

Our ref: PJS/DKP

2 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I thought I would just update you with our plans given the ever-changing situation. Despite one case of Covid over the last half term, the school is generally functioning well and the students have adapted fantastically.

In the light of the new lockdown, we will be requiring students to wear masks in corridors at lesson change-over times from tomorrow. We will also ask students in food queues when they are inside to wear masks due to them being in close proximity. We will attempt this from Tuesday however, to ensure all students get the message, we will only be insisting from Wednesday. As I have explained previously, we don't mix bubbles at change of lesson, however our corridors are not well-ventilated and there is a degree of crowding that may present a slightly heightened degree of risk when Covid is on the rise. Students will not be expected to wear them outside or in lessons, but we feel this is a suitable time to just raise our controls a little - to heighten awareness if nothing else. If I could ask that you ensure your child has a mask with them before they leave for school that would be very useful.

We have also decided to suspend our plans to introduce extra-curricular PE activities. This is very disappointing; however, we feel that it is sensible to minimise contact and time at school where possible. To this end, we will be encouraging staff to leave the school site by 4.00pm each day, again minimising their amount of time in the workplace. Should you have an urgent query or concern after 4.00pm then please email the school as we will be working from home and someone will be able to contact you if it needs an immediate response.

Parents have been very careful about coming into school, but we would ask for you to really question whether it is necessary before making any visit. During lockdown the school will not be open for parents wanting to drop off lunches, PE kits or forgotten pencil cases; please ensure your children leave for school fully-equipped for the day ahead. Our reception staff are extremely busy with phone calls and also escorting students around the site. We are further reducing the number of visitors to the school to minimise risk to staff and students.

We spent some time on our last INSET day considering how we would manage another whole school closure which is sadly feeling a little inevitable. In planning for our home learning programme we have written a 3 question survey about access to home technology which will be critical to our planning – can I ask that you spend 30 seconds filling it in so we have as wide an understanding as possible about what the limitations and possibilities might be.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RDeYj-ydTkeopTEzNBRyUopIe66LfspAmviO5be88aVUNUdBMU9QRzBCMFPyUFFaQjQ0Tk1BVjhJRi4u>

I hope you feel this is a proportionate response to this worsening situation and please reassure your children that the school has the situation under control and will provide the best education possible whatever the circumstances.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

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

P Jenkins
Headteacher