



October 2020

Dear Parents

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

I would like to begin by thanking you for working with us over this half term as we have settled into new ways of working in school. Our students have been a credit to themselves, their families and the school and we have been very proud of how they have adapted to our new routines.

I have been grateful for the support that so many of you have shown to staff during recent weeks. The entire BPS staff team is working tirelessly to provide the very best education we can for your children in challenging circumstances and we appreciate your understanding and support very much.

I would like to share with you some key information as we approach the end of this half term.

Attendance

Thank you for keeping in close contact with us should your child be unwell and unable to attend school. Please can I remind you that students should not attend if they are displaying any symptoms of coronavirus. These are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not necessarily need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of these symptoms, they should self-isolate at home and you should seek a test. Please keep us informed as soon as possible of the outcome.

COVID-19 - Contacting school at weekends and during school holidays

We understand that it is important for you to have a way of contacting school over the weekends and also during the upcoming holiday period in case you need to notify us of a positive case. In response to this, we have created a new email address: covid@birkenheadparkschool.com. This email will be monitored and we ask that you use this email address **at weekends and during school holidays** to notify us of any positive cases as soon as you find out. Please contact school as normal during term time.

Face Coverings

We are pleased with how the vast majority of students are remembering to bring a face covering to school each day and are complying with staff requests to wear these at all times in communal areas of the school.

To support this, we will be issuing all students with a reusable BPS face covering free of charge at the start of next half term. Please remind your son/daughter to bring a face covering to school each day and wear it as requested outside of lessons – this is an important message to help keep everyone safe

and well. Government guidance states that reusable face coverings “*should be washed regularly with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged*”.

Any students who persistently forget to bring a face covering to school will be asked to pay a nominal charge of 20p for a disposable daily mask from Monday 9th November.

Remote Learning

I am delighted to share with you an update regarding our remote learning programme. From next half term students will be able to access lesson content and other learning resources remotely via Microsoft TEAMS.

Microsoft TEAMS will enable students to access live lessons, online resources and personalised feedback. All students will be encouraged to use our remote learning platform on a regular basis where they will be able to communicate with teachers about their work. TEAMS will also be invaluable for any students who may find themselves having to study at home due to self-isolation.

We look forward to sharing the details with you after half term.

Finally, as we break up for half term, we will be reminding students of the Tier 3 restrictions that are in place across our local area. We will remind them of the collective responsibility we all have to adhere to these restrictions, even if at times they are difficult for us, so that we can each play our part in looking after each other and help to keep everyone safe.

I wish you a restful half-term break. We look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 2nd November.

With Best Wishes



Helen Johnson
Headteacher