

Meopham School

A Member of Swale Academies Trust

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA
Executive Headteacher: Mrs S Dickinson BA (Hons) NPQH
Head of School: Ms K Girling BSc (Hons)



Wrotham Road Meopham Kent DA13 0AH
Tel: 01474 814646
Website: www.meophamschool.org.uk

6th November 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you and your family are coping with the transition into lockdown.

In line with the additional restrictions lockdown brings The Department for Education has published new expectations on the wearing of face coverings by students and staff in schools.

The guidance states that face coverings should be worn by adults and children aged 11 and above when moving around the school, outside of classrooms or activity rooms, such as in corridors and communal areas where social distancing cannot easily be maintained.

Since Monday we have been asking students to wear face masks when moving around inside the building. I have been warmed by the students' compliance with this as it is increasing the safety for themselves, our staff and, ultimately, your families as well.

As I am sure you already understand, adults are more vulnerable than young people to suffering seriously from the symptoms of Coronavirus. We, therefore, want to protect our staff so that they can continue to offer your child an uninterrupted and full education despite the current national situation. With this in mind we are introducing some additional expectations to further protect both our staff and students.

It is now our expectation that staff and students wear masks when moving around classrooms and other teaching spaces. Practical PE lessons are exempt from this. Furthermore, we will support any individual teacher who wishes students to wear masks throughout their lesson. We would very much appreciate your support and understanding in these additional expectations. Whilst the evidence around wearing masks is rather mixed, our feeling in the current climate is that some staff will feel reassured by their presence in classrooms. We would like to support our staff in having some ownership of their teaching space and personal safety.

Any student who is medically exempt from wearing a mask does not, of course, have to comply with any of the guidelines outlined above. If you have any queries regarding this please contact mss-studentservices@swale.at.

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It is important that all students attend school with a clean reusable face covering each day. Given the importance of complying with this expectation for the benefit of all within our school community students will not be allowed in corridors or communal areas unless a face covering is worn, unless they are appropriately exempt. Students who do not have a mask upon arrival may purchase one from Student Services in the courtyard prior to entering the building.

The new expectations in this letter are being introduced for the explicit reason of protecting our school community, I therefore would very much appreciate your full support.

Yours faithfully

Ms K Girling
Head of School