

**Headteacher:
Mrs M Davis**

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28th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I trust you have had a restful summer and I hope you and your families remain well. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all our pupils back. The details of all individual returns will be communicated by your son's tutor or via a home visit from our Induction tutor for new students.

Dates remain as were sent out at the end of last term, ie –

Monday 7th Sept / Tuesday 8th Sept **NEW** students only

Wednesday 9th Sept – yrs 5/6/7 return

Thursday 10th Sept – yrs 8/9 return

Friday 11th Sept – yrs 10/11 return

In order to make our school as Covid-secure as we can and in-line with many risk assessments, we have made some changes to the running of the school day, as I alluded to in July. To enable social distancing there will be staggered arrival and departure times; you will be informed of your son's timings next week via his tutor by phone. Please bear with us in the meantime as I am sure you are aware, the changes involve complicated logistics. We will also be operating 2 lunch sittings instead of 1, alongside split breaks.

We have had to change some groups around slightly due to the number of new students we have starting; we want the transition back into a new routine of school to be as comfortable as possible for all the boys and their families. Tutors will talk through any concerns you have next week.

You will no doubt be aware that the Government has just this week delivered new guidance on the wearing of face masks/coverings. Government guidance for schools is based on the recommendation from Public Health England that states;- "Public Health England (PHE) does not (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. This evidence will be kept under review. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission."

We hope that our many measures including staggered start times, separate break areas, staggered lunch, separation of lower school/Upper school, gives you confidence in your child's return to school. However, we have recognised that there are areas in a school where it is difficult to manage close contact between students, such as corridors and social areas. Consequently, boys and staff will be encouraged to wear face masks in communal areas of our school.

In order to assist with this the school will provide your son with 3 washable Cornfield face-masks (in school colours) on his first day back at school. However, to ensure the safety of your son and other students the following conditions must be followed:

- Boys must bring either school mask or their own new disposable mask or clean reusable mask each day to ensure minimal risk of infection being brought into a school.
- All face masks must be worn properly, covering the mouth and nose (scarves are not appropriate)

- They must be put on and removed properly without touching the front of the mask and stored in a sealable plastic bag (such as a sandwich bag) when not being worn, for example when eating food
- Boys must clean their hands thoroughly before putting on and when removing a face mask within the school building, either washing their hands or using hand sanitiser
- Any disposable face masks must be disposed of in the specific bins provided by the school

If your son travels into school via taxi, the driver will be wearing a mask, it may be sensible for your son to do so as well. The Government has said that children age 11 and over must wear face coverings when using public transport or in large gatherings. ALL students at the school will be given masks; year 5/6 may choose whether they want to wear their mask in social areas. KS4 students attending college release days will need to have a clean mask with them in a sealed bag.

We hope that by supplying the masks we can make this transition easier for everyone. As each boy will have three, it is imperative for the health of our school community that these are washed in soap and water DAILY.

We appreciate that the above conditions may be challenging for some families. If you need further support, please contact us and we will consider such requests on a case by case basis. These arrangements are based on current guidance. If there are any changes to the guidance, we will of course update our advice and let you know.

Thank you all for your continued support. I very much look forward to welcoming the boys back into school from their start dates. If you have any concerns or worries at all, please contact the school from 3rd September, when tutors will be available to talk to you all.

In the meanwhile, may I wish you a very pleasant Bank Holiday weekend – weather permitting!!

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Davis
Headteacher

If any of this information is not clear please telephone the school on 01903 731277 where someone will explain it to you

Cornfield School is part of the Federation of Special Schools comprising Cornfield, Oak Grove, Palatine and Herons Dale

