



21 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS 'FIREBREAK'**

A short, sharp 'firebreak' will be introduced across Wales at the end of this week to help regain control of coronavirus, First Minister Mark Drakeford announced this week. The fortnight-long action is needed to save lives and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed.

Speaking to the people of Wales, the First Minister said, "This is the moment to come together; to play our part in a common endeavour to protect the NHS and save lives. This will not be easy, but we will do it together". Of course, playing our part in a common endeavour is at the very heart of what it means to belong to #TeamTeilo. American educator (and one of the 20th century's leading humanitarians) Helen Keller put it so well when she wrote, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

The fire-break will start at 6pm on Friday 23 October and end on Monday 9 November. It will apply to everyone living in Wales and will replace the local restrictions which are in force in some parts of the country. Luckily, this is a scenario that we have prepared for!

#### ***Years 7 and 8***

Years 7 and 8 will return to school as planned on Monday 2 November 2020. They will continue to experience school as usual with only slight modifications to their timetable. School transport will be running.

#### ***Years 9, 10 and 11***

Years 9, 10 and 11 will be required to remain at home after the half term break. They will continue to receive their full curriculum via webcasts at 9.00am, 11.00am and 1.30pm each day. Webcasts can be watched on a computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone through a browser or by downloading the Microsoft Teams app via Hwb. Children will be provided with full joining instructions in hard copy, by email and on Hwb.

#### ***Years 12 and 13***

Years 12 and 13 will be required to remain at home after the half term break. They will continue to receive their full curriculum via online meetings at 9.00am, 11.00am and 1.30pm each day. Students can participate in meetings by downloading the Microsoft Teams app via Hwb and they will be provided with full joining instructions in hard copy, by email and on Hwb.

Unless the Welsh Government make further changes to the 'firebreak' arrangements, all students will return to school on Monday 9 November 2020.

Direct payments for free school meals will continue throughout and, if you've any questions, I will be available during the half term break by email at [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com).

The Welsh Government has published frequently asked questions about the 'firebreak' here: <https://gov.wales/coronavirus-firebreak-frequently-asked-questions#section-53255>

Your child can access Hwb here: <https://hwb.gov.wales/>

### ***Tracked cases***

The school has now had its first positive cases of COVID. One member of staff tested positive on 20 October 2020 and I have identified one close contact who is required to self-isolate. In an unrelated case, one pupil tested positive on 21 October 2020 and I have identified 48 close contacts who are required to self-isolate. The parents and carers of those identified have been informed. Therefore, if I have not written to you directly on the matter, you do not need to worry about your child having been in close contact with a positive case.

As usual, I have included the latest figures for you in **Appendix 1** and also some advice about remaining alert in **Appendix 2**.

And so, we enter the next phase in our fight against coronavirus. As the first half term of this academic year draws to a close, I would like to thank staff, students and families for your collective efforts in keeping the school open and keeping one another safe and well. Please take care of yourselves during this 'firebreak' period and reach out to me for any support we might be able to offer. Just because you carry it well, doesn't mean it isn't heavy; we really are all in this together.

Blessings,

Mr I Loynd  
Headteacher

***Please read the appendix on the following page.***

# APPENDIX 1: TRACKED CASES

## Pupils

Tracked cases (pupils)	Impact on school	Total cases (as of 21/10/20)
Children who have had a negative COVID test result	Nil	96
Children who live with somebody who has had a negative COVID test result	Nil	108
Children who have had a positive COVID result but no close contacts	Nil	2
Children who live with somebody who has had a positive COVID result but no close contacts	Nil	15
Children who have been abroad and quarantined upon return	Nil	3
Children who have isolated as a precautionary measure	Nil	9
Children who have had a positive COVID result with close contacts	Partial closure and self-isolation	1

## Staff

Tracked case (staff)	Impact on school	Total cases (as of 21/10/20)
Staff who have had a negative COVID test result	Nil	5
Staff who live with somebody who has had a negative COVID test result	Nil	8
Staff who have had a positive COVID result but no close contacts	Nil	2
Staff who live with somebody who has had a positive COVID result but no close contacts	Nil	0
Staff who have had a positive COVID result with close contacts	Partial closure and self-isolation	1

## APPENDIX 2: STAY ALERT

Please be alert for any symptoms of COVID-19:

- A new or continuous cough
- A high temperature
- A loss of or change to sense of smell or taste

If your child develops any of these symptoms, even if they are mild:

- Book a test for them by phoning 119 or by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test>
- Inform the Headteacher that they are unwell with COVID-19 by emailing [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com)
- Your child should self-isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms started
- All other household members should isolate for 14 days from when your child developed symptoms
- Do not visit a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital but if you require medical advice please contact NHS 111 or telephone your GP; if there is a medical emergency phone 999
- Please follow the advice provided when your child receives their test result

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading, there are things that everyone in your family can do to help. These include:

- washing hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- using hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- washing hands as soon as they get home
- covering their mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not their hands) when they cough or sneeze
- putting used tissues in the bin immediately and washing hands afterwards

*Further information on symptoms and self-isolation can be found here: <https://gov.wales/symptoms-and-self-isolation-contact-tracing>*

*Further formation on Test, Trace, Protect can be found here: <https://gov.wales/test-trace-protect-coronavirus>*

*General information on COVID-19 can be found here: <https://gov.wales/protect-yourself-others-coronavirus>*

*The COVID-19 online symptom checker can tell you if you need medical help and can be found here: <https://gov.wales/check-if-you-need-coronavirus-medical-help>*