



Monday, 14 September 2020

THE CORBET SCHOOL

Headteacher Dr Jane Tinker BSc MA(Ed) EdD NPQH

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome back and it has been absolutely lovely to have all of the pupils with us, we actually feel like a school with a purpose again and I have been overwhelmed by the positivity of both the pupils and the staff at what has been a very strange start to the school year.

I was thinking on my way to work this morning that I have not heard one pupil complain about returning to school and the new normal. Even though we are all in agreement that things are much better the way they usually are, and we are all keen and hopeful to be back to normal at some point but for now we will just keep going. It was a very alien experience to plan for the return of the whole school community when the school was an empty building and we have been tweaking and making improvements along the way. The staff have been highly vigilant in ensuring that we are following the DfE advice and guidance and have been feeding back where improvements can be made to our procedures; the one-way system is constantly under review. Please do email your observations and ideas through to the admin email. I apologise that we will not be able to respond to all these individually and to reassure you that they are always passed on and read.

I have spoken to the pupils and staff in assembly this morning about face coverings and I have decided that face coverings are to be worn on the school site at all times except in lessons or whilst outside during break and lunch, although this will be kept under review as the local and national picture changes. Any pupil or member of staff who would like to wear a face covering during lessons or break/lunch is of course able to do so and pupils and staff who are exempt will not be expected to wear a face covering. Cases of Covid-19 are still very low in Shropshire at 11 per 100000 (National Average 18 per 100000) but at The Corbet School I would like to ensure that we are taking robust and proactive action to reduce the possibility of spread in our community, particularly after our confirmed positive case in a teacher on Friday. As I said in my communication then, no pupils were affected as a result of this and this is our only confirmed case.

Please do go through these procedures with your child this evening:

- Face covering to be worn on entry to school through the bus turn.
- Go to tutor room, sanitise hands, clean desk with wipe and sit down. Face covering to remain on until told by a teacher to remove.

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- At the end of the lesson face covering to be put on, hands sanitised and leave the room to go to next lesson, break, or lunch. On arrival at a lesson follow instructions above/on arrival at break or lunchtime location face covering may be removed outside.
- Face coverings to be worn queueing for and whilst in the canteen buying food.
- At the end of break and lunchtime face covering to be put back on the move to the next lesson.
- At the end of the day face covering to be put on to leave the school site.

There is a WHO poster attached detailing how to safely manage a face covering and these will be displayed around school to support the pupils and staff. I would like to say that I am delighted with the pupils' response to this and the calm and sensible way they are going about it.

Just a reminder that hand washing, and sanitising is key and so we need to keep this up too.

Behaviour has been superb so far and I would like to thank the pupils for their cooperation and to say keep this going. We have had a few concerns raised about face coverings on the buses and have been reminding the pupils to wear their face coverings before they get on the bus and until they get off. Shropshire Transport have also sent a letter regarding this – please do make sure that your son/daughter is aware of exactly what is expected of them.

Risk assessments / Back to School Safely Plan is constantly under review as we work through our procedures over this first couple of full weeks.

- Cleaning desks - the protocols introduced are that each pupil sanitises their hands, cleans their own desk area with a wipe and then sits down.

Uniform: please can we ask that all pupils adhere to the uniform rules. We are still experiencing some problems with some of the skirts that our girls are wearing. Please may we remind you, that girls skirts should be tailored and not made of a stretchy material; they should also be closer to the knee rather than the mid-thigh in length. Pupils should not be wearing black trainers, and we do not allow small ankle boots to be worn with skirts, however we do allow them with trousers.

On the whole, make up has been good, but again we urge that pupils do not push the boundaries of our rules with both jewellery and make-up. No piercings are to be worn and only a small amount of foundation can be worn for KS4 pupils.

Enhanced Equipment List: just a polite reminder that pupils do need to come to school with all of the equipment they are likely to need i.e. scissors and glue, this is to reduce the risk of infection from sharing equipment, a full list is in the [2020SchoolReopeningParents.pdf](#)

Attendance: if your child is unwell and you are in any doubt about the symptoms please use NHS111 online for advice. If anyone in the household is awaiting a test or results, then everyone else in the household should self-isolate until such time as they know they are negative.

Self-isolate for 14 days: You should self-isolate for 14 days if you live with (or are in a support bubble with) someone who:

- has symptoms of coronavirus and tested positive, had an unclear result, or did not have a test
- tested positive but has not had symptoms

This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear.

The 14 days starts from:

- when the first person in your home or support bubble started having symptoms
- the day they were tested, if they have not had symptoms – but if they get symptoms after they were tested, self-isolate for a further 14 days from when their symptoms start

Teaching & Learning: We are working hard on developing the best ways of setting work for pupils to complete at home who are self-isolating. We aim to have systems in place as soon as possible and certainly in line with the government deadline for schools completing this task, which is the end of September.

Staff who are self-isolating will be teaching their classes via TEAMS from home with another teacher on hand to support them in the classroom. We are trialling this from tomorrow. I have asked that the pupils engage positively with this to enable its success. Clearly this is the best way that we can maintain learning and curriculum continuity and it will allow us to have a practice if we were to have to close at any point for some or all pupils. I am hoping that this can be avoided, my preference is that we are all together in school as much as possible.

Mr Simms led assemblies last week to reflect on lessons learned during lockdown and to impress the importance of making the most of learning opportunities at school and homework set by teachers.

IT sessions took place for Year 7s on their first day of school to give them an introduction to logging in to the school network and satchel:one. Teachers in IT lessons this half term will continue to work with Year 7s, 8s and 9s to help them with logging in to systems and the use of Microsoft Office applications. We are currently trying to think of the best ways to continue to support the pupils in Years 10 and 11, as most do not have an IT lesson as part of their normal timetables. Digital platforms have become essential teaching and learning tools recently and will continue to be extremely important, particularly if individuals or groups are unable to attend school due to closures or Covid related issues. Please email admin@corbetschool.net if you become aware that your child is having difficulty with any IT systems.

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Student Support: Please can we ask you to support us fully with paperless communications. If your child is ill and unable to attend school or has a medical appointment, please contact us on **01939 262004** or alternatively please send an e-mail to absence@corbetschool.net

Staff are unable to take in or write in pupil's planners, therefore it is vital that any form of communication between parents and teachers is now done via e-mail. For general teacher messages please send your e-mail to admin@corbetschool.net and we will make sure that the message gets to the appropriate member of staff. Please allow us 24 hours to reply.

As we are not able to write in pupils' planners, we will not be able to communicate when your child has been given a break or lunch time detention. Staff will be asked to record the sanction in their own mark books and on our school SIMS system so that we have a log. We will monitor sanctions weekly and will contact you if we feel that a conversation is required. However, if you wish to contact us to check your child's behaviour log, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail.

If your child receives an after school detention 3.20pm - 4.05pm or a Senior Leadership detention 3.20pm - 4.20pm, you will receive a text message to inform you of the date and an e-mail will be sent to explain the reason for the detention.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Buses: We are aware of some seating issues on a few of our buses. These problems are arising mainly in the mornings. Please can we ask that pupils ensure they are getting on the correct bus each morning and not just getting on the first bus that comes. For year 7 pupils, the code of their bus has been given to them on a slip of paper. Codes are displayed in the front windows of the school buses. We are working with the transport department to iron out these problems.

Please may we remind you that children wishing to go to a friend's house after school will not be able to travel on their friends' bus, as they will not be insured and this will affect the number of seats for the children who are entitled to the transport.

I apologise that this letter is so long but I hope that the full picture you have of what is going on in school and our approach to managing learning in a COVID secure way gives you some reassurance. The wellbeing and safety of our whole community is at the forefront of any decision made.

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I thank you in advance for your help and support at what is an exceptionally busy and ever-changing time, but we are working together and getting through it.

With very best wishes to you and your families,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Tinker." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Jane Tinker
Headteacher