

11th September 2020



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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are safe and well and can I thank all of you for your support in these past few months and also to say thank you for the way in which your daughters and sons have returned to school. They have responded incredibly well to the current way of working and we will ensure that they are following our rules and guidance to ensure that everyone in the school feels safe and comfortable around the site. As we enter into our third week back I would like to give you an update about our full time return to school and to share with you the plans that we have in place to ensure the safety of our school community and to avoid the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19). As we enter autumn and approach winter we need to be even more vigilant and work together to follow government guidelines that will keep us all safe.

As you are aware we are now teaching in year group 'bubbles' and have divided the school into teaching zones. For the vast majority of the day pupils remain in the same class and teachers move to them. This has significantly reduced movement around the school. We have introduced separate break and lunchtimes but we have had to compromise in providing a limited range of food at lunchtime. Similarly, due to restrictions on the size of the dining room we have had to ask pupils to eat breakfast before they come to school and to bring a snack for break time. It is also important that they bring water to school each day.

Whilst this is far from ideal it is helping to reduce the risk of transmission, and to further reduce this risk, I am asking all pupils to start wearing a face covering when moving around the school as they already do when travelling on school/public buses and going into shops. They will not be expected to wear a face covering in class, or on the yard at break and lunchtimes, only when moving into the school buildings and from class to class. Public Health England and Merseyside and Cheshire Health Authorities are strongly advising that schools adopt this practice. This is in response to the rise in infection rates amongst young people but such face coverings will only be worn for a short period of time in communal indoor areas such as corridors and when moving between rooms. **Therefore, I am inviting all staff and pupils to bring a face covering into school and to wear it when required from Monday 14th September 2020.** If there are any reasons due to health or otherwise why this will not be possible then please contact the school office so that we can discuss further.

On a daily basis we are reviewing our response to the ever changing and evolving issues around the pandemic and I would like to remind you of the Government advice in helping us all to stay safe:

- Encouraging good hygiene by promoting the importance of handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap in the following circumstances:
 - Before leaving home
 - On arrival at school
 - After using the toilet
 - After breaks and sporting activities
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food, including snacks
 - Before leaving school
- Frequently using alcohol-based hand sanitiser dispensers that contain at least 60 percent alcohol in all rooms and throughout the school

- Cover our mouths and noses with a tissue before coughing or sneezing and then throwing the tissue away

It is equally important that we all look after our wellbeing and there is a link on the school website to support this called **“Every Mind Matters”**. We also have trained counsellors and support staff in school who are available at all times. Please contact Mrs Howe in the first instance if you wish to discuss any issues relating to mental health and wellbeing.

May I remind you of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), the recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough, meaning coughing a lot for more than an hour or experiencing three or more episodes of coughing in a day
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

The following is from Public Health England (3rd September 2020) “Stay at Home”: Guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

For most people COVID-19 will be a mild illness. However, if your child has any of the symptoms above you should **not** send them to school, inform the school immediately, self-isolate them at home and get them tested.

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 they must self-isolate for at least 10 days from when the symptoms started. If they test positive for COVID-19 they must self-isolate for at least 10 days from the day the test was taken. After 10 days if your child still have a temperature they should continue to self-isolate and seek medical advice. You do **not** need to self-isolate after 10 days if you only have a cough or loss of sense of smell or taste, as these symptoms can last for several weeks after the infection has gone.

The advice from the Government is that other household members need to stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14 day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill or if they do not have symptoms, from the day their test was taken.

Attached to this letter is a flow chart to help explain what you should do as parents and carers if your child becomes unwell. Please keep this in a safe place and refer to it in the event that this should happen. As of next week work will be posted on Microsoft Teams for any pupils who are self-isolating. We will be conducting training sessions on how to access lesson resources, submit work, contact teachers and access live video lessons should this become necessary.

I will continue to update you on a regular basis and will inform you about the plans we have in place to ensure that your child’s education will continue in the event that there is a future lockdown or if they have to isolate at home. Once again thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss anything further.

Yours faithfully



T Costello
Headteacher