

**Headteacher:
Mrs M Davis**

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6th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for supporting your son to remain safe whilst journeying to and being in school. Last half term was very productive in terms of student work and most of our community responded well to the different challenges they faced.

This letter aims to clarify some changes that we need to make in relation to the national lockdown now in place for the next 4 weeks. It is based upon guidance that was sent to schools re clinically vulnerable staff and students and guidance sent subsequently re changes during lockdown.

One of the new regulations is regarding the wearing of masks. Guidance now instructs all students year 7 and above to wear masks in communal and corridor areas. Having provided all boys with at least 3 masks each, most have already been doing this and doing it well; from Monday all yr 7s will be requested to do so too. Year 5/6 have also been provided with facemasks. Staff continue to wear masks in communal areas and corridors and if doing 1:1 interventions, but not in class.

I have asked you in the past to encourage your son to wear a mask in the taxi when travelling into school – this has also now become mandatory, as it is important all occupants of the vehicle are protected. Students will also need to wear masks when travelling in school minibuses.

The cleaning protocols and safety regimes in school have been working well. We have had a number of Covid tests since September, all of which have returned negative. The staggered starts and ends of days have been effective in ensuring social distancing, these will continue. If you drop your son off, please do not arrive early. I now need to ask family members to wear a facemask at collection and drop off of students.

In accordance with the current guidelines, some staff will need to isolate during the next month. It has therefore been necessary to adopt a rota system for some groups. This is the system I mentioned earlier which would be put in place if we did not have sufficient staffing to manage all health and safety aspects of the school.

Groups 1 to 4 (yrs 5-8) have been contacted re a rota system starting from Monday. This will involve a 2-week timetable, attendance 3 days one week 2 days the next. Work will be both sent home and online, with some individual sessions via internet or phone. The current arrangements only affect these 4 groups initially; these will be reviewed after 2 weeks to ensure all students have same opportunities. Form tutors will keep you updated regarding any changes.

Updated guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-newnational-restrictions-from-5-november-2020>

This link takes you to the updated guidance (which does not specifically refer to special schools).

I understand that many families may feel anxious about the lockdown and increasing rates of Covid 19 transmission nationally and we will ensure that we continue to operate as safely as possible for all while continuing to provide the best possible education and care.

Where families have highly specific concerns please speak to me or form tutors so that we can ensure we address them.

Many thanks for your ongoing support.

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

