



3 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Update re face coverings

In my letter of 27 August, outlining September protocols and key information, we included current government guidance regarding face coverings as well as a commitment to constantly review and update our protocols as required.

You may be aware there has been some media coverage about a significant rise in the number of COVID-19 cases across the Dacorum area and Herts County Council has issued a statement reminding all residents in Dacorum to pay close attention to the serious issue of the spread of COVID-19 in the local community. This rise means we need to be as vigilant as possible as all students return to school, and review the measures already in place.

To this end, we have updated our protocols and request that, **until further notice, from Monday 7 September when all year groups return to school, all staff and students should wear face coverings when moving between lessons and in communal areas** within the school building. Face coverings continue to remain optional in classrooms and on other occasions when students from the same year group are brought together inside the school building. I recognise that a number of students may be exempt from wearing masks and would be grateful if you could inform the school if this is the case. We will run sessions for all students reminding them of the safe way to wear, remove and store their masks.

I have been informed that the increase in positive cases has centred mainly around young people aged 16-30 but there is no direct link to school settings, and therefore no greater risk for schools re-opening. We will also be reminding students about their responsibility to maintain social distancing when outside of school and hope that you will reinforce this. Please also remember your child should not attend school if they display symptoms and if they have come into contact with someone with COVID-19, they should self-isolate for 14 days.

I know that everyone understands we are dealing with an ever-changing situation and appreciate your support and understanding as we focus our efforts into getting our students back to school safely and engaging in their learning. We hope this additional, precautionary measure will provide reassurance to everyone.

Please take time to review the [protocols sheet here](#) with your child. As with all measures, the wearing of masks when moving around the school will be kept under constant review.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school next week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Shapland'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'S'.

James Shapland
Headteacher