

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES for PARENT HANDBOOK (COVID)

Masks

The guidance on mask wearing has now been published for schools. Children **may** wear masks if their parents/they choose, irrespective of any guidance.

We are requesting that all children from Year 5 upwards carry a mask in a sealed plastic bag in their blazer pockets. Currently we are asking that children wear masks in the Computing Room. This is because of the nature of that particular physical space. The computers are quite close to each other and the room is air-conditioned. There is no natural ventilation in the room as it is an inside space.

Pending the ability of us to preserve the integrity of the 4 Key Stage bubbles, we may in the future request that children in Senior School wear masks when moving around corridors and at break times.

If there is a local lockdown, the wearing of masks for senior pupils and staff in corridors, at all lesson changes, and breaks will be mandatory.

If your child is not able to wear a mask, please let us know.

We are requesting that masks are the responsibility of the child/parent, that fabric masks are laundered at night and stored when not in use in a sealed plastic bag. They are not transferable between children. Disposable masks should be taken home for safe disposal. It is recommended that this is in a sealed bag, within another sealed bag.

If pupils travel on public transport, school buses, or are car-sharing with another family they should wear one for their journey.

Classroom staff will teach about the effective wearing of a mask including instructions on putting it on and off and safe storage/disposal.

School will not be organising trips or visits which require the sharing or transport for the first half term.

Teachers may choose to wear a mask and some will additionally wear a visor in lessons where social distancing is not possible because of the nature of activities. Or because the teacher needs to be additionally cautious.

Visitors and contractors on site will wear a mask when children are on site.

Could it be Coronavirus or is it just a common cold or seasonal flu?

If you have a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, it could be coronavirus (COVID-19).

The common cold is characterised by:

- a blocked or runny nose
- a sore throat
- headaches
- muscle aches
- coughs
- sneezing
- a raised temperature
- pressure in your ears and face
- loss of taste and smell

Whilst there are some similar symptoms, Coronavirus is not linked to the blocked/runny nose which characterises the onset of a cold.

Flu is a more severe and debilitating cold.

All are viruses.

Difference between cold and flu	
Cold	Flu
Appears gradually	Appears quickly within a few hours
Affects mainly your nose and throat	Affects more than just your nose and throat
Makes you feel unwell, but you're OK to carry on as normal (for example, go to work)	Makes you feel exhausted and too unwell to carry on as normal

A pupil with cold symptoms but not those associated with Coronavirus can still come to school if they are otherwise well. Children with more severe cold/flu symptoms would normally and usually take a couple of days at home to recuperate.

Finally, on last night's news, though not in guidance yet, there was a possibility that other symptoms in children could also be Coronavirus linked. These include diarrhoea, upset tummy, vomiting, skin rashes, headache and sore throat.

If you are in any doubt please make an appointment for a test at your local centre.