

2nd November 2020
(JD/SS)



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Dear Parent/Carer

Update on Coronavirus Arrangements

As you will be aware from the media over the weekend, the Scottish Government issued guidance late on Friday in relation to 'Safe Learning in School'.

As Perth & Kinross is currently under Tier 2 restrictions, we would like to make you aware of some changes which come into effect today, as well as providing you with some general pandemic-related updates.

Physical Distancing and Face Coverings

- Face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors to the school site (whether entering the building or not). This includes parents at drop-off and pick-up. The Campus building itself continues to be out of bounds to parents and other visitors during the school day.
- Staff in the upper primary and secondary will be wearing face coverings where 2m physical distancing is not possible. As a general rule, this will include Pupil Support Assistants, although individual pupil needs will of course be taken into consideration.
- When not working directly with pupils, staff will be wearing face coverings – this will include when moving about the school, in offices and staff rooms.
- Secondary pupils should wear face coverings in corridors and all communal areas. We would ask for your support in ensuring that your child brings his or her own face covering and wears it as required.

Pupils are not currently required to wear face coverings in classrooms – this will become a requirement for senior pupils, as well as secondary staff, should our area move into Tier 3 restrictions.

Ventilation

The revised guidance states that schools should “adopt strategies that help balance the need for ventilation with keeping people warm”.

Ensuring effective ventilation by keeping windows and doors open as much as possible is one of the key mitigations in our risk assessment, although we do appreciate that this means classrooms lose heat very quickly. We will be looking at this over the coming days but would again ask for your support in ensuring that your child is appropriately dressed, bearing in mind classrooms may be considerably cooler than normal and that pupils will be outside during breaks and lunchtimes, except when there is inclement weather.



Resilience Planning

We have been working closely with all pupils to support them following the lockdown closure and have identified specific pupils in both primary and secondary who will be provided with additional supports to help them overcome learning gaps that may have developed during this period. Going forward, we are keen as a school to be ready for whatever eventuality arises as a result of the fight against COVID-19. This will include being prepared for full opening in a context of significant staff or pupil absences as well as preparing for other models of delivery, whether blended learning or full closure. The key to this will be ensuring that both staff and pupils have the requisite skills to engage in digital learning and teaching and the software and hardware to support this approach. This is therefore currently the school's over-riding priority in terms of training and development planning.

Hygiene Measures

Overall, compliance with all hygiene measures has been very high and we really appreciate the efforts of pupils in ensuring that all protocols continue to be followed rigorously.

COVID Positive Cases

There have been some concerns communicated to the school this morning in relation to COVID-19 cases within the community.

If the school is notified of a confirmed case of COVID-19, we will identify close contacts of the pupil concerned and advise that they need to self-isolate for a 14 day period in line with Test and Protect guidance. We would also issue a general communication to all parents notifying them of the situation and advising that unless they have been contacted directly, their child does not need to self-isolate.

We do not currently have any children or young people who have tested positive for COVID-19. Any pupils who have been contacted by Test and Protect having been identified as a close contact of a positive case are following the government's self-isolation guidance.

Finally, we appreciate that this is an anxious time for many pupils. If your child has any concerns or is experiencing any difficulties, we would encourage them to speak to a member of staff – their class teacher in the primary and guidance teacher in the secondary.

I would like to conclude by thanking pupils, staff and parents for their ongoing commitment to keeping the school running smoothly during these challenging times. We will continue to work hard to balance the need for safety with the needs of learning and I know that we will continue to experience the full support of all stakeholders in steering the school through these anxious times.

Yours faithfully



John Devine
Headteacher