

6 November 2020

## Families' Coronavirus update

Dear Families,

As the National lockdown begins this week, we know that many families will have questions and concerns around what that means to you and your family. We appreciate that these continue to be anxious and uncertain times but as a school community, I am sure that we will all do whatever we can in order to support the current expectations and play our part in helping to slow down the spread of coronavirus.

The DfE released an update to the guidance for schools earlier this week. Please read the summary below as there are some important points to note and share with your child(ren):

### Face masks:

It is now mandatory for all students and staff in secondary schools to wear face masks indoors (excluding classrooms). We have already introduced this at The Misbourne so there is no change for us. However, it does act as a timely reminder for all students to adhere to this expectation, which now includes all indoor communal areas at all times and in the cafe except for when they are eating and drinking.

### Social distancing:

As no more than two adults are able to meet outside during the lockdown, we are also asking our Sixth Form students, when leaving the school site at break times, to only do so in pairs and to remain at a social distance.

Although much harder to do once within school, we would also like to re-emphasise the need for all students to remain socially distanced from each other where possible, including on their way to and from school. This is particularly important at break times where, even if they remain in small friendship groups socially distanced from others, it would help to protect our community and minimise disruption to as few students as possible should we need to ask students to self-isolate.

### Ventilation:

It is important that we continue to ensure there is ventilation in rooms, therefore each classroom will continue to have some of its windows slightly open at all times. As we move further into the Autumn and Winter period, this will mean that some classrooms are colder than they usually would be even with the heating on. We obviously do not want any students to feel uncomfortable so would urge them, if they are feeling the cold, to wear an additional layer under their shirt or to wear a Misbourne jumper if they have one. Students will be allowed to wear their coats when required, guided by their teachers. We will be flexible with this approach until which point the weather improves or we are able to close the windows.

### The Misbourne continues to be a Good School:

*"A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does"*

Ofsted



### **Extremely vulnerable children:**

Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Families should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school whilst the national restrictions are in place.

### **Out of school activities:**

These are limited for the next month but we have just received additional guidance to say that we are still able to run 'educational' after school activities such as revision sessions, 1:1 or group tuition and so on. We are still awaiting clarification on whether or not this can extend to any form of sports, music or drama after-school activities. As it currently stands, these are not permitted.

### **Attendance:**

All students should attend school every day and I thank families for ensuring that students are attending well and therefore ensuring they are receiving the highest possible quality of education, in school with their teachers.

However, I would like to reinforce the importance of you keeping your child at home should they start to display symptoms, **as soon as the symptoms are noticed**. Where this is the case, please contact school on the usual attendance line as soon as possible the same day (01494 867843 or [attendance@themisbourne.co.uk](mailto:attendance@themisbourne.co.uk)). Waiting until a test result comes in is too late and may unduly impact on other students' education and requirement to self-isolate.

As ever, I will continue to keep you up-to-date of any changes at the school and thank you for your ongoing support during these unprecedented times.

Yours faithfully,



**Jo Meloni**  
**Headteacher**

