



1 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re. Ongoing awareness around COVID-19

I hope that you are well. As you will be aware, tomorrow the current period of national lockdown comes to an end, and is replaced by a 'new' system of tiers. As all of our CMAT schools are within Leicester and Leicestershire, we are all in the 'very high' tier three. Should you require a detailed outline of the restrictions, please see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>.

As we have around two and a half weeks until the end of term, I felt that this was a good time to remind you of some of the key things we must all do to ensure maximum safety is achieved for all of our pupils and staff; much of this starts at home. You will be aware of the key rules around regularly washing your hands, maintaining a safe (minimum 2 metre) distance from people outside your household, and wearing a mask in enclosed public places, such as shops. Local, national and international research shows that these three steps alone *significantly* reduce the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19.

As far as school-specific issues are concerned, please take a moment to make sure that you are clear on the following points (none of them are new today, but all are important and worth reminding ourselves about):

- You will be aware of any particular arrangements your school has in place to reduce risks – such as staggered start and finish times, or one-way systems. Please respect these arrangements in order to keep the number of people coming in and out of school, at any one time, to a minimum.
- We request that face coverings are worn by parents and carers (excluding those exempt due to underlying health conditions) at school pick up and drop off at our schools; this is consistent with the requests in all Leicestershire and Leicester City schools.
- If you have been informed that your child needs to isolate because s/he has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, please remember that this means your child must remain at home both during the school week and during weekends, for a total of 14 days. They shouldn't be taking part in any activities such as sport during this self-isolation period or coming into contact with anyone outside of their home.
- Please remember that even though the whole family **does not** have to isolate unless your child themselves develops symptoms, you should take extra care during the

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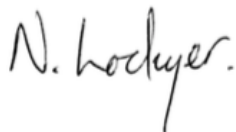
period your child is isolating. In particular, you should **minimise contact with older and/or vulnerable relatives, neighbours and friends.**

- Most importantly, if your child or anyone within the household develops any of these three COVID-19 symptoms, please do not send them into school:
 - a high temperature – this means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature)
 - a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
 - a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste – this may mean that they cannot smell or taste anything, or that things smell or taste different to normal.

Within our schools, staff continue to work incredibly hard to ensure that your children and their colleagues are able to go about their work, learning and play as safely as they possibly can; the **very low proportion of cases** in our 21 schools – with practically no in-school transmission – suggests that this is paying off. I want to thank the vast majority of you for adhering to the procedures that we are using in our schools; this is helping significantly. I include in this the way in which so many of you have adapted to online meetings, parents' evenings and so on. We are genuinely looking forward to the time when we can welcome you back in to the schools.

Finally, in respectfully reminding everyone of the above points, I hope that we will be in a position in which *no pupils or members of staff* will be isolating as we reach the Christmas holidays on Friday 18 December. I will write to you again before the end of term but, in the meantime, do take care.

Yours sincerely



Neil Lockyer
Chief Executive Officer