



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

30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear all

Following our last email we are pleased to inform you that the Department for Health & Social Care has last week revised its guidance on limited non-essential visiting in care homes. The guidance now says that care homes should:

*'limit visitors to a single constant visitor wherever possible, with an absolute maximum of two constant visitors per resident to limit risk of disease transmission'*

As a result, with immediate effect, we have chosen to extend visiting as above for the well-being of our residents. For clarity, the two constant visitors should visit individually although there may be some exceptions which we will of course be happy to discuss. We recognise that this may still cause some difficulties for some families, however it has been made clear by Staffordshire County Council that care homes in Staffordshire must comply with the guidance.

As always, please be aware that we may have to change our policy at any time, possibly at short notice if the circumstances dictate or if advised or instructed to do so by the Director of Public Health.

We also now have a QR code displayed around the visiting areas which those of you who have downloaded the NHS Track & Trace App will be able to use when you visit, although anyone who does not have the app will still need to provide contact details as before.

As we move into Autumn, the Activities Team are planning lots of new activities and events to ensure that our residents are kept entertained and stimulated. Our weekend receptionist will be joining us on some weekday afternoons as an accomplished singer and musician, and we are planning poetry corner and WW2 reminiscence days which we know the residents thoroughly enjoyed yesterday. A residents meeting was held last week during which names for our visiting huts were discussed. They have planned a naming ceremony which will take place shortly; a decision on who will cut the ribbon is still to be made!

As always, do let us know if you have any queries or concerns, and thank you to those of you who have continued to be so supportive of St Mary's.

**Kind regards**

**Natalie Dibble, Julie Birks & Joanna Nott**

**Management Team**

**St Mary's Home**

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