

29 October 2020

Dear Parents

We hope you have managed to have a restful break with your families.

As you will know, both the local and national news shows a concerning picture with the rise of positive cases of COVID-19. At present Slough has been identified as a COVID-19 tier two HIGH area. Tier two comes with extra restrictions for all residents – with no exceptions. These include:

No mixing indoors with people other than people you live with in the same home; no one outside other than who you usually live with should come into your home and you should not go to anyone else's home, unless they are providing care support or are part of your support bubble.

We must remember that Coronavirus is still very much with us. Furthermore, a small number of Slough schools have had to send class bubbles home to self-isolate at some point this term. Given the local and national context, we must continue to ensure our School community is as safe as it can be by following public health guidance stringently. It is therefore necessary for us to consider further precautionary measures to keep us all safe and well at School. With effect from **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** we are asking:

- All adults to wear a face covering when visiting or entering the school premises and whilst you are waiting for your child(ren) to go into school or be collected (unless exempt).
- Ensure you observe social distancing (1 metre 'plus') whilst waiting for your child(ren), and two metres if you are not wearing a face covering
- Only one adult to enter the premises for drop off and pick up
- That you arrive and leave promptly when dropping off/ collecting your child
- That you move away from the school premises as quickly as you can remembering to maintain the 'rule of six'.

The nature of the site means that parents are standing very close together while dropping off and particularly when collecting their children. Although parents are outdoors when they do this, and we know that it can be very hard to socially distance at the school gates, there is still a risk of transmission outdoors that can be reduced greatly by wearing a face covering. Many parents are already wearing face masks. We encourage other parents to follow suit as a sensible step to help minimise transmission in instances where social distancing is difficult.

The guidance on full opening: schools was updated on the GOV.UK website. Further details can be found [here](#). The main points we would like to bring to your attention are below:

#### Winter uniform

All pupils should return to school in their full winter uniform, but continue to wear their PE kit on the day they have Games. The guidance stipulates that classrooms are well ventilated whilst maintaining a comfortable teaching environment. Increased ventilation may make school buildings cooler than usual over the winter months so please ensure your children are wearing suitable base layers such as vests or thermal garments to keep warm.

### Face coverings for pupils

The government is not recommending universal use of face coverings in all schools. However, when an area moves to Local COVID Alert Level: high or very high, in settings where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn by adults and pupils when moving around the premises, outside of classrooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained. This does not apply to younger children in primary schools and in early years settings. Therefore, we require all Senior School pupils to have a face covering when they return to school on Monday. We would recommend a reusable one so that they can use it more than once, as they will need to take it on and off several times during the school day. If this is not an option, they will need to bring in several single-use face coverings each day. Pupils will also need to come to school with a sealable plastic bag to keep their face-covering in when they are not using it so that it does not contaminate (or get contaminated by) other surfaces in school. Please see separate guidance on face coverings.

### Extra-curricular activities outside of school

We are aware that many of our pupils participate in a range of extracurricular clubs outside of school as well as attending tuition and learning centres. It is crucial that we are minimising the risk of transmission of the virus due to increased mixing between different groups of children. The guidance advises parents to carefully consider the number of settings that your children attend overall. The government has released [protective measures guidance](#) to help providers of out-of-school settings put measures in place to reduce the risk of infection and transmission of COVID-19. We recommend that you seek assurance that providers are carefully considering these protective measures, and children should only attend settings that can demonstrate this.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone COVID safe.

Kind regards

Miss Nijjar  
**Headteacher**