

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope that you have all enjoyed a relaxing summer and that you feel refreshed from the holiday. We are all very excited to start the new term and to welcome the children back in their lovely new uniforms. This year, as always, we will expect all children to be in the correct uniform, which includes hairstyles, footwear and skirt length. Unfortunately, if the uniform is not correct we will be sending pupils home directly to change into the correct uniform. Our standards and expectations are very high and these start with the uniform so in order to avoid your child being sent home please can you ensure that they are compliant with the uniform rules.

We are very hopeful that this year will not be disrupted by the Covid pandemic in the same way as we were last year. The impact of repeatedly having to send children home has been significant on their learning and progress. It is vital that all children are in school, full time, in order to rapidly recover any lost learning. The Department for Education guidance has changed around some of the health and safety procedures to protect children and staff from transmission of Covid. However, it is strongly advised that schools retain some of their safety procedures. Therefore, the following procedures will remain in place until the Government advice changes: -

- Pupils must sanitise their hands when they enter the building and at the start and end of every lesson.
- We will retain our advanced cleaning measures.
- Pupils are advised to have 2 negative Lateral Flow Tests before returning to school, which must be carried out by school staff (please see the attached letter for the timetable).
- Pupils and staff are advised to take a Lateral Flow Test every Sunday and Wednesday and report it to school.
- Pupils must have their own equipment; school will not lend out equipment.
- We operate a one-way system.
- We respectfully ask that you do not come into school to drop things off for your children unless it is absolutely essential.
- Any child who wishes to wear a face covering in school may do so – as long as it is plain in colour.

I know that some of you may differ from us in your views about how to manage the safe return of all pupils to school, but the priority of the Governors and Leadership Team is to protect pupils and staff so that they can remain in school to be educated and to catch up on vital time that has been missed. The legislation has now changed relating to contact tracing. Schools are no longer responsible for contact tracing. If your child is a close contact of a confirmed Covid case you will be notified directly by NHS Test and Trace. Your child will be advised to take a PCR Test. They do not need to self-isolate unless they receive a positive result. As a parent, if you have been double jabbed, you do not need to self-isolate, even if you are a close contact, unless you develop symptoms. I am hopeful that this will minimise the number of pupils who are necessitated to self-isolate and will prevent any further

disruption to their education. It is important to realise that the pandemic has not ended and we must continue to keep each other safe. **Please do not send your children into school if they have symptoms of Covid.**

Please can I ask that you do not drop off or collect your children from the front of school or across the road. Our neighbours are very unhappy with cars parking in front of their houses and it is also very dangerous.

Finally, please can I remind you that Year 7 begin the new term on Tuesday 7th September at 8.25am and Years 8-11 on Wednesday 8th September at 8.25am.

We look forward to the start of an exciting new term and a positive journey for our pupils.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Gormally
Headteacher