29 June 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

**The Return of Face Masks – Monday 5th July**

I write primarily to notify you of a change in school policy to make the wearing of a mask compulsory when in common areas (corridors and stairways etc).

We are not, at this stage, making it compulsory for children to wear masks during lessons in classrooms.

We are making this measure in response to awareness of the majority of local secondary schools experiencing multiple cases. While we have been lucky in having no confirmed cases since the return from lockdown, it is very likely that our relative good fortune will not continue for the remainder of the term.

Whilst masks will be available from reception, we will encourage children to bring masks from home and appreciate your support in this.

**Planning for the return of in-school lateral flow testing**

The government has indicated that schools need to plan for the reintroduction of in-school testing, where daily lateral flow testing will be used as an alternative to isolation for contacts of a confirmed positive Covid case. It is quite likely that we will ask for children to be in-school tested before lessons restart in September. More information will follow over the summer on this. We anticipate that we will be using the permission previously granted by parents, so please let us know if you wish to change your preference either to allow your child to receive in-school lateral flow testing or removing permission, please let reception know ([enquiry@nsg.kevibham.org](mailto:enquiry@nsg.kevibham.org) ).

**End of term and attendance**

Given the amount of school children have missed in the last year and a half and the uncertainty around future Covid cases leading to group isolating, we are exceptionally keen for all of our pupils to be in school whenever possible. It is my strong sense that a small minority of pupils are being seriously disadvantaged by poor attendance. Please take every step to ensure your child attends school every day. Normal lessons will be continuing right up until the last day. Any young person who wishes to receive a work pack to continue doing some school work ‘little and often’ over the summer holiday should ask at reception at the end of the day in the last week of term.

**New Sets**

We are currently in the process of re-organising teaching groups in current Year 7 and 8.  The reason for this is that we will be going back to our usual system of having pupils of similar ability in the same classes to ensure that all of our pupils receive the support they need as well as the appropriate level of stretch and challenge.  We will also be going back to a system of setting for English and Maths.  We will advise all of our Year 7 and 8 pupils of their new class before the end of term.

**The new school building**

A really nice video of the new building can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/567406504/b5f6eff8f0>

**On a personal note…**

I am absent once more from the start of next week for a final operation. I hope to be back before the end of term and I am confident that this absence will be my last for a long time! Ms Hall will be acting-Headteacher during the absence. Apologies once again for any confusion this causes.

Yours faithfully



Mr Neil Jones  
Headteacher