. Only leave your home to have a test.

Anyone in your childcare or support bubble should also stay at home if you have been in close contact with them since your symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.



Don't forget - Hands. Face. Space. Fresh Air



#STHELENSTOGETHER





ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Children and Young
People's Services
Department**
Atlas House
Corporation Street
St Helens
Merseyside
WA9 1LD

16 June 2021

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for everything you are doing, it is making a real difference to the lives of children and young people in St Helens.

As you know there has been a significant rise in the number of new Covid-19 cases in both St Helens and the North West in recent weeks, with many being linked to the Delta variant.

Yesterday the Liverpool City Region, which includes St Helens has been designated as an Enhanced Response Area. Infection rates are rising rapidly and as many of you will know are affecting children and staff attending schools in our area. Evidence from Public Health England and others indicates that this rise will continue.

You will have received updated guidance this week from the Department For Education regarding group events in light of the delayed lifting of additional restrictions in England. As St Helens is part of a designated Enhanced Response Area it is necessary for us to make additional recommendations that we strongly urge schools to follow. The aim of this guidance being to help contain the spread of the virus and help keep pupils, teachers and their families safe.

With the new Delta variant believed to be up to 60 per cent more transmissible, the wearing of face coverings in communal spaces and on school buses remains crucially important. Thus, we are recommending in secondary schools the continued use of face masks. We would also advise that where possible in secondary schools they should continue to be worn in classrooms by all school staff and high school pupils.

As a consequence of the rise in infection we also strongly advise that schools postpone prom events whether or not they are taking place on either school sites or at an outside venue. This advice will be reviewed following any further guidance from government.

The risk from staging events like this in the current situation cannot be overstated. We are aware of a recent case outside the borough, for example, where one child with the virus arrived at an event similar to a prom that led to an outbreak affecting more than 60 people. This is something that we all do not want to happen here in St Helens.

Hopefully, we can give the go ahead to them happening once we know more on how this latest wave of Covid-19 is affecting our communities and have taken appropriate action to help bring it under control.

In addition, any planned in person transition events for future pupils should be postponed in order to reduce the opportunity for cases to spread.

With sports days also coming up we would encourage you keep children in their bubbles and limit spectators. We would also ask you to make sure that your risk assessments maintain social distancing for anyone who does attend to watch.

We will also be asking for the support of secondary schools in testing your pupils twice weekly on site if possible. Should you need additional support in implementing testing on site, we have fully trained staff who will be come into school and assist with the delivery of testing .Please contact jasonpickett@sthelens.gov.uk for further details if you need this.

Likewise if you need additional testing kits delivering to your school please contact melanieburrows@sthelens.gov.uk

We do need your support in this area, and we would also ask that you advise us immediately of any new cases in your school. This will help us identify any localised outbreaks of the variant in local communities and enable us to take swift action to limit its spread.

We will also be writing to parents to advise them of the advice that we are providing to local schools and asking them to support our efforts by testing regularly at home and registering their results.

Yours faithfully



Jim Leivers
Director of Children and Young People's Services



Ruth du Plessis
Director of Public Health

LYME COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

DATES OF SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2021/22

AUTUMN TERM

School opens	Monday	6th September	2021
School closes	Friday	22nd October	2021
School opens	Monday	1st November	2021
School closes	Tuesday	21st December	2021

SPRING TERM

School opens	Thursday	6th January	2022
School closes	Friday	11th February	2022
School opens	Monday	21st February	2022
School closes	Friday	1st April	2022

SUMMER TERM

School opens	Tuesday	19th April	2022
School closes	Friday	27th May	2022
School opens	Tuesday	7th June	2022
School closes	Wednesday	20th July	2022