

12th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all safe and well. I am writing to update you on recent school developments and changes to Covid guidance.

Face coverings

As I am sure you are aware, the Prime Minister has announced that it is no longer compulsory for pupils to wear face coverings in school. Should your child choose to continue to wear their mask in school, then that is of course perfectly acceptable.

Pupils using school transport should continue to wear a face covering.

We will share this information with the pupils.

Pupil Achievement

Since our return from lockdown, all pupils have taken a “GL assessment” test to ascertain their progress since September. These are national tests and compare the performance of our pupils against that of children of the same age across the country.

When pupils first sat these tests in September, there were a number who were below the expected levels. This was of course to be expected having missed so much school during the previous academic year.

However, I am delighted to tell you that our most recent data demonstrates that all year groups are now performing at a level above national expectations. This is a significant achievement and is a reflection of the hard work and energy our children, parents and staff devoted to their studies during the recent lockdown. Can I thank you once again for your continued support and commitment, it is clearly paying off!

In addition to this very strong academic achievement, we have noticed a significant improvement in many of our pupils’ resilience and independence. This is potentially a benefit of recent lockdowns and is an aspect of our pupils’ overall development that will remain a key focus for us as we emerge from these difficult times.

Catch-up

Of course, not every individual pupil has managed to make the progress we would have hoped. You may be aware that we began our “catch-up” support programme before the most recent lockdown ended. Pupils have been benefitting from evening on-line support sessions, and almost without exception, they have already caught up and are working at their expected level. We will continue to provide this, and other

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support, for every pupil where our data indicates they may not be working at a level according to their potential.

Wellbeing support

I am firmly convinced that all of our pupils will “catch up” academically in the medium term. Indeed, as I have stated, our data confirms the vast majority are already performing above national expectations and we will continue to strive for the best possible academic results and individual pupil progress.

Of more concern for me is the wellbeing of our pupils. I do not underestimate the potential damage these events may have caused to our children’s happiness and wellbeing. We have increased our provision of in-school and external counselling support. We will also continue to deliver additional activities such as forest schools for those pupils who will benefit from this provision. Our immediate return to running extra-curricular activities, our trips to Laches Wood and (Alton Towers for Year 8) are additional small steps towards providing a return to “normality”.

We are conscious that there may be pupils who are struggling with the return to school, but we have not been made aware of these concerns. If your child does have issues, please let us know and we will offer whatever support is necessary.

Charity

As you know, the main charity that we support is the Guide Dogs for the blind. Our Year 8 Ambassadors are working extremely hard to continue to raise funds in an attempt hit our target of £2500 which will enable us to name a guide dog puppy. We are getting ever closer, and their recent “pet portraits” initiative has proved to be very successful.

Their next event is a sponsored “Moveathon” where willing volunteers will spend the whole day (from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm) undertaking different exercise routines, including Aerobics, circuit training and running. (I understand a number of staff will joining, although not for the whole day!).

If you are able to help with sponsorship, all contributions will be gratefully received. Our just giving page is on the website and you can access it via the attached link.

justgiving.com/fundraising/codsallmiddleschool

As ever, I would like to thank you all for your continued support. Our children have returned to school in such a positive, energetic manner. They are fully engaging in their lessons and I am particularly pleased to see so many taking part in our extra-curricular clubs. We have always recognised that those pupils who engage fully in school both during curricular and extra-curricular time will be the happiest and most successful.

Kind regards



P J Bowers
Headteacher