

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Parental consultation**

Thank you so much to everybody who logged in last night for the parental consultation. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be put on the website and I have updated it with amendments following the consultation.

Firstly, I can confirm that buses will be running as normal; this includes the school's Stagecoach bus and a separate letter will follow confirming the timings for this bus. School Transport have confirmed all buses are running as normal. I appreciate that the buses are of more limited value on the days when students are coming in at staggered times. Thank you for your support with this. I am sure you can appreciate that it is essential that we run the testing in a phased way, not with everybody at once.

A few parents picked up on the question of PE in the first week. The PE department will notify students on Teams as to what kit they need to bring and whether they will have PE in that first week. Thank you for raising this.

One really important point that I didn't spot until after the meeting was the following *"There will be a lot of children very apprehensive of getting the tests done, especially on the first day. We have to take this into consideration and I know there will be a lot of support."* Thank you to the parent who raised this excellent point. The reason for us staggering the return is to make sure we can do it at a pace that is sensible and helpful for students. Staff will be there to support students. It is surprisingly straight forward to do, but inevitably it feels strange and uncertain at first. Staff will talk students through every step and be there to reassure.

### **Wearing of masks on return to school**

Following the valuable feedback and questions from parents and carers at last night's consultation meeting, we have reflected carefully on the best way forward regarding masks. The previously suggested proposal of solely using 2ply medical masks raised a number of concerns regarding size, cost, availability, lifespan of mask and viable masks. The purpose of the consultation is to listen and improve.

Consequently our expectations for students is now as follows:

- All students (except for those who are medically exempt) must wear masks when entering and leaving the site and when inside any building, including classrooms.
- Students **can wear washable cotton masks**. Government recommendations suggest these should be 2 ply (i.e. with a lining)
- Alternatively students **can choose to wear 2 ply medical masks**.
- Students cannot wear alternative garments e.g. bandanas, scarves, snood. It needs to be a mask that fits.
- Students who arrive in school without a mask (except those who are medically exempt) or wearing an incorrect face covering, will be provided with two medical 2ply masks for the day.
- Students who choose not to wear masks are asked to provide medical evidence (unless this has already happened). Students with permission not to wear a mask will continue to wear a lanyard.

As important as the choice of mask, is wearing it properly, putting it on and removing it in the correct way. Please see below guidance from the Government

### **How to wear a face covering**

*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 2 layers of fabric (the World Health Organization recommends 3, 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.*

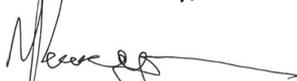
*When removing a face covering:*

- *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.*

Finally, I would like to emphasise three key points once again. Firstly the importance of us all supporting the testing process. Students will only come into the main buildings once they have had a negative test during the initial testing. Secondly the importance of us all following simple covid guidance such as wearing face masks and using sanitisers. Thirdly, if your child displays symptoms do not send them to school under any circumstances.

Thank you again for your support and feedback. We really are looking forward to seeing students back in school.

Yours faithfully,



Nigel Youngman  
Headteacher