

5th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Given the Government's announcement that the country is now in another lockdown, with very specific restrictions in place, I wanted to write to you to reiterate the position that schools will remain open to all pupils. The Minister for Schools has stated this is a vital provision to "protect the education and wellbeing of children" and senior clinicians have advised that school is the best place for children to be, and they should continue to attend school.

We will continue to operate in the same way as we have since September 2020, while regularly reviewing our Risk Assessment. I am pleased to say that our pupils and students are enjoying a broad and balanced curriculum and that the vast majority of our pupils and students have settled in well, and are working hard to reconnect with all aspects of school life. However, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of a few points:

Face Coverings

Please can you remind your son/daughter of the need to bring a face covering into school and of their social responsibility to follow Government guidelines and wear it during movement times in communal areas around the school. They should also ensure they wear face coverings when travelling on public transport and, where appropriate, when they are out and about in the local community.

Uniform

Given the change in weather, the heating is now on, however, in line with guidance from the Department for Education (DfE) we are continuing to ensure good ventilation around the school. Pupils are still permitted to wear their coats in the classroom, but they must still wear proper and correct uniform underneath any outerwear in line with our usual expectations.

Visitors

In order to minimise the number of people coming onto the school site, please can I ask that you do not visit the school unless you have an appointment. Although this goes against our usual open-door policy, it is important, in the current climate, to limit the number of people on site, especially during the school day. If you do need to make an appointment to see a member of staff, please either ring the usual school number (01268) 784721, email the relevant member of staff directly, or contact pupilservices@sweynepark.com.

Engagement with NHS Test and Trace

It is an ongoing expectation that school staff and parents and carers understand the NHS Test and Trace process and notify the school immediately if a pupil tests positive for COVID-19 or is identified as a "close contact" of someone who has. For further details, please refer to the Government's website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>.

As ever we will continue to update you of any developments, so please do keep an eye on your emails and our website.

Kind regards



Katharine Dines
Headteacher

