

23rd September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. I know that it has been a difficult time for some of you with challenges faced in getting a test. Dorset Council are aware of this and have been liaising closely with the Department of Education.

There is inevitably unease as to whether you need to keep your child off school if he/ she is feeling unwell or whether he/ she needs to get a test. I hope that the NHS link I sent last week was of help. Here it is again:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

In addition, I have attached a summary of a variety of scenarios and the action we will need to take in each of them, working together. This is based on the latest guidance but of course this continues to be updated. Please can you to check this carefully before ringing school as this will help inform the decisions you make.

Keeping safe

I have been generally very impressed by the children's good sense around the school.

However, I think we are in for the long haul and we all need to constantly remind ourselves and our children of the steps we all need to take to keep safe.

- Regular washing of hands and/ or use of hand sanitiser
- Social distancing
- KS3: wearing a face covering in corridor spaces during lesson changeover unless your child is in the exempt group as detailed in the latest Government guidance
- Making sure pupils all go outside at lunchtime while the weather remains pleasant.

I will be asking all children in KS3 who are exempt from wearing face coverings (following national guidelines) from next Monday, to wear a purple badge so we can easily distinguish between those who have forgotten and those who are exempt to avoid unnecessary embarrassment. Please can you help us by ensuring that your child brings his/her face covering to school as well as a spare should he/ she lose one. In addition, although we have fitted hand sanitiser units across the school it will be very helpful if you can encourage your child to bring in his/ her own hand sanitiser bottle.

We have been providing face coverings for children in KS3 when they have forgotten to bring theirs to school however, due to escalated costs we will now have to charge a small fee. In the future, for any child forgetting their mask / face covering we will continue to provide him/ her with a disposable mask but will now regrettably have to charge 50p for it.

A reminder also that on the school buses we have established a seating plan for the children. I have been incredibly impressed as our children have been very responsible and have sat in their allocated seat each day with children in KS3 wearing their face coverings throughout the journey.

The key message we must all continue to reiterate to our children each day is:

We must all take responsibility for keeping ourselves as safe as possible and we all have a duty to help keep others safe.

Travelling to school

If your child cycles to school:

Pupils must wear a cycle helmet and cycle carefully, ensuring that they are on the same side of the road as the traffic.

Children who have PE are currently having to wear PE kit to school. In colder weather, please could they wear tracksuit bottoms over their shorts, skirts or sports leggings on the journey to and from school.

Extra-curricular activities

I am pleased that we have been able to start to re-open our offer of extra-curricular activities. If your child is interested in joining a club it is not too late. Please complete the return slip and/ or email the office so arrangements can be made.

PTFA

We are planning an online meeting with our PTFA committee in the near future. If you would like to join and support this group to raise money for additional resources to benefit our children, please let me know.

Whilst we will sadly have to postpone events such as our craft fair and family quiz nights, we would love to hear your ideas on how we could find alternative ways of raising money and engaging with families this year.

Wishing you and your family all best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Dr Craddock
Head teacher

