

JG/BAP
17th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of our second week under the New National Restrictions from 5th November, may I take this opportunity to remind everyone of the following:

Face coverings

Just over a week ago, we sent out a reminder that, under the new restrictions, it is mandatory for face coverings to be worn by both students and staff while travelling around the building; as an additional precaution to avoid cross-contamination across bubbles, we also require them to be worn in outside areas during break and lunchtime.

All students, unless exempt due to medical reasons, should be bringing a clean face covering to school every day. The overwhelming scientific consensus is that, when used correctly, wearing a face covering may reduce the spread of coronavirus droplets, helping to protect others. We recognise that face coverings on their own are not a replacement for social distancing and regular handwashing; it is, therefore, important for students to regularly wash their hands and/or use the hand sanitiser dispensers around the site, particularly before putting on and after removing their face covering. Ideally, according to government guidelines, face coverings should be individually stored between use, for example in a sealable plastic bag.

As you will be aware, students arriving in school without a face covering are given a disposable one, for which a charge of 50p is allocated to ParentPay. However, I must point out that it may be necessary to increase this cost in the future, given the additional administrative workload it entails.

Meeting others safely

Unfortunately, we have received some messages of concern from local residents that students are not observing the two-metre social distancing rule outside of school and are congregating, without face coverings, outside shops, on pavements and whilst waiting to come down the school drive. Under the new restrictions, you can exercise or meet in a public, outdoor space with people you live with, your support bubble, or with one person from another household. When around other people, you should stay two metres apart from anyone not in your household or your support bubble – where this is not possible, stay one metre apart with extra precautions (e.g. wearing a face covering).

May I ask you to remind your children of the importance of observing these rules at all times, particularly, travelling to and from school when their uniform clearly identifies them within the community as a representative of St Michael's.

Headteacher: **Mrs J Gray, MSc, NPQH**

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Households with a possible or confirmed coronavirus infection

If your child is displaying symptoms of COVID-19:

- they must take a test
- you, your child and anyone else you live with should stay at home and not have visitors until you receive the test result – only leave your home to have the test
- anyone in your support bubble should also stay at home if your child has been in close contact with them since their symptoms started or during the 48 hours before they started.

If the result is negative:

- your child can return to school as soon as they are well enough to do so
- the rest of the household members/support bubble can return to school/work immediately

If the result is positive:

- please inform the school immediately
- they must continue to self-isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms or from the date of a positive test if your child had no symptoms
- the rest of the household/support bubble must self-isolate until fourteen days from the onset of symptoms or from the date of a positive test if your child had no symptoms

If a member of the household/support bubble displays symptoms of C-19, your child must stay at home until the result of the test.

- They should only return to school if the test result is negative or 14 days after the household/bubble member's symptoms started or positive test result was received if they had no symptoms

Whilst the most common symptoms of C-19 in children are fever and cough, there is evidence to suggest that other signs of a heavy cold, e.g. sore throat, nasal congestion, shortness of breath and muscle or body aches, have sometimes resulted in a positive result in children. Please do not send your child to school if they are clearly unwell with any of these symptoms and organise a test for them as soon as possible.

I would like to reiterate that these measures are in place to ensure the safety of students, staff and parents and I am very appreciative of your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Jayne Gray
Headteacher

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