

25 September 2020

Dear Families,

At the start of the academic year we said that we would review our expectation around the wearing of face masks after the first full two weeks back. After having now completed that review and taken into consideration the rapidly-changing national picture, we feel strongly that we should retain our current expectation of all children and adults wearing a face mask at key times in the school day. These are:

- On the way to school, if travelling by public transport or school bus
- In school corridors and other indoor communal spaces during transition periods.

On the whole, students have adhered to this extremely well and it has contributed to the feeling that, as a community, we are pulling together to stay safe and ultimately keep our students and staff in school.

There are a number of points that are worth reinforcing at this stage:

1. Students must bring in their own mask on a daily basis. We will provide a mask on the rare occasion it may be forgotten or is broken during the day. If a student repeatedly requests a mask from us we will contact home to discuss this and find a resolution.
2. Once removed, masks should be put into a small plastic bag and placed in their school bag. Cotton/reusable masks should be washed/replaced regularly.
3. On school transport, masks should be worn for the full duration of the journey. The bus driver may remind students of the expectation but it is not appropriate or possible for them to stop the bus every time they see a student has removed their mask. Instead we ask for your support in reminding your child of the expectations, as this contributes greatly to all of the other efforts we are making in school and as a community.

I would like to thank those families who have contacted us to let us know if their child has had to self-isolate due to Coronavirus. It is important that we all continue to follow government guidance for self isolation and testing. Attached with this letter is an important update from the NHS setting out when someone should get tested for COVID-19. There has been a reported increase in people getting tested across the UK when they are not required to do so and, as a result, undue pressure has been put on the system and caused delays in the processing of tests.

Every day in school counts and we very much hope that when one of our students requires a test, they are able to access one quickly and that a negative result allows them to be back in school within 48 hours as has been the case with most so far.

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

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If your child is unwell and it is not Coronavirus-related, please act as you usually would in a normal school year. If they are too unwell to be in school or are suffering from something that may be contagious, please keep your child at home. But if they are otherwise well enough to be in school, please continue to send them in.

We will continue to communicate with families and provide updated guidance as necessary during these changeable times. Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

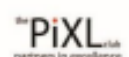


Ms Jo Meloni
Headteacher

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Test and Trace

23 September 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

This is an important letter to share some information on how we can work together to make sure we can continue to give children and young people the best education in the safest way possible.

One important part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils, parents and our communities is testing for coronavirus. We all have a duty to make sure that the right people have access to get tested at the right time. Every time a test is used inappropriately, a person with Covid-19 symptoms may miss out on getting tested.

Therefore, I ask that you all follow these principles:

- You should only book a test if your child has any of these three coronavirus symptoms:
 1. **a high temperature:** any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
 2. **a new continuous cough:** coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
 3. **a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste:** a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal
- Your child **does not need a test** if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus.
- If you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the official list of symptoms on the NHS website, which is reviewed regularly:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/
- Only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the three symptoms listed above. All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.

- If the person with symptoms' test comes back positive, other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days and **only get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms.**
- If a pupil in a class or bubble tests positive for coronavirus, anyone who is advised to self-isolate **does not require a test unless they subsequently develop symptoms.**

No one else in the same class or bubble as the symptomatic person needs to take any action unless advised by the school. Schools have detailed guidance and access to a Department for Education and Public Health England helpline for advice and support.

Contacts of a person who has tested positive must follow the guidance carefully and in full, which means they must stay at home for 14 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the virus can be detected. Students should only book a test if they get symptoms.

The NHS has produced some guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school which you may find useful: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

It is vital for children's learning and future opportunities that they are able to return to school and college. It is therefore vitally important that all we work together and do our bit to make this possible.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Viv Bennett CBE

Chief Nurse and Director Maternity and Early Years | Public Health England

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Follow me on Twitter: @VivJBennett



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