

Dr Richard Harling Director of Health & Care Staffordshire County Council No 1 Staffordshire Place Stafford ST16 2LP Direct Dial: 0300 111 8050 *Postal Address:* Staffordshire Place 2, Tipping Street, Stafford, ST16 2DH

Date: 8 June 2021

Dear Parent,

I firstly wanted to thank you for all of the efforts you are making to help stop the spread of Covid in Leek, whether that's through regular testing of your children and household, or taking up the offer of a vaccination when eligible.

Cases of Covid in Leek are the highest in Staffordshire, with many of these either confirmed or suspected as being the more transmissible Delta Variant of Concern. Added to this, we have seen high transmission levels of Covid-19 in 11-18 year olds locally.

Much of this transmission appears to be happening during social events outside the school day, where Covid controls are not in place. With the warmer weather and more people mixing both indoors and outside, it is more important than ever that we remain vigilant and stick to the rules to stop the virus spreading further.

I would be very grateful if you could remind your children about the importance of hygiene and social distancing, as well as staying alert to symptoms of Covid.

If your child has any of these symptoms, they will need to isolate and <u>book a PCR test</u>. If they are informed that they are a close contact of a Covid case, they will need to isolate for 10 days – this is really important as it helps to prevents further spread of infection.

It is also important that children over the age of 11 are tested at home twice a week, and that the households of primary-age children are also testing themselves twice a week. Finally, if your child has been asked to wear a face covering while in school, please make sure they comply with this request.

the knot unites



Anyone in your home who is 18 or over can now get their first dose of the vaccine at a special pop-up clinic in the town. You can find out more about testing and vaccinations and how to book at <u>www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leektesting</u>

By encouraging your child to keep following the rules outside of school, you are helping to support your school and help us avoid further restrictions in the future.

Yours sincerely

Dr Richard Harling MBE Director of Health & Care

