



Mary Webb School & Science College, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 0TG

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2nd November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Use of face coverings in Mary Webb School and Science College

I hope you, your families and friends continue to remain well during these challenging and ever-changing national circumstances. I also hope you enjoyed the half-term break.

When I wrote to you on 28th August 2020 and 8th October 2020, I outlined our approach to face coverings in school. On Saturday 31st October 2020, the Prime Minister announced a change in national approach to manage the increasing number of coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. In response to this increase in measures to curb the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), we feel it is entirely proportionate to review our approach to the use of face coverings.

Before I outline the changes we will be making, I want to take this opportunity to ask you to remind your child of the importance of good hand hygiene, good respiratory hygiene and social distancing. The changes outlined below are **not** a substitute for the above measures, which have been very effective so far.

On Thursday 5th November 2020, as the country enters a national lockdown, **we will be requiring** all staff and students to wear a face covering at the following times:

- Movement to and from lessons.
- When in communal areas indoors (e.g. the main hall, the library, etc.), at social times (break and lunch).
- When instructed to by a class teacher to facilitate a practical activity.

Students and staff will **not** have to wear face coverings when:

- eating (in designated areas),
- in lesson,
- outdoors, during social times, **whilst maintaining social distance of over 2m**,
- the **school has been notified** of a valid face covering exemption reason, by a parent/carers. (This prior notification was requested in the letter dated 8th October 2020).

When wearing face coverings, the following guidance must be followed:

- Students are not to wear their face coverings when seated in their classrooms, only when moving around in the corridors and in other indoor communal areas.
- Students must carry a small plastic bag to put their face covering in when not wearing it (this is essential if the mask is reusable and not disposable).
- Students must sanitise their hands immediately **before and after** handling their face covering (i.e. when putting on or taking off.)

- When removing and putting on a face covering, the face covering should be held by the ear-loops and should not come into contact with any other surface, other than the plastic bag they should be placed in.
- Students should only wear a purpose-made appropriate face covering, not a scarf or other face covering. We would request that these are plain or very simply patterned, and do not contain any extreme designs.
- When wearing a face covering, it must cover the nose and mouth at all times.
- Please ensure that you discuss the safe use of the face covering with your child.

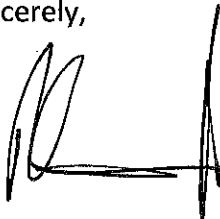
Students will be given time at the end of lessons to put their masks on, in order to ensure they are wearing them prior to leaving lessons.

It would be most helpful if you could discuss these changes with your child and ensure they are provided with enough face coverings to last them through the day. We would recommend every child has at least one spare face covering with them on every school day.

If you feel your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, please notify Miss Pugh (Years 7, 8 or 9) or Mr Jervis (Years 10 or 11) by Wednesday 4th November 2020. This will help us to ensure your child is properly supported when these new requirements come into effect.

As ever, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any queries about the content of this letter, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P J Lowe-Werrell'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'P' and a long horizontal stroke.

Mr P J Lowe-Werrell
Headteacher