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Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to update you on guidance issued to schools on the wearing of facemasks/face coverings in school. As you will already be aware, we allow all members of the school community to wear facemasks/face coverings in communal areas and the corridors, if they wish. All those choosing to wear facemasks/face coverings are expected to have watched the World Health Organisation (WHO) video which advises on how to put on, wear it and remove it correctly. A link to this video can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Tv2BVN_WTk

At present, the government does not recommend the universal use of face coverings in all schools. However, there may be occasions when we have to take the decision for it to be compulsory for facemasks/face coverings to be worn in some areas of the school environment. The decision to implement the compulsory wearing of facemasks/face coverings may be taken in, but not limited to, the following circumstances/scenarios:

- Local restrictions or 'lockdowns' are in place
- Severe or prolonged bad weather prevents access to time outside
- An increase in the number of confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the local area

If the decision to make the wearing of facemasks/face coverings compulsory is taken, this will apply to the following areas of the school, for students and staff:

- Movement between all classes
- During break and lunchtime, when indoors and **not** eating

If it becomes compulsory to wear facemasks/face coverings, in the areas specified above, current guidance is classrooms will remain exempt from the requirement to wear facemasks/face coverings.

Those parents/carers with children who are transported to school by bus or taxi will be aware it is currently compulsory for facemasks/face coverings to be worn on journeys to and from school.

To help parents/carers prepare for the potential changes outlined in this letter, I would like to highlight another piece of government guidance. If it becomes a requirement to wear facemasks/face coverings in certain areas of our school, it would be advisable for your child to bring at least two facemasks/face coverings with them, in separate sealable bags. This is because the wearing of wet/damp or dirty facemasks/face coverings is not recommended, so having at least one spare facemask/face covering will ensure your child is well-prepared.

If you believe your child qualifies for exemption from wearing a facemask/face covering, please ensure you notify your child's form tutor. A list of exemption criteria can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own#exemptions>

This will help us to ensure your child is appropriately supported in school, should we need to implement the requirement for facemasks/face coverings to be worn.

Thank you for your continued support. If it becomes necessary for the wearing of facemasks/face coverings to become compulsory in school, we will give you as much notice as we can, with this letter setting out the information you need in such an eventuality.

Yours sincerely,

PJ Lowe-Werrell

Mr P J Lowe-Werrell
Headteacher