

Headteacher Dr Jane Tinker BSc MA(Ed) EdD NPQH

Dear Parent / Carer

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 31st October, new national restrictions have come into force today, Thursday 5th November. The Department for Education have published information on what the <u>new national restrictions mean for education and childcare settings</u>.

The guidance provides specific information and covers the latest advice for clinically extremely vulnerable children, young people and staff, and advice on the use of face coverings in education settings.

Guidance on the use of face coverings: we feel that we are well placed to respond to the new mandatory requirement for the increased use of face coverings both on school transport but also in all communal areas of the school. We feel confident that both staff and pupils will take personal responsibility for the safety of themselves and others in increasing the use of face coverings whilst recognising that some individuals are exempt. We will continue to reinforce the Hands, Face, Space message to staff and pupils further strengthened by the new mandatory requirements for face coverings. I have spoken to all pupils and staff today and advised that we now need to increase our use of face coverings at break and lunchtime in line with this guidance. I have also talked about personal responsibility and would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to make sure that they are doing this. The pupils have been fantastic and very supportive so far and I am sure that this will continue.

Clinically extremely vulnerable children and staff: Parents are advised to speak to your child's GP or specialist clinician if you have not already done so, to understand whether your child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. Further information can be found here <u>Schools</u>. If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable and advised not to attend school, please contact us.

Positive cases: We have had two positive cases in the school community but because they happened during half term there is no further action required by the school. This has been confirmed by the DFE and Shropshire Public Health.

Teaching and Learning: Should the school need to close either partially or fully, we are again well placed to move to remote learning on Zoom and using our learning platforms, including Satchel and OneNote and will communicate immediately with parents should this happen.

Pupil Support: afterschool detentions will continue to run during the lockdown period. Please can we remind you that if your child is placed in after school detention, they must be collected at the correct time by a member of their family who are in their bubble. After school detention notifications will continue to be sent via e-mail.

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Please could all parents support us with reminding pupils about our behaviour expectations whilst travelling on the school buses. We have dealt with several incidents of silly behaviour and we would like to remind you that poor behaviour may result in sanctions and the removal of transport entitlement. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Wellbeing: If your child is anxious about the new lockdown situation, please encourage them to speak to their tutor, a member of student support team or any member of staff they feel comfortable talking to.

We will continue to work hard to ensure that the school remains open and provides for the student's educational, emotional and social needs and I'm sure we all want to support any measures deemed necessary to enable this to happen.

In what continues to be unprecedented times please do continue to get in touch with any concerns.

Yours sincerely

Jave Tinker.

Dr Jane Tinker Headteacher