



9th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 Update

You will be aware from the media that cases of Covid-19 are rising across the country, and we are starting to see small but significant increases in the BCP area. From the outset, our school has sought to make the return of all children as safe, comfortable, and normal as possible, whilst students reacclimatise to learning on campus.

Our use of antivirals as part of our constant cleaning of learning spaces has been just one of the measures implemented to lower the risk of infection thus far, but now is the time to increase the range of preventative measures given the rise in local cases. From this Monday 12th October, all students and staff are to wear face masks in corridors at all times, unless they are exempt from doing so for health reasons. It remains the case that students and staff may wear masks at any other time if they would like to do so, in reducing their personal risk further.

I would like to thank you for your caution and prudence as we have managed usual illnesses for the time of year, such as the common cold, in school in recent weeks. Children have been kept at home when they are unwell, and this has been a significant contribution to reducing more widespread transmission. You have provided your child with tissues and hand sanitiser, and have reminded them of the need to remain socially distanced. Please continue to do this, as it really helps us. Please also emphasise to your child the importance of good behaviour in lessons and around the campus, as with current restrictions there is less ability for us to supervise lower level sanctions, and thus I will need to use more serious measures, if necessary, to prevent a student from disrupting the learning and/or safety of others.

I need to make you aware that should there be an outbreak of Covid-19 in our school, things may move rather quickly. This may affect your own plans, including your work and family arrangements, at short notice. I ask that you are ready for such a possibility. Should we need to act in order to control the outbreak, we will be working directly under the instruction of Public Health England, and in collaboration with BCP. Management may be small scale (affecting individuals) or large-scale (affecting year groups or the whole-school). In the event of closure, schools are not currently able to remain open for children of key workers or vulnerable children. If this direction changes, then of course we will adjust accordingly.

Next week we will be writing to you regarding provision for remote learning if and when the need arises. Please make your child's Form Tutor aware if your child would not be able to participate in remote learning for any reason.

In the meantime, the spirit of St. Edward's remains as strong as ever. I hope that you find the meeting with your child's Form Tutor useful; and I hope, personally, that we will be able to welcome you back to our site at some point in the future.

We all wish you well, and thank-you again for all of your support and encouragement.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Antram
Headteacher