

30th October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure you are aware of the decision for South Staffordshire to move into Covid alert level "High" (Tier 2) with effect from Saturday 31st October.

The only significant difference this decision will have on our school is with regards to the wearing of face coverings. As ever, the guidance below does not specifically address the middle school context

"When an area moves to the local COVID alert level 'high' or 'very high', in education settings where year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults (staff and visitors) and pupils when moving around indoors, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing is difficult to maintain. As in the general approach, it will not usually be necessary to wear face coverings in the classroom, where protective measures already mean the risks are lower, and they may inhibit teaching and learning."

For our school, we will now expect all pupils, in all year groups to wear a face covering when they are moving around the corridors. Pupils will be expected to carry a re-sealable plastic bag to put their mask in when they enter the classroom (should they choose to remove it). This will become part of the expected routine, along with sanitising their hands on entry and exit of a classroom. *(Should your child be exempt from wearing a face covering for medical reasons, please inform Mrs Deas or Mrs Davison as appropriate).*

We will not expect pupils to wear coverings while they are outside, or indeed when they are in the dining corridor eating their lunch.

Should your child lose their face covering we will endeavour to provide a disposable replacement (if stocks allow!). Any that are dropped will be disposed of, we cannot return a face covering to a pupil should they lose it.

I know you will want to support us in ensuring your child fully understands the importance of following these new rules. I have attached the full guidance for wearing face coverings safely and appropriately at the end of this letter. Please take the time to read and share with your child. I appreciate we are asking our younger children to adopt this measure even though the advice does not specifically address year 5 and 6 pupils. I believe this will be in the best interests of all our community and will enable us to create a calm, uniform approach to movement around the school.

Since our return, the children have responded to the new rules in an exemplary, mature manner. I trust this additional requirement will be quickly understood and implemented by all as it becomes an established part of our normal day to day routines during these challenging times.

I hope you all remain safe and well.

Kind regards



P J Bowers
Headteacher



How to wear a face covering (Department for Education)

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organization recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting a face covering on
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

When removing a face covering:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

