

10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear parents/carers

It has been lovely to welcome all of the children back to school this week and as you know there have been many changes to the way we operate since the point when lockdown began, but the young people returning to school have been amazing! They have been able to understand the rationale behind the changes we have had to make and have adapted to our 'new normal' with incredible maturity.

One significant change we have made to the way we operate in school is the use of face masks in communal areas. When the children are in these areas I cannot guarantee that they will not come into close contact with others outside of their contact group, so the use of a face mask provides additional risk mitigation against the spread of Coronavirus and in light of positive cases increasing across South Wales, the wearing of face masks in communal areas will need to continue for the foreseeable future.

I have been very impressed with the level of pupil engagement with this and thank you, to the majority, for your support in providing your child with their own reusable masks.

As you know we do have a small supply of disposable masks and these have been distributed to pupils who did not have their own mask this week or who had forgotten to bring theirs in.

However, this supply is now very limited and from Monday it is the expectation that all pupils have their own mask on their person to use when in our communal areas. So, to support this, I can confirm that I have purchased enough reusable cloth face masks for every child to be issued with two. This will allow one to be worn whilst the other is being cleaned.

As you can appreciate, this has come at a cost, but the safety of your children and the staff at the school is paramount and I feel very strongly that the use of face masks will help with preventing the spread of the virus at our school.

The face masks will be distributed during registration time on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, along with a briefing session on the importance of masks, as well as the correct way to use them. Please note though that the children will still need to attend school on Monday with their own mask in order to enter the building at the start of the day.

Secondly, our staggered starts before the beginning of the school day have been very well organised and have also operated efficiently this week, so this will be an approach I will want to retain as we move forward. In fact, the smooth operation of this and the separate year group areas to line up does mean that from Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September **all pupils can arrive at school by 8.30am** for a staggered and controlled entry into the building via their separate year group entrances.

Finally, after a H&S visit to the school this week, I am pleased to inform you that pupils are now able to make use of the PE changing room facilities on the days when they have PE or Games on their timetable. This means that there will be no need for your child to attend school in their PE kit from Monday 14th September, as the facilities will now be available to them.

Thank you for your continued support and, as the measures we introduce need to change or as the plan needs to adjust in order to respond to the way the virus is behaving, I will endeavour to keep you fully informed.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mrs T Jarvis'.

Mrs T Jarvis  
Headteacher