

22 September 2020

Dear Parent Guardian

It is clear from the Prime Minister's briefing that the rigorous measures we have implemented in school will be necessary for some time to come.

In this new chapter in the pandemic we will now, more than ever, need to work together as a community both at home and at school to ensure the safe provision of education for your children.

Key changes to alert you to:

Given the rising prevalence, we are now asking all students (except for those with a medical exemption) to wear a face covering whilst travelling on the school buses. We have been working with the local authority and they have now put in place an extra bus to enable the students from Preston and Westfield schools to travel separately on the busier route.

We are not yet mandating face coverings in school, as students are only inside the buildings whilst within their own bubbles. The exception to this is in years 7-9, where the students are socially distanced whilst accessing the toilets on a one in, one out, basis. The policy on wider use of face coverings is under constant review.

Please can I urge that where possible years 7-9 students do not arrive earlier than 8.10am as they will have to stand outside whatever the weather until 8.20am when they can enter the buildings.

Students in years 10 and 11 should only arrive at 8.20am. If they arrive earlier they are being held in separate areas away from the other groups until 8.20am when they are allowed into their recreational spaces in readiness to enter the classrooms at 8.30am.

In exceptional circumstances where parents have no other choice, students can be dropped off on site from 8.00am.

To ensure good ventilation in classrooms we are opening all doors and windows where it is possible. This will be done whatever the weather or temperature, please can you ensure your son or daughter has a coat which they are permitted to wear in class.

On P.E. days please can students wear tracksuit trousers or leggings in addition to shorts but please be aware that the vast majority of games lessons will continue to be held outdoors.



Important reminders

It is important that I reiterate the [government guidance](#) that if anyone in your household has the main symptoms of Covid-19 then the whole household should self-isolate.

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

The person with symptoms should isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms and other members of the household should isolate for 14 days. This isolation should only stop if you have a verified negative test result.

When a student shows the main symptoms whilst at school, we will ask for them and other students in their household to be taken home and start isolating. For students who are isolating we have online work that is updated daily, the link is [here](#) and also on the school website.

We are advising that if your son or daughter is ill, but not showing the main symptoms, that they are kept at home and return as soon as they recover. If at any time they develop any of the main symptoms then the household will need to isolate. Please contact Mr Mounsey to then make us aware the student is isolating due to Covid symptoms.

We feel it is important that we take a cautious approach with other illnesses, as children have been shown to experience Covid-19 with a wide range of symptoms. A King's College [study](#) has highlighted that children display a different range of symptoms compared to the overall adult population. The top five symptoms in school aged children who test positive for COVID were; fatigue (55%) headache (53%), fever (49%), sore throat (38%) and loss of appetite (35%). This was different compared to the studies data on adults; fatigue (87%), headache (72%), loss of smell (60%), persistent cough (54%) and sore throat (49%). In addition to this, research has also found that one in six (15%) children who test positive for COVID also present with an unusual skin rash.

We have been fortunate that no member of the school community has yet become ill and tested positive for Covid-19, a number of schools in Somerset and Dorset have had cases and required self isolation for large numbers of students. It is almost inevitable that as the prevalence rises in the coming months, we may also have students or staff that contract Covid-19.

The decision on who needs to isolate is made by the DFE and public health officials, the experience of other schools is that it can take several hours from making contact with these agencies before a decision is made and only then are we allowed to give information to parents or advise on who should isolate. In the event of this happening we will contact you by text and put a statement on the website as soon as this has been authorised.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Dallimore
Headteacher