



OLDFIELD SCHOOL

18th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to ask for your support in ensuring that students are wearing a face covering when in school. I have already written to you to inform you that following guidance from the public health team in BANES, these are recommended to be worn in communal areas in schools and that we will be implementing this from Monday 18th October onwards.

Despite this we have distributed over 200 face coverings to students this morning; this is almost 20% of the student population. If your child has been given a face covering in school today this will be a washable mask and they can reuse this. Please check on a daily basis that your child has a face mask (preferably 2) before they leave to go to school and remind them that they are expected to wear these when in school. As explained in my letter last week will not be sanctioning if a student is not wearing a mask when in communal areas but will remind them to do so; the expectation is that they will then comply with this.

A small number of students are exempt from wearing a mask for medical or SEND reasons and we are aware of who these students are. If your child requires an exemption, and we are not currently aware of this, then you will need to contact Mrs Mills to discuss this with her. I should make it clear that exemptions are for medical/SEND reasons only and would not be allowed on the grounds that your child does not want to or does not like wearing a face covering or that their parents do not agree with face coverings being worn.

You will appreciate that the return to a more normal school experience has meant that there are a limited number of measures available to mitigate against community transmission in school. The wearing of face coverings is one of these, and by doing so students are contributing to keeping our whole community safe. In addition, this will contribute to keeping staff safe and able to be in school. It is already the case that some schools are limiting student attendance because of covid related teaching staff absence.

I would like to remind you that you should not send your child to school if they have any COVID-19 symptoms and that they should have a PCR test as soon as possible and remain at home pending the result. If your child is unwell but without COVID-19 symptoms the current advice is that your child stays at home until they are feeling better and that if any COVID-19 symptoms develop the advice in the previous sentence would then apply.

Lastly, a reminder that if there is a positive case in your household then your children should be taking a daily lateral flow test while the member of the household is self-isolating.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Mackay
Headteacher