

Tuesday, 15 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am very aware that there is a lot of information being shared at the moment and I do not want to inundate you with letters. However we find ourselves in a rapidly changing situation where we now have new laws preventing social gatherings of more than 6 and where the number of daily infections nationally is rising.

You may be well aware that a number of schools have been affected by positive cases resulting in closure to groups of students. Fortunately we do not yet find ourselves in that position and, as I have already said in previous letters, the measures we have put in place are working well. Nevertheless, the situation is changing and as a school we have a responsibility to adapt and ensure everyone feels safe in school.

Therefore, from Wednesday September 16th, I am asking all staff and students to wear face coverings when moving around the school in situations where we cannot always easily maintain a 2 metre distance from others. This means that they should be worn when moving between lessons and when lining up to go to class or queueing for the dining room. They do not need to be worn while in the dining room or when students are in their own yard with their year group bubble at break and lunchtimes or in the classroom. We are introducing this almost immediately because everyone of secondary school age should already have a face covering for use in shops and other public places.

The guidance from Public Health England is very clear that where anyone displays one of the three main symptoms of Coronavirus – a high temperature (above 38C if using a thermometer), a new continuous cough or a loss of/change to the sense of taste and smell – then that person should self-isolate along with the rest of the household and get tested. Please do not send your child in to school if they are displaying any of these symptoms and please be understanding that if they display symptoms in school they will be sent home and expected to self-isolate along with the rest of the household until they have been tested. They can then return to school if the test is negative, if they feel well and have not had a fever for 48 hours. However if they have been in direct close contact with a confirmed case they must not return to school until the end of the 14 day isolation period. The only way of finding out if it is a case of Covid or not is by getting a test and I am very aware of the difficulties in getting tests at the moment.

I attach a flow chart that you may find useful with regard to students not being well.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Waller

Headteacher