



4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you and your families have enjoyed the Christmas break. I am writing to you to update you regarding the most recent Covid-19 guidance from the Department for Education, which was updated on Sunday. The full guidance can be found [\[here\]](#).

In line with this guidance with immediate effect we will require all students (and staff) to wear a face covering when inside the school buildings except for those individuals who are exempt. Most notably, this will include the use of face coverings within the classroom. In most instances, staff will not wear face coverings when teaching from the front of the classroom in a socially distanced manner, but will wear face coverings when moving about the classroom to assist individuals or groups of learners.

Students will not be required to wear face coverings in activities that require increased physical exertion (e.g. physical education within the buildings) and will not be required to wear them during any activities outdoors. Please note that students will be expected to wear face coverings if they use public transport to travel to school.

The main reason for this change is to limit the spread of the highly transmissible Omicron variant. Whilst there are reports that this variant is potentially less severe and that most young people experience minor symptoms, the fact remains that an outbreak within the school community would have a significant impact if students and staff were forced to self isolate. We also wish to minimise the number of children who contract the virus within the school setting and pass it on within the wider community.

You will also see from the guidance that children will be expected to arrive at school with their own face coverings and whilst the school will hold a small contingency, we will not be supplying face coverings for students on a daily basis. Therefore, I would ask that parents ensure that their child arrives at school daily with at least **two** face coverings on their person. In addition, we recommend that reusable face coverings are used rather than the single use kind.

I would also ask that parents ensure that they and their children understand how to use face coverings safely. The weblink link provided [\[here\]](#) provides extensive information about the use of face coverings but I would draw your attention to the section entitled '**How to wear a face covering**'. I would ask that parents take the time to read this section and discuss the relevant information with their child prior to the return to school. I would also add that whilst we do have ample supply of sanitiser at the school, given the guidance, it would be pertinent for all students to have a handy sized bottle of hand sanitiser on their person.

Thank you all once again for your continued support throughout these difficult times. I wish our entire community a safe and prosperous 2022.

Yours sincerely

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