



25 October 2021

Dear friends,

### **STRENGTH UNDER CONTROL**

Last month, Cardiff paid tribute to Betty Campbell, Wales' first black headteacher. Her monument is believed to be the only statue of a non-fictional woman in an outdoor public space in Wales. A model for best practice in multicultural education, Betty proved her doubters wrong after being told as a child that her dream job as a headteacher was 'insurmountable'. She worked as a teacher in Mount Stuart Primary School before becoming a county councillor and undertaking other civic duties.

If you visit our school, you will see a very large illustration of Betty. She is the role model for our character practice of 'gentleness'. In my own work, I try to express something of that gentle determination – a kind yet steadfast commitment – to promoting the interests of children and young people. And, never more so than now, has a calm and gentle approach to school leadership been necessary. As American writer Elizabeth George puts it, "Gentleness is strength under control. It is the ability to stay calm, no matter what happens."

Following the killing of George Floyd, I committed to establishing a more strategic approach to tackling prejudice and fostering inclusion at St Teilo's (<http://www.stteilos.com/written-statement-the-killing-of-george-floyd/>). I am delighted to partner with Rachel Clarke, Betty Campbell's granddaughter, whose organisation 'Promote Equality' supports schools in their drive for racial equality and equity. We have much to do as a community and we must do it together.

The backdrop for our work remains, regrettably, the ongoing public health crisis. Since returning to school in September, you will be aware that infection rates in 10 to 19 year olds have risen dramatically. I know that many parents and carers have been frustrated by the changes to contact tracing and self-isolation (see <http://www.stteilos.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Letter-1-07-September-2021.pdf>) and I have passed these concerns back to the local authority for discussion with Public Health Wales. From mid-October, infection rates appear to be levelling off, as seen by the latest PHW statistics ([https://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk/CommunitySurveillanceDocs.nsf/0/4fca746dd30ee1cb8025861700309039/\\$FILE/Weekly%20COVID-19%20schools%20report.pdf](https://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk/CommunitySurveillanceDocs.nsf/0/4fca746dd30ee1cb8025861700309039/$FILE/Weekly%20COVID-19%20schools%20report.pdf)). Yet, we are not 'out of the woods'.

**Staff absence levels, brought about by the need to self-isolate, are becoming increasingly difficult to manage. It is essential that you support us in minimising disruption by playing your part and following the advice given in Appendix 1.**

[Continued]

## ***INSET Day***

A reminder that Monday 1 November 2021 is an INSET day. All students return on Tuesday 2 November 2021. You can find a list of all INSET days and term dates on our website (<http://www.stteilos.com/events-calendar/>) and at the end of this letter.

## ***GCSE Mathematics Numeracy***

A reminder that Year 11 students will undertake their first attempt at the GCSE Mathematics Numeracy qualification on Tuesday 2 November and Thursday 4 November 2021. Attendance to school is of the utmost importance for Year 11 on these days.

## ***Parents' Roundtable***

I am seeking a small group of parents and carers to join me in establishing a discussion and debate group for matters affecting children and young people at St Teilo's. Meeting a minimum of three times per year, the 'Parents' Roundtable' will be a forum to grapple with some of the important decisions facing schools in the coming years. If you would like to express an interest in joining the group, please email a short paragraph of your suitability to [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com).

## ***Keeping in touch***

Parents and carers are encouraged to be in regular communication with us. The key points of contact are:

- **Year 7**  
Mrs Pitt ([r.pitt@stteilos.com](mailto:r.pitt@stteilos.com)) supported by Mr Miah, Miss Lia and Miss Powell.
- **Year 8**  
Mrs Pitt ([r.pitt@stteilos.com](mailto:r.pitt@stteilos.com)) supported by Mr Yates, Mrs Whyman and Mrs Miah.
- **Year 9**  
Mrs Phillips ([j.phillips@stteilos.com](mailto:j.phillips@stteilos.com)) supported by Mr Barnes and Mrs Shardlow.
- **Year 10**  
Mrs Phillips ([j.phillips@stteilos.com](mailto:j.phillips@stteilos.com)) supported by Mrs Rees and Mr Yendell.
- **Year 11**  
Mrs Williams ([a.williams@stteilos.com](mailto:a.williams@stteilos.com)) and Miss Hallett ([k.hallett@stteilos.com](mailto:k.hallett@stteilos.com)) supported by Mrs Johnson and Mr Walker.
- **Years 12 and 13**  
Mrs Owen ([e.owen@stteilos.com](mailto:e.owen@stteilos.com)) supported by Mrs Gallo.

You are also invited to contact me directly by emailing [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com). Please do remember that staff are unlikely to be available without notice in person or by telephone

(they are busy working with children); email is by far the most effective way to contact us!  
Please do not attend the school without an appointment.

As ever, I have compiled a list of 'frequently asked questions' to keep you updated. You will find these in **Appendix 2**.

Blessings,

Mr I Loynd  
Headteacher

## APPENDIX 1 COVID-19

### ***My child has COVID symptoms. What should I do?***

If your child has a cough, high temperature or loss of, or change in, taste or smell they should isolate immediately. A PCR test will be needed to determine if your child has COVID-19. To order a PCR test, visit [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119. **Be sure to update the school by emailing [COVID@stteilos.com](mailto:COVID@stteilos.com).**

### ***My child is ill but I don't think it's COVID. What should I do?***

If your child is generally unwell, we strongly encourage that they remain at home to allow the worst of the illness to pass. This will help to keep the rest of the school population healthy and reduce levels of staff absence which may affect continuity in learning. Report general absence by telephoning 02920547180 and pressing Option 1.

### ***Somebody else in my household has COVID. Can my child come to school?***

In law, your child is permitted to continue attending school. However, we would encourage an abundance of caution. Please conduct daily lateral flow device tests (available from the school) for ten days. You should also book a PCR test for your whole household on day 2 and day 8 by visiting [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or calling 119. **Be sure to update the school by emailing [COVID@stteilos.com](mailto:COVID@stteilos.com).**

### ***My child has been a close contact of a positive case. What should I do?***

In law, your child is permitted to continue attending school. However, we would encourage an abundance of caution. Please conduct daily lateral flow device tests (available from the school) for ten days. You should also book a PCR test for your child on day 2 and day 8 by visiting [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or calling 119. **Be sure to update the school by emailing [COVID@stteilos.com](mailto:COVID@stteilos.com).**

### ***How will I know if my child has been in contact with a positive case in school?***

If a child tests positive, only a minority of their classmates will be identified as close contacts. NHS Test, Trace and Protect (TTP) will get in touch with all close contacts to provide instructions or advice. Contact tracing is no longer undertaken by schools.

### ***I have a question about COVID-19. Who should I contact?***

All COVID-related questions, queries or updates should be directed to our dedicated mailbox [COVID@stteilos.com](mailto:COVID@stteilos.com). You can find the latest information on self-isolation arrangements at [www.gov.wales/self-isolation](http://www.gov.wales/self-isolation).

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **What time should my child arrive at school?**

Pupils should be on site no later than 8.30am, ready for their first lesson at 8.40am. Parents and carers must make every effort to ensure children are in school and ready to learn before lesson 1.

#### **Can I drive onto the school site?**

You may drop your child off in the morning on the school site by pulling up to our safe drop-off zone. Please do not exceed the 5mph speed limit and please do not attempt to overtake another vehicle. Your patience will keep children safe. You must not come onto the school site for collection in the afternoon. Instead, you should park sensibly and legally on the roads surrounding the site.

#### **Will school catering resume?**

Initially, children will need to continue to bring a packed lunch and drinking water to school. However, we are actively working to reintroduce some form of catering. The dining hall will not be available for the academic year as it has been repurposed to increase the amount of teaching space available to children.

#### **What are the term dates?**

- Autumn 1: 2 September 2021 – 22 October 2021
- Autumn 2: 1 November 2021 – 17 December 2021
- Spring 1: 4 January 2022 – 18 February 2022
- Spring 2: 28 February 2022 – 8 April 2022
- Summer 1: 25 April 2022 – 27 May 2022
- Summer 2: 6 June 2022 – 22 July 2022

#### **When will INSET days be?**

- INSET 1: 2 September 2021
- INSET 2: 3 September 2021
- INSET 3: 1 November 2021
- INSET 4: 4 January 2022
- INSET 5: 5 January 2022
- INSET 6: 28 February 2022
- INSET 7: 22 July 2022

### **Will after school clubs resume?**

Yes, in line with public health advice. At this time, it is our intention to reintroduce the enrichment curriculum in full.

### **What are the rules on mobile phones in school?**

Mobile phones are not permitted inside the school. This is one of our 'non-negotiables'. If a child is seen to be using their telephone inside the building, it will calmly be removed from them and returned at the end of the school day. Pupils are able to use their telephones in the designated outdoor 'phone zone' for their year group.

### **What uniform is required?**

We have returned to the usual full uniform (see <http://www.stteilos.com/parents/uniform/>). It is expected that parents and carers take responsibility for their child's uniform.

### **Who do I contact if I have question or concern about COVID?**

Please use our dedicated mailbox ([COVID@stteilos.com](mailto:COVID@stteilos.com)).

### **Are face masks required?**

At 'Alert Level 0' there is no requirement for face coverings in school. We will inform you if this changes. However, face coverings are required on school transport.

### **Will absence for the purpose of a holiday be authorised?**

In almost all circumstances, holidays during term time will not be authorised. After so much school closure, every lesson really does count.

### **Will there be school reports?**

Yes, we will be reporting on student progress as usual. Parents and carers can expect outcome data (as a percentage) and an effort grade for all subjects at the end of each term.

### **What arrangements are there for parents' evenings?**

We don't want parents to have to wait many months for a busy parents' evening, especially having been denied access to the school for so long. Therefore, we will be trialling a new, digital solution which will allow parents and carers to book appointments with teachers at any point in the academic year. Meetings will be available for booking online every Thursday and further details will follow.

### **Will there be predicted grades for examination year groups?**

No. Qualifications Wales has set out a new grading approach for this year's examinations, with a statistical model of standardisation to determine grades. This means that making predictions about outcomes is particularly challenging. Instead, you will be able to gauge progress using the reports sent at the end of each term and by talking to teachers under our new consultation arrangements. You can read all about the approach on the Qualifications Wales website (<https://www.qualificationswales.org/english/news/qualifications-wales-confirms-the-summer-2022-grading-approach/>).

### **If my child is worried, who should they speak to?**

In every learning zone, there are a minimum of two Youth Workers available all day. Children can also speak with their Achievement Leader or a member of our Wellbeing or Inclusion Team.

### **Does the school provide lateral flow devices?**

Yes, available from Youth Workers in every learning zone.

### **Are bus passes required?**

Yes. All students who are eligible for travel on school buses have been issued with a pass by Cardiff Council. If your child does not have a pass, they may be refused travel so they must carry the pass every day. Remember that face coverings remain mandatory on school buses.

### **Do you have a lost property room?**

Yes. We store all lost property safely for the remainder of the academic year. Your child can access the store by speaking to their Youth Worker. Please ensure clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name – especially coats!

### **I still have questions!**

Please email Mr Loynd at [headteacher@stteilos.com](mailto:headteacher@stteilos.com) and a member of staff will reply as soon as possible.