



Sunday, 01 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister announced yesterday evening that a form of national lockdown will come into effect from Thursday. In his statement it was made clear that schools would remain open, *'My priority, our priority, remains keeping people in education - so childcare, early years settings, schools, colleges and universities will all remain open. Our senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be'*. The full statement is available on line:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-31-october-2020>

Government guidance for schools was last updated on 22 October and it is possible given yesterday's announcement that this will be updated again over the coming days. The school will update families immediately of significant changes, should there be any.

Although existing guidance does not recommend the universal use of face coverings in schools, we are mindful that transmission rates are now increasing locally and nationally, and that pupils are likely to be spending much more time indoors as the weather worsens over the winter months. Consequently, with effect from 02 November, we will be asking pupils and staff to wear a face covering in indoor areas outside of the classroom where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, such as busy corridors and communal areas including the halls during 'wet break'. (Face coverings will not be worn in classrooms unless Government guidance changes; and some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings*.)

We would kindly ask parents/carers for their understanding and support in this matter. We would be grateful if you would discuss the contents of this letter with your child and ensure that they bring with them to school an appropriate face covering in a sealable plastic bag.

Safe wearing of face coverings requires cleaning of hands before and after touching – including to remove or put them on – and the safe storage of them in individual, sealable plastic bags between use; staff will remind pupils of these basic expectations.

Detailed guidance on wearing face coverings (including exemptions*) is available on line and we would politely ask parents/carers to review this with their child, in particular the section on 'How to wear a face covering', should they have not done so already.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

The school's other systems of control remain in place in order to keep the school as safe as possible and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to their lessons after the half-term break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Spivey', written in a cursive style.

CEO, Headteacher