

Friday 14th May 2021

Dear parents and carers

As you will no doubt be aware, the government announced new guidance at the beginning of this week regarding the wearing of face coverings in schools. I have taken note of this guidance, however I have also noted a number of local and national factors which I feel need to be taken into account, namely:

1. The rapid rise in the region in the number of cases of Variants of Concern (VoCs) as identified by the government. These variants appear to be spreading rapidly within the region;
2. The government's indication that they will not hesitate to put in place local measures to curb the spread of the variants of the virus and that they have 'ruled nothing out';
3. Indications from professional organisations within the sector which indicate the reintroduction of face coverings will be considered to curb the spread of variants in 'hot spot' areas;
4. The appearance of new cases in schools within the local vicinity;

Taking all this into consideration, I need to inform you that we will continue to expect the wearing of face coverings in school next week both within classrooms and whilst pupils move around school. This is done with the intention of keeping everyone as safe as possible in the current local context. This will mean that our routines around face coverings will remain the same as they have been for the past few weeks. I will keep the situation under constant review and, as soon as reasonably possible, allow pupils and staff to remove their face coverings during the school day.

Please therefore ensure that your child attends school next week with their face covering as they have done for the past couple of months. We will have a supply in school for those who forget. I would also remind you that if you feel your child should be exempt from wearing a face covering, you should contact the school office who will organise an exemption card. We do not require any medical certification for this to take place.

I understand that there will be mixed feelings around this decision, however I hope you understand the underlying context behind it and the desire to put the safety of everyone first. I would like to thank you once again for your ongoing support and understanding in dealing with the situations which have arisen during the pandemic.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Nick Walmsley
Principal

