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Dear Parents/ Carers

### **New Lockdown Measures from 05/11/2020**

First of all, please accept my apologies for the late timing of this letter. I felt it best to wait until we received the Department for Education national guidance for schools so that I did not give any conflicting information. This [guidance](#) was eventually received at the end of school today.

I am sure the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday evening has brought additional feelings of anxiety and/ or frustration to many of you. I want to assure you that we continue to take the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school community extremely seriously. I have been working with the staff team continually since the announcement to respond to the new restrictions.

This week, we have been reviewing arrangements for colleagues who are classed as clinically vulnerable and clinically extremely vulnerable, as well as reviewing, and updating further, our comprehensive COVID-19 school risk assessment. As a result, the following changes will come into place from tomorrow:

- All staff will wear face coverings in communal areas around school.
- When working with children in the classroom or as part of an intervention, all staff will wear face visors.
- Clinically extremely vulnerable staff members will not be attending Westgate for the duration of the new restrictions. Where possible they will be working from home. Some changes to support staff arrangements have been implemented to ensure that as much of the in-class support as possible is covered. Children with SEND funding with or without an EHCP will be largely unaffected.

In addition, we continue to implement and further refine our existing measures, including:

- Keeping classes apart as 'bubbles' throughout the school day
- ensuring all workspaces are well-ventilated
- adhering as much as possible to social distancing within school (in an age-appropriate way)
- implementing additional cleaning routines, including 'touch it, wipe it', additional cleaning of resources and surfaces during the school day
- limit the sharing of resources
- following regular and thorough routines for hand washing/ sanitising throughout the day
- grouping children discretely in before and after school club (WOOSH)

## What **you** can do to help:

- stick to the new rules set out by government and resist the temptation to bend or break them, even if it feels safe for you to do so
- remain vigilant about the symptoms of coronavirus and ensure that the whole household self-isolates immediately if any member of your household displays symptoms (refer to the quick guide we have previously circulated for full details)
- Do not delay self-isolation if your child or any household member is known to have come into contact with a positive case of coronavirus outside of your household
- Continue to reinforce key messages at home, including 'Hands- Face- Space', 'Catch it, bin it, kill it', and ensure your child knows how to cough or sneeze into the crook of their elbow
- Continue to ensure your child washes their hands regularly and thoroughly, and closes the toilet lid before flushing
- Continue to ensure that long hair is tied back for school

## Face coverings

I am now asking parents to wear a face covering at drop off and pick up times, and particularly if you have to speak to a member of staff. Face coverings **must** now be worn if you need to enter the building, ie to visit the school office.

## Clinically extremely vulnerable family members

If someone in your household is classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, the guidance says that child(ren) should continue to attend school. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

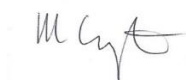
This [page](#) of the school website contains key COVID-19 information and will continue to be updated.

I was heartened to see that, from the data shared on Saturday evening, the risks in primary schools appear to be comparatively low. While I cannot guarantee that we are 100% 'COVID-secure', I feel confident that we have robust protective measures in place.

Finally, I want to thank the whole staff team, who have shown great flexibility and commitment, which has enabled us to cover absences well and ensured that things are done as safely as possible. The amount of extra thought required about everyday things is tiring and work in school is intense, but we are all determined to do everything we can to make sure children can remain being taught safely and happily in school. I am very proud of everyone for their achievements in this regard.

Thank you for your support and understanding- it is much appreciated by us all.

Yours sincerely



**Helen Carpenter**  
Head teacher