

Our ref: LXS/NJG

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Believe and Achieve

9th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

COVID19 – Parent Update

We have been delighted to welcome back a full school of pupils this week and want to thank you for your support in making the transition so successful. Everyone has settled in to the new bubble and hygiene routines very well.

You will be aware that there was further government guidance released at the end of the summer holidays regarding Covid-19 safety precautions, specifically relating to face coverings. We are fortunate that the rate of Covid-19 infection and transmission in our local area remains low and we have taken a number of precautions to further minimise risk in school, as outlined in my previous letter.

However, cases in England are rising and we recognise that many pupils, parents and staff feel understandably apprehensive about being potentially exposed to the virus. We are also mindful that these remain uncertain times and the trajectory of the virus could change quickly over coming months, something for which we need to be prepared. Having taken feedback, we have decided that **staff and pupils will be required to wear a face coverings during transition times**. Transition times refer to all times when pupils are moving from one place in the school to another, e.g. arriving at school and walking to their classroom or walking from their classroom to their break time space. At present, there are no plans to enforce face coverings in classrooms though both staff and pupils can choose to wear them.

We are conscious that face coverings require careful handling in order to be effective and, therefore, we are using tutor time this week to provide guidance and training to pupils on safely wearing, removing, handling and disposing of face coverings. These are practices which pupils will be able to usefully transfer to everyday life whilst using public transport and visiting shops. **From Monday 14th September 2020, all staff and pupils will be required to bring a face covering to school each day, together with a sealable box or bag in which to store their mask**, and to use these as per the guidance which will have been given to them. These can be bought in most supermarkets as well as from online shops. If you need support in the purchasing of a face covering, please email TWJ@stjamesexeter.co.uk and we will be happy to help. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering, please let us know by emailing our deputy SENDCO on LMD@stjamesexeter.co.uk and we will issue them with an exemption card.

Should pupils wish to wear face coverings before Monday 14th September, they are, of course, welcome to do so. Please note that face coverings must be plain in appearance, free from logos or motifs, and must be worn sensibly. Any intentional misuse of face coverings will be followed up using our school policies.



As ever, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns. We will obviously continue to update you should there be further changes in government guidance.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lindsay Skinner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Lindsay Skinner
Headteacher