

01 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

SCHOOL CLOSURE (YEAR 9) – THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2022

I contacted you on 04 January 2022 to prepare you for the possibility of school closure as a consequence of the Omicron variant of concern. In that letter, I wrote:

“It is, perhaps, inevitable that your child will be asked to stay at home on occasion as a consequence of staff absence. Our approach should ensure that such occurrences are rare and last for the minimum length of time possible; ideally, no more than one day in the week. Of course, there is much we still do not know about the impact of Omicron and I will keep you updated with our progress. Importantly, you will need to be prepared for sudden and unexpected school closure. The notice provided may be short.”

Alas, with 15% of the workforce now absent, I am unable to run the school effectively or safely. I project the requirement to cover 110 lessons in the coming three days with 30 breaktime duties unstaffed.

Thankfully, we are well prepared for such a scenario. **However, I must now ask your Year 9 child to remain at home on Thursday 3 February 2022 for one day only.** This means your child will return to school on Friday 4 February 2022.

Your child's teachers have uploaded work to the blended learning class on Hwb. Accordingly, we ask your child to follow their usual school timetable whilst at home so that there can be no negative impact on their learning or progress.

As promised, our contingency measures have been designed to keep any disruption to an absolute minimum. In the following pages, I remind you of the many ways we can each play our part to reduce transmission and prevent further school closure.

Should this decision cause a particular difficulty to you or your child, please contact me directly at headteacher@stteilos.com so that I can provide advice and guidance.

Yours,

Mr I Loynd
Headteacher

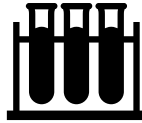


APPENDIX 1 COVID-19 Control Measures

We can all play our part in keeping our school safe and open:



Do not attend school if you are unwell.



Test yourself using a lateral flow device before school every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



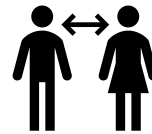
Wear a face covering at all times when indoors (unless you are medically exempt).



Use your designated entrance and exit.



Do not leave your zone unless accompanied by a member of staff.



Give others space, where possible.



Wash your hands regularly and make use of the available hand sanitiser.



Keep classroom windows and doors open, when possible.



Do not obstruct those undertaking enhanced cleaning during the day.



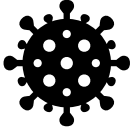
Bring a packed lunch and water to school.



Eat outside in your designated picnic area, when possible.



Be kind to each other and our staff.



APPENDIX 2

COVID-19 School Procedures

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 or call 119. **Be sure to update the school by emailing 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 during school hours 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 or calling 119. **Be sure to update the school by emailing 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 or calling 119. **Be sure to update the school by emailing 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. If there are more than two cases in a class, the school will issue a 'warn and inform' letter.

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. You can find the latest information on self-isolation arrangements at www.gov.wales/self-isolation.



APPENDIX 3

Preparations for Blended Learning

Our collective priority continues to be to minimise disruption to education and ensure, where possible, learners continue to receive in-person learning, as well as protecting school staff and learners. However, as a precautionary measure, it is important that families are prepared for a sudden and unexpected shift to blended learning:

Blended Learning Checklist

- ✓ I know my Hwb username and password
- ✓ I know how to log into Hwb at <https://hwb.gov.wales/>
- ✓ I know how to access my Hwb classes and files
- ✓ I know my school email username and password
- ✓ I know how to log into my school email at <https://mail.stteilos.com/owa/>
- ✓ I have a reliable internet connection and/or sufficient mobile data
- ✓ I have an appropriate device for home learning (laptop or Chromebook)
- ✓ The school has the correct telephone number for my parent/carer

Please speak to one of the **Youth Workers** in your zone if you need any support in preparing for blended learning.