

18 September 2020

Dear Parents

Face Coverings

I am writing with an important update following guidance received yesterday from the Director of Public Health, which can be found on the school website. All Wirral schools are being asked to implement the following measures from Monday 21st September:

- 1. FOR ALL SCHOOLS: Face coverings should now be worn by parents/carers when picking up or dropping off their children at school.**
- 2. FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS ONLY: Face coverings should now be worn by pupils and staff members while moving around communal areas of your school buildings.**

What is the School's response to the updated guidance?

From Monday 21st September students, staff and visitors will be required to wear face coverings when moving around the school site, in corridors and communal areas. Details will be shared with students today and again on Monday so that everyone is clear about what is being expected and why we are doing this. Students will be asked to put on their face covering as they enter the building in the morning and will be reminded throughout the day by staff. In line with government guidance, face coverings are not required in classrooms and students will be asked to remove them for lessons.

What does this mean in practice for my child?

Every student will need to bring a face covering into school every day from Monday onwards. This should be a plain, sensible face mask, suitable for school use. In addition to this, students will also require a small, sandwich type bag that they can place their covering into when they are not wearing it. If they are using a cloth covering, we advise that this should be named, in case your child misplaces it. Cloth coverings should be washed regularly with other items of clothing. Disposable face coverings should be replaced daily. In accordance with Public Health guidance, your child must wear a face covering to travel to school on public transport and this will mean that a second face covering will be required for use in school to avoid cross contamination.

What will happen if my child forgets to bring their face covering to school?

We will be reminding students of the need to be organised and to ensure that they bring all of their equipment to school each day. Face coverings should be seen as a key part of school equipment. We do understand that there may be an occasion where students forget their covering, and in these circumstances, the school will be able to provide a face covering for them. However, should students continue to forget their face covering, we will call home and ask you to support your child in remembering this key part of school equipment each day.

What do I do if I have an exemption from wearing a face covering?

We do understand that some individuals find it difficult to wear a face covering due to particular medical conditions and therefore they have an exemption from this. If your child has such an exemption, we ask that you get in touch with your child's Year Leader so that we can be aware of this and put steps in place to support your child.

Will you provide any guidance that will support my child on the safe wearing of their face coverings?

Yes, students have already been briefed on how to safely put on and remove a face covering and we will remind them of this again on Monday.

Further guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

Thank you as always for your continued support in reinforcing these important messages with your child. If you have any questions, please contact your child's Year Leader in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Helen Johnson
Headteacher