

17th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Mobile phones and CV19- Update

As we embark on the second full week in school it is pleasing to see how well pupils are adapting to our "new normal". I am mindful that we don't want to swamp you with too many communications whilst at the same time, wanting to keep you up to date with developments in school as we constantly review our practice. With the numbers of people catching the virus rising, we know that parents and carers will want to know how our measures in school may adapt accordingly. It is worth being aware that no two schools are the same in terms of physical layout, structure of the timetable or needs of their pupils so whilst we work very closely with our colleagues in local schools, there are times when our approach may differ according to the needs of our context.

As part of our safety plans we have a one-way system in place to avoid congestion in high footfall spaces. Having seen the timetable in action over the past week, in most cases, there are not more than two year groups moving in the corridors at one time. This means that teaching colleagues are able to oversee the movement in the corridor such that contact *between* year group bubbles is minimal; the corridors are well ventilated and pupils are generally only in the space for a few minutes. We are reminding all pupils that they should do their very best to maintain a social distance where they can but, in all cases, to ensure that they use their designated areas at all times and ensure they socially distance from other year groups when moving around the school.

Looking forwards to the autumn, we are mindful that with inclement weather, pupils will be spending more time inside at break and lunchtimes. At this point, it is likely that we will need to ask them to wear face masks in the building (not in lessons) at these times. We ask that parents/carers prepare for this please by ensuring that your child:

- Has enough washable face masks such that they will have a clean one every day;
- Has a sealed plastic bag in to which they can store their mask when not in use so that their books and other equipment doesn't become contaminated.

We would like all pupils to have face masks in anticipation of poor weather from Monday 28th September.

EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER ▪ MRS F.A. DEAN M.A. (ED) NPQH
HEAD OF SCHOOL ▪ MS T. WILDEN B.A. (HONS)

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There is a poster available on the WHO website that explains how to wear a mask effectively which you may wish to discuss with your child: <https://www.who.int/images/default-source/health-topics/coronavirus/clothing-masks-infographic>. We are looking in to ways of creating more temporary areas of shelter – but please do ensure that your child has a waterproof coat (and perhaps umbrella) as we will need to use indoor spaces as little as possible. In wet weather, we will be asking that all pupils go to their designated areas rather than remaining outside.

We have our scheduled Health and Safety Committee meeting next week and as always, will be reviewing our practice based on what we have observed in school so far. Given the nature of living through a pandemic, it is unlikely that there will be a consensus from our whole community about what should or should not be done. However, as always, we endeavour to take a measured approach, considering all of the advantages and disadvantages of any decisions before putting them in to action.

On another note, I would ask for parents support with our mobile phone policy. It is our expectation that **pupils do not have phones in school**. They are a distraction to learning and an undue strain on our young people's mental wellbeing. This week we have had incidences of pupils filming other pupils in school and posting this on social media. Not only is this a potential criminal offence, it is also in breach of our safeguarding and ICT Acceptable Use policies. If a child is caught doing this there will be serious consequences. Please could you support us with our ban on phones by not calling and texting your child during school hours and encouraging them to leave the phone at home. Thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes,



Miss Toni Wilden

Head of School