

21.06.21 COVID-19 Update

Dear parents and carers

You will all be aware of the increasing number of cases of COVID-19 being reported daily across the country. I have received letters from the Local Authority and the joint unions urging caution when undertaking school activities, and in the case of the unions, suggesting the reintroduction of facemasks in the classroom for staff and students.

Thank you for your support over the last year, your help in re-enforcing the importance of following the guidance has been invaluable. Unfortunately, I must now, once again, strongly recommend the re-instatement of mask wearing in classrooms and corridors and remind everyone of the importance of maintaining social distancing and hygiene measures in school. I hope we can have your continued support with this.

The government's position on mask wearing in school transport has not changed, and it is still strongly recommended for your child and the driver's safety. We need to get back to the position we have been in throughout most of this pandemic, with 99% compliance. The length of time students are within close proximity of each other creates an increased risk again as pockets of the county increase in numbers of infections.

I will be working with Centre Managers to review all the 'extra-ordinary' end of year arrangements being planned in order to reduce the risk of infection as much as possible. Any changes will be communicated to you nearer the time.

We know the Delta Variant is more transmissible and the efficacy of vaccinations is still largely untested. In addition, many staff have not yet had both doses of the vaccine and we recognise that the second dose provides the best protection. We have Lateral Flow Testing in place for all staff, students and, hopefully, most families.

With just 4 weeks of the year to go, I must urge you to be extra careful and not to relax these COVID precautions, so that we all end the term healthy and can enjoy a well-deserved summer break.

To summarise my advice to students, please:

- Wear a mask in class and in communal areas
- Maintain social distancing in communal areas

- Wear a mask on school transport
- Make sure you and your family are carrying out LFTs twice a week

Thank you for your on-going support.

Best wishes

Charlotte Lewis