



**St Mary's Home
Margaret Street
Stone
ST15 8EJ**

11th September 2020

Dear all

In our last email of 4th September we said that we were looking into whether we might be able to offer indoor visits as we move towards the winter months. The events of the last few days in terms of the increase in Covid-19 cases and the increased restrictions implemented by the government mean that unfortunately, it is unlikely that we will be able to offer this at present as it seems that the guidance regarding care home visits will not change. We know this will be a disappointment to some of you but please be reassured we are continuing to look at the options for managing indoor visits when and if it is safe to do so.

On the same topic, you may have seen over the last 24 hours articles in the media regarding care homes closing again to non-essential visitors in some areas of the country. To reassure you all, we are reviewing the situation on a daily basis and are in frequent contact with Staffordshire County Council who have not as yet advised that this step is necessary in Staffordshire. Closing St Mary's to non-essential visitors is not a decision we would make lightly, but we will be guided by the advice we receive from both the Local Authority and DHSC before making any changes.

We are continuing to look at ways in which we can keep you up to date and informed about your loved ones and one suggestion made recently was the idea of a regular telephone call with the relevant key worker. We are in the process of implementing this so please don't be surprised to receive a call from one of our fabulous staff! We are also reviewing the way our rotations for activities & visiting operate and may make some changes going forward when appropriate (with plenty of notice of course!).

The Activities Team are in the process of sending out a recent photograph of your loved ones, if you haven't received one yet, you should do very soon. Something the team are working on at the moment is to put a picture of something outside each residents room which will be a memory or a connection. This could be a favourite place, event or object or anything that is meaningful and we are hoping that family members will help us with this. We have an A4 frame for each resident so please get in touch if you can either provide a picture or suggestions.

The health and well-being of our residents and staff is always our first priority. Please know that as always, we as a management team are available should you need to speak to us.

Kind regards

Natalie Dibble, Julie Birks & Joanna Nott

Management Team

St Mary's Home

T: 01785813894

**E: info@stmarysstone.com
Registered Charity 271922**

W: www.stmarysstone.com