

**Headteacher:** Mr J Parr BA Hons

28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **School re-opening**

I hope you all are well and that the summer break offered you opportunities to rest and spend time with your families.

We have spent a long time planning and preparing for a start to school in September, and we are really looking forward to welcoming your child/ren back on Thursday 3rd September. We provided our outline plans in our end of term update, which can be found [here](#). **Please do read this again carefully**, as it provides vital information to try to keep your child and all others in school safe from the moment they return to the site.

### **Face coverings**

You will be aware of the Government U turn regarding face coverings in schools very recently. We have worked rapidly to iron out some details after the announcement only last week and after careful consideration, a Trust policy / position in response has been formulated. This has the prime aim of keeping all members of the school community as safe as possible, whilst ensuring effective teaching can still take place. Therefore, please note that from 03rd September:

1. Pupils and Staff are asked to wear face coverings in communal spaces (e.g. in corridors if moving between lessons, lining up outside a classroom etc). Students will not be expected to wear masks in the classroom unless an activity requires them to do so to maintain safety.
2. Staff will wear masks or visors in certain situations. In Secondary outdoor spaces, or where Staff need to use their voice in a significant way, a visor is to be used instead of a mask (e.g. when lining up pupils to take them inside or in the dining room).
3. Students will not be excluded or punished for not wearing a mask due to legitimate reasons e.g. if they have lost it or the mask has broken. However, they are expected to wear one, so will be helped to obtain one and wear one in school. We will have a small contingency supply available to meet such needs for students to purchase. You may wish to send your child with a spare mask, just in case.
4. We are aware that there are exceptions to the wearing of masks by some pupils and adults, as detailed in the Government guidance document (link below) and we will be sensitive and supportive where this is the case.
5. We may have members of our school community who rely on lip reading where masks should be removed for communication.

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**Note:** Frequent putting on and off of masks should be avoided. Please read the Government Guidance: [Face coverings: when to wear one, exemptions, and how to make your own](#) which includes important information about how to wear one safely. Please discuss this with your child before they return to school and ensure that they have a plastic bag which can be sealed to store their face covering when not being used.

## **Transport**

Please note that a letter from Passenger Transport Group, Shropshire Council with updates has been sent to you separately today. This relates primarily to students travelling on a school bus. A copy of the letter is on our school website in the 'Letters' section.

## **Helping with a smooth start**

We know that the return to school is accompanied by some uncertainty for families, but we really need get off to a calm, positive start, and keep things safe, so:

**Uniform:** Please make sure uniform is purchased and is correct. Please remember that shoes should be traditional school shoes. We do not allow nose studs; they should be replaced by a clear spacer. Please also make sure your child brings in a good waterproof jacket / umbrella, as they will be definitely be outside more often than usual!

**Lunches and snacks:** A gentle reminder that you will need to credit ParentPay accounts ready to pay for school meals, unless your child is bringing a packed lunch or is entitled to Free School Meals. We will not be able to accept cash as payment, with cashless catering now introduced. We know this will be challenging, but it will reduce the pressure and queuing for catered food, especially important with the rota of shortened lunch times. Please note that there will be reduced options on the menu, but still lovely food which will offer some choice every day and at good value. Please see the enclosed sample menu for advanced reading.

**Equipment:** Please ensure your child has a pencil case with the correct equipment, so they can take part in lessons. Unfortunately, we will not be able to loan any equipment. Students will need to bring their own full water bottles into school.

**Contact numbers:** Please ensure we have your up-to-date contact details so we can contact you promptly if your child is poorly, or shows any coronavirus-related symptoms.

As always, thank you for your support.

Have a lovely weekend.

John Parr  
Headteacher